

**Jazzwise (UK)**  
May 2007  
Kenny Mathieson

**ACT**

**RE  
PRINT**

***Carsten Daerr & Daniel  
Erdmann***

Berlin Calling

Act Records ACT 9656-2 | ★★★

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**Carsten Daerr (p, mel), Daniel Erdmann (s), Ritsche Koch (t), Ronny Graupe (g), Oliver Potratz (b) and Sebastian Merk (d). Rec. date not stated**

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Incisive contemporary jazz that eludes straight forward genre classification from this group of young Berlin-based musicians. Their music is certainly not conventional mainstream jazz, whether defined from a classic American or borrowed European perspective, but it's not encamped in the free-improv camp either. Instead, the players draw on a whole range of gambits in the course of their explorations, mixing and matching to suit their individual sensibilities and the emerging group aesthetic. The music is all original with the band, other than a cover of Kurt Weill's 'Alabama Song' (and even that is heavily reinvented) and 'Berlin' by the German band Ideal. The co-leaders are both strong and resourceful players, and Koch makes a fine partner for the saxophonist in the horn department. Graupe's contributions on guitar are always significant, and Potratz and Merk are able to make their own interactive mark on the music, but it is the collaborative group sound that is the real strength of the music. **Kenny Mathieson**