

POWERHOUSE SOUND



Image Credit Joel Waneke

Powerhouse Sound is John Herndon (drums), Nate McBride (electric bass/electronics), Jeff Parker (electric guitar/electronics), and Ken Vandermark (tenor sax). Originally formed by Vandermark in the summer of 2005 with McBride and musicians from Oslo- Ingebrigt Haker Flaten (electric bass), Lasse Marhaug (electronics), and Paal Nilssen-Love (drums)- the group shifted to a Chicago based unit in 2006. Both versions of the band recorded, and these different approaches to Vandermark's original material were released as a double CD called, "Breaks," on Atavistic in the spring of 2007.

The first set of compositions was inspired by the rhythmic ideas of James Brown, the dub concepts of Lee Perry, and the collage approach of Public Enemy. Much of the music was written from the perspective of the bass, building the material from the bottom up. The band has developed continually since its inception, and the new

pieces composed for the quartet have stretched their aesthetic to include elements of Afrobeat, the post-Punk music of England (Wire, This Heat), and the later electric experiments of Miles Davis.

Aside from a regular performance schedule in Chicago, the group has toured Europe (in the spring of 2007), and is planning an upcoming road trip of North America, connected to their invitation to play at the 2010 Newport Jazz Festival. Coinciding with this tour will be the release of their second album, a double LP issued by Laurence Family, called "Overlap."

Powerhouse Sound delves deep into a Funk-based expression of rhythm and time, their improvisations push against the edge of melodic expectation with an energy derived from underground Rock. In addition, the band has a willingness to rip the music into shards of texture, experimenting with shape and form. This unique combination of discipline and abandon sets the group apart from any other ensemble working today.

“ With the Vandermark 5 moving ever closer to formal composition and extended pieces, ensembles like this allow the freewheeling, collaborative side of Vandermark's genius to be revealed. For those even vaguely interested in the man's work outside of his flagship ensemble, Breaks is not to be missed. ”

- Troy Collins, www.allaboutjazz.com, March 13th, 2007



For further information, please visit the following link where you will find a high-resolution JPG, a downloadable bio and an MP3 clip: