

## Selected Press Quotes & Reviews

### Selected press/reviews for Paster, Ryan & Hall and *Skyline*:

*"Piano trio efforts fall flat or fly on mostly nebulous, difficult-to-define aspects of the sound: collective energy, group cohesion, and an ability to get "inside" the music. The classic trios include those led by Thelonious Monk, Bud Powell, Oscar Peterson--to name just a few. To name some contemporary guys who fly, you'd have to mention Keith Jarrett and Brad Mehldau's groups in the higher profile end of the spectrum; and then there's the lesser-known but no less compelling Randy Halberstadt Trio (Parallel Tracks, Origin Records, '04). All of these trios--and a bunch still unmentioned--fly. And so do Bennett Paster, Gregory Ryan, and Keith Hall, on Skyline. . . the trio sound[s] relaxed, optimistic, vivacious... Bassist Gregory Ryan's "Better," as well as the title tune--also by Ryan--slow the pace to an introspective mode, both of them lovely ballads. The group also gets inside. . . Leonard Bernstein's "Some Other Time," giving the melody an engaging buoyancy.*

*A beautifully melodic effort, start to finish."*

- Dan McClenaghan, [AllAboutJazz.com](http://AllAboutJazz.com)

*"...features straight-ahead jazz - songs by all three members and a few standards- played with sparkle and originality."*

- Paul Weideman, [The Santa Fe New Mexican](http://The Santa Fe New Mexican), April 28, 2005

*"Let the sidemen have their say. These rising players have collectively amassed an impressive list of credits behind jazz notables. But one thing is clear: They've definitely found their musical soul mates in each other. On their own indie release, pianist Paster, bassist Ryan and drummer Keith Hall radiate warmth, vitality, robust melodicism, and an effortless swing. All three contribute strong writing. . . Elegant. 4 1/2 stars (out of 5)"*

- Jeff Potter, [Modern Drummer](http://Modern Drummer), September 2005

*"...solid, full of enthusiasm and communication."*

*"["Skyline"] paints vistas which are tied together by a repeating bass motif. It tells a story and kept my interest throughout its nine minutes."*

- [Cadence Magazine](http://Cadence Magazine), September 2005

### Critical Praise for the Bennett Paster & Gregory Ryan's CD *Grupo Yanqui*:

*"If it were somehow possible to bottle or otherwise channel the energy of this group and use it to generate electricity, the country would hardly ever need to worry about power outages. An exaggeration perhaps, but still an apt description of the heat this group generates with just five players performing at any one time...[T]here are elaborate rhythms and harmonies that take time to unfold and which are played at a tempo allowing the listener to get the full impact of each melody's maturation process...This album will do very well and is recommended."*

- Dave Nathan, [AllAboutJazz.com](http://AllAboutJazz.com), February 2002

*"Highly creative and complex original music... Involved arrangements, passionate solos, and vigorous, spontaneous interplay, all with a melodic and cosmopolitan Latin funk touch. Highly recommended."* (4 stars out of a possible 5)

- David R. Adler, All Music Guide, www.allmusic.com, December 2001

*"Somehow these young New York guys seem to never let you down. On Grupo Yanqui ... leaders Bennett Paster and Gregory Ryan showcase their hip, cerebral, groovy originals and two standards in a series of fine and energetic performances. Ryan's "Miller Time" is a hard Latin Funk groove with an interesting and intelligent line and neat solos all around. . . It's into the cabaret or ballroom of your choice for "How Are Things In Gloccamora?", as the fellas cha-cha this one up quite nicely. . . Very well done, as is this entirely refreshing recording. The group shows their sense of humor on the Bebo Valdes closer "Cactus Mambo"."*

- Jim Josselyn, AllAboutJazz.com, January 2002

*"Although a North American production, the recording has all the savory taste of the islands and the Southern Hemisphere. This band regularly heats up the temperature and lays down a bountiful dose of syncopated vibrations. It is a solid offering."*

- Frank Rubolino, Cadence Magazine, April 2002

*"Grupo Yanqui is headed by the young New Yorkers Bennett Paster and Gregory Ryan. They play a brand of jazz that is very much in your head. It is erudite and inventive and very, very listenable. These fine young musicians are intent on producing a hip brand of Latin Jazz drawn through the high polish of an Anglo prism. . . Latin percussion is evident everywhere, providing the music with a salsa shiver. Grupo Yanqui is a fine start. It is about time this group be heard by a label."*

- C. Michael Bailey, AllAboutJazz.com, May 2002

### **Selected other press/reviews:**

*"...the pianist Matthew Fries, the bassist Gregory Ryan, the drummer Keith Hall - play muscular, straight-ahead jazz"*

- Stephen Holden, The New York Times, January 17, 2003

*"a remarkable trio"*

- John Hoggland, Backstage, January 2003

*"...a joyful, sophisticated mix of jazz, rock and blues that reaches farther in its roots than any easy-to-peg genre and stretches more horizons than any frat house."*

- Rex Reed, New York Observer, February 10, 2003