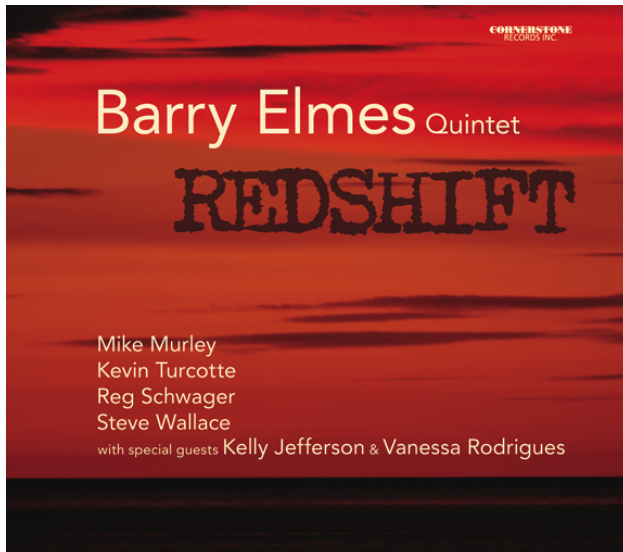


theWholeNote

IT'S OUR JAZZ - April 2011

Written by Geoff Chapman



It's been years since sophisticated drummer Barry Elmes' quintet entered the lists, but the wait's worth it for **Barry Elmes Quintet - Redshift (Cornerstone CRST 127 www.cornerstonerecordsinc.com)**, a nine-tune session showcasing leading jazzmen at the top of their game. The beat's in a constant state of buoyant flux as tenorman Mike Murley, trumpeter Kevin Turcotte, guitarist Reg Schwager and propulsive bass Steve Wallace romp through seven artfully-arranged Elmes originals, joined on some tracks by hornman Kelly Jefferson and Montreal-based organist Vanessa Rodrigues. The opening *Reading Week* is an appealing blues in ever-changing meters and *Stumpy* updates "Pink Panther" themes with rugged tenor and glistening guitar that

counterpoints jagged passages elsewhere. All the Elmes rhythmically-charged tunes suggest a long shelf life with their imaginative structures and unspooling lines that create their own elegant moments – and they get sterling, probing and vigorous execution here. Thus one can accept the leader's indulgent inclusion of the hymn *Abide With Me*.