

Derek Frank

Café Cordiale

Sherman Oaks, CA

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The Players: Derek Frank, bass;
Brett Farkas, guitar; Luke Miller,
keyboards; Dan Boissy, saxophone;
Jamie Hovorka, trumpet; Mike
Bennett, drums.

Material: Zippy, fun and just the right amount of funk, Derek Frank's material is groovy, easy to listen to and catchy. Although almost all instrumental, if you are looking for elevator music, you are looking in the wrong direction. Captivating bridges with drum crescendos that will make your head roll, this is music that you don't want to miss. One song flows as smooth as the next drawing the listener closer.

Musicianship: Frank makes his bass guitar sing in a myriad of ways: from jazz and blues to rock and funk, he covers it all. His occasional funk sound is, however, the key aspect to the overall feel and atmosphere

of his music. The horn section is excellent with their near perfect timing and expertly aligned solos. The percussion is definitely on cue with huge crashing crescendos. Mike Bennett, the man behind the snare, never gets a chance to catch his breath.

Performance: There's no slouching or resting on the job here, rather quite the opposite. These guys just

pumped out tune after tune and worked every minute of the performance. The sweat poured out and so did the music. There were two different guest singers during the show and, unfortunately, that was the aspect that detracted from their performance. The band generated a great groove happening, with respect to their instrumental tunes, and in the future it would be nice to see it continue unbroken.

Summary: A horn section that makes you want to sing, percussion that fills the air and a bass player who means business describes Derek Frank and his band. Solid and funky, Frank's music just makes you feel like dancing. Almost entirely instrumental, his captivating songs put him above the rest.

—Tom Laurie



Derek Frank: Zippy, fun and just the right amount of funk makes you feel like dancing.