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DMBQ: DMBQ Live

June 04, 2008

ASHANTE INFANTRY

DMBQ

DMBQ Live (Opening Day
Entertainment)

★★★★ (out of 4)

There's nothing dated or predictable about the inaugural recording of the Toronto-based Davidson/Murley/Braid Quintet led by Juno awardees Mike Murley (sax), David Braid (piano) and Murley's erstwhile pupil Tara Davidson (sax) and rounded out by bassist Jim Vivian and New York drummer Ian Froman. With Braid's nimble fingers blurring the lines between classical and jazz on complex chords during an extended solo, the group's

standard for top-notch improvisation is declared with the opening track, "Things," Murley's clever take on the standard "All The Things You Are." This recording of a 2006 Vancouver concert succeeds as much for performance as compositions – two from Davidson, three apiece from the other leaders. Braid's writing is particularly outstanding on the other worldly "Say A Silent Prayer" and hymnal "Wash Away," which incites the saxists to wail in unison about longing or loss. This can't be relegated to background music, but is worth the attention.

Top Track: The audience couldn't contain their exhortations during the exciting and relentless horn play of "The Call."

