

Backbeat: The Other Half of the Story



Across the continent, in Boston, there's another orchestra certainly worth hearing. There are no ROVAs involved with **Darrell Katz and the Jazz Composers Alliance Orchestra** out of Boston, though Bean Town is also the home of Your Neighborhood Saxophone Quartet—the group Steve Adams played with before joining ROVA.

On *Dreamland*, released by Cadence Jazz, Katz and company stretch boundaries rather than breaking them and put together telling

performances on tracks such as "Chimera," "Dancing on the Table," and "Zen and the Art of Cab Driving." Not all of the tracks are equally on target, but the band exhibits interesting writing combined with strong soloing. The CD ends with a free-for-all that features guest artist Julius Hemphill and members of two other Boston bands (the Either/Orchestra and Orange Then Blue), brought together for a concert called "Big Bands Over the Edge." And that's exactly where big bands ought to be. ●