

**JAZZ**

**Ernesto Cervini Quartet**

*Here (Indie)*



Young drummer Cervini's debut recording as leader is mighty fine, helped by star sidemen Mike Murley on tenor and soprano saxes, Adrean Farrugia playing piano and spunky Fender Rhodes and powerful Jon Maharaj on bass. The first of nine clever and catchy compositions ("Mestropholis") by Cervini, who's been heading bands in New York City, is taken at a fast clip with sharp entries by all, with groovers such as the churning "TGV", "Bust-Your-Butt Falls" and "The Sneaky Two" plus the swinger "Tune For Amy" equally attention-getting. Cervini is propulsively active, creating textural and rhythmic tension at will, yet he dons a calm, subtly sophisticated hat for the album's three ballads. Farrugia, always focussed, is rapidly cementing his growing reputation. Murley is immaculate on both horns. (Cervini's quartet is at The Rex tonight). *Geoff Chapman*