

This review was featured in the L.A. Weekly

Patrick Cress' Telepathy at Fais Do-Do April 8, 2003

Jazz fans who're tired of clichés and noise will get their ears pulled by Telepathy, a San Francisco quartet that's both new and novel. Yeah, it swings, at a nice medium tempo - the accents just may not be where you'd expect them, and the time signatures can be brain teasers. The key is an attractive simplicity that lets you hear the thoroughly conceived structures while allowing room for improvisation. You might flash on Eric Dolphy from his Out to Lunch period, but bandleader-composer Patrick Cress retains the warmth of earlier Dolphy or Ornette Coleman (the group covers Coleman's "Lonely Woman"), bending his saxophone notes with a barstool drawl, engaging in easy back-and-forth with clarinetist Aaron Novik, and keeping the counterpoint going with drummer Tim Bulkley and bassist David Arend. The whole thing has a Balkan feel that lends melody and depth. Memorable. Also at the Temple Bar, Wed., and the Mint, Thurs. (Greg Burk)