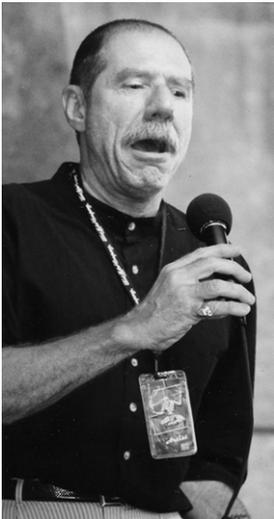


# NEW ISSUES

**1) SOREN  
KJOERGAARD -  
BEN STREET -  
ANDREW CYRILLE  
OPTICS  
ILK 140**

**2) DAWN CLEMENT  
BREAK  
ORIGIN 82501**



Giacomo Gates by Wendy Ashton

man's discography, it certainly would have served to deliver a CD that is more relatively "essential" than any one of the three considered here.

*Alan Bargebubr*

*OPTICS / DEAR MR. SEAR / CYRILLE SURREAL / ELEGY / MALLETS / GYAMTSO / WORK OF ART / RADIO HOUSE REQUIEM. 56:05.*

Kjoergaard, p; Street, b; Cyrille, d. 6/26-27/07, New York, NY.

*I'VE TOLD EVERY LITTLE STAR / FIRST NATURE / OH LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO - ALL OF ME / DISTANT OASIS / SWEET AND LOVELY / JUST ONE MORE FOR YOU / DREAM A LITTLE DREAM OF ME / 2-DAY / SINGING HANDS / HEAVEN. 47:19.*

Clement, p, vcl; Dean Johnson, b; Matt Wilson, d. 6/07, New York, NY

**T**hese two pianists aren't well known but they play with drummers of some renown and both live up to their accompanists' reputations.

First up is Soren Kjoergaard (**1**) in a trio with Ben Street and the renowned Andrew Cyrille. The music on this one is built around rhythm in the form of brooding percussion rattles and tense little piano figures that either stay quiet and hypnotic or build into something larger when Cyrille starts flexing his muscles and really working his drum kit as he does on "Cyrille Surreal," "Mallets," and "Work Of Art." Kjoergaard and Street work around this, adding layers of melody and tension in a set that is alternately serene and stormy.

**(2)** is a much more conventionally melodic set featuring pianist Dawn Clement working in front of Dean Johnson and Matt Wilson. Clement has a nice frisky touch on the keyboard. She strolls lazily with imagination on "First Nature" and works nice uptempo grooves on "2-Day" and "Sweet And Lovely" over Johnson's and Wilson's strutting rhythms. She also sings on a few tracks in a pure, folkish voice that reminds me of Norah Jones. Don't worry though. This set is pure Jazz and her serenely beautiful take on Duke Ellington's "Heaven" is justification enough for all the singing she ever wants to do.

*Jerome Wilson*