

# NEW ISSUES



Harold Mabern by Gerard Futrick

## **BIGBAND DER DEUTSCHEN OPER BERLIN & BILL RAMSEY PREMIERE MONS 874466**



Byron Landham by Gerard Futrick

talents, the group is a cohesive collective that is best emphasized on the fourteen minute epic, "Gated Perception, Gated Community." Commencing as an improvised reflection, a vamp is soon cooked up (oh, if only drummer Jim Black could trademark his sound), with the horns' unison lines swirling against Solborg's counterpoint, resulting in an ebb and flow that ultimately illuminates Banke's tenor and Meinberg's trumpet maneuvers. (2) then affords a fantastic reverie full of solid ensemble work, intrepid rhythm-making, and engaging solo expressions.

*Jay Collins*

*LOVE FOR SALE / SATIN DOLL / CAUGHT SPEEDING / WORK SONG / INDIANA / ROUTE 66 / BRUSH HOUR / I AIN'T GONNA ASK NO MORE / ALL BLUES / GEORGIA ON MY MIND / I GOT RHYTHM. 59:06.*

Ramsey, vcl; Oliver Link, as, ss; Dieter Velte, as, b, cl; Peter Ludewig, ts, cl; Rainer "Macky" Gabler, ts; Karola Elsner, bari s; Greg Bowen, Lars Ranch, Martin Wagemann, Gerhard Greif, Matthias Kuhnle, tpt; Guntram Halder, Friedrich Milz, Sebastian "Sese" Krol, tbn; Thomas Richter, b tbn, contrabass tbn; Matthias Hessel, p; Manfred Dierkes, g; Christoph Niemann, b; Rudiger "Rube" Ruppert, d; Andreas "Birne" Birnbaum, perc. Sept 26, 2008, Berlin, Germany.

**T**he Bigband Der Deutschen Oper Berlin consists of members of the famous Deutschen Oper Berlin Orchestra and some local Jazz musicians. Not surprisingly, the players are technically very proficient. Their straight-ahead big band fare features their own arrangements of tunes by Cole Porter, Miles Davis, Ellington and Strayhorn, Hoagy Carmichael, George Gershwin, Nat Adderley, Bobby Troup, Sammy Nestico, Toshiko Akiyoshi, and the group's music director Rolf von Nordenskjold, plus the classic "Indiana." One of the most interesting charts is von Nordenskjold's take on "I Got Rhythm," where he throws in references to some Charlie Parker tunes and alto soloist Oliver Link, in one of the best improvisations on the CD, does the same for a Thelonious Monk composition. It also features some rambunctious duo scatting by the arranger and Jazz/ Blues/ Pop singer Bill Ramsey. Five more of the eleven tracks serve as vehicles for the robust vocals of Ramsey, an American who has been living and performing in Germany for decades. He has a fine Jazz feel and scats convincingly.

*David Franklin*