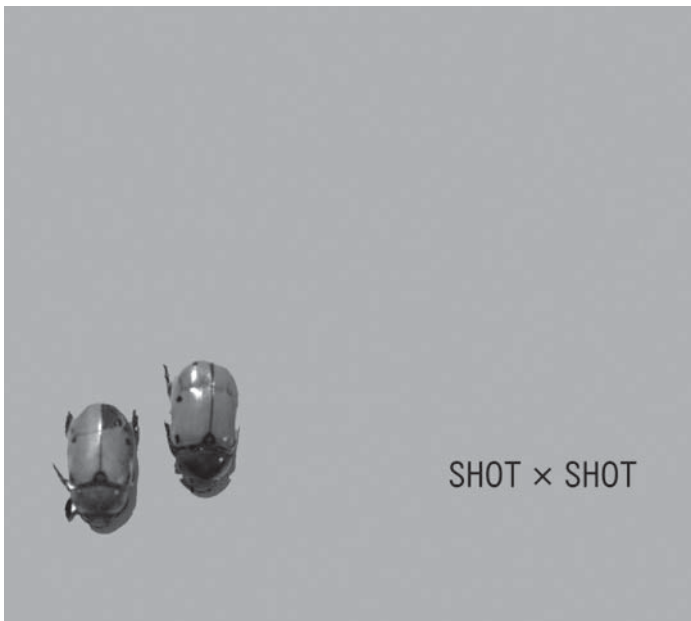


SHOT × SHOT

untitled debut album

**HIGH
two**

High Two Recordings
7835 Devon Street
Philadelphia, PA 19118
www.hightwo.com



CREDITS

1. Bee Assassins (D. Capecchi) 11:43
2. One Point Three Full Breaths (D. Capecchi) 11:53
3. Two Improvisations (SHOT × SHOT) 10:02
4. Volzalisle (D. Scofield) 10:14
5. Chains of Agree (M. Engle) 13:02

Recorded live at St. Mary's Church, Philadelphia, PA. May 22, 2005.
Mastered by Chris Flam at Mindswerve Studios, NYC.

Dan Capecchi – drums
Matt Engle – bass
Bryan Rogers – tenor saxophone
Dan Scofield – alto saxophone

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“It’s been ages since I’ve heard a debut recording this adventurous and assured.”

— Francis Davis

Album notes by Francis Davis:

What’s likely to strike you first about Shot × Shot’s debut CD is Dan Scofield and Bryan Rogers’s twin saxophone keening. The Philadelphia-based quartet’s signature sound, it’s going to remind some listeners of Lee Konitz and Warne Marsh, and others of Coltrane and Pharoah Sanders — let’s split the difference and say it’s like Konitz and Marsh in a more heated setting. This is music in which foreground and background are constantly shifting: the ear is drawn to the two horns, because that’s the way we’re used to listening to jazz; but Matt Engle’s bass and Dan Capecchi’s drums are often out front, and their ongoing dialogue is as vigorous and loose-limbed as Scofield and Rogers’s. So along with Coltrane and the Tristanoites, listeners might also be reminded of Ron Carter and Tony Williams with Miles, and even more so of Charlie Haden and Ed Blackwell with Ornette Coleman (as Capecchi points out, “we originally bonded over our mutual love of Ornette Coleman’s music” as students in Philadelphia at the University of the Arts).

All well and good — these are enduring influences and convenient points of reference in listening to Shot × Shot. But it’s good to remember three of the band’s members are still in their early twenties (Capecchi is the old man of the group at 26). These young musicians have also been keeping tabs on recent developments. Rahsaan Roland Kirk, Tim Berne, and John Zorn are also in the mix, along with Brian Eno, Sly Stone, gamelan, and film (the band’s name is a conscious film reference). This recording makes it clear that the members of Shot × Shot haven’t been passive receptors for these diverse influences. Indeed, it’s as if they’ve found the common thread between them, starting with Tristano and continuing up to the present — an emphasis on improvisation, rather than solos *per se*.

“Very few of our compositions make it to performance without the entire group shaping and reshaping them in terms of form and sound,” says Scofield, who also gigs alongside Rogers in Bobby Zankel’s Warriors of the Wonderful Sound and the eclectic, world-music influenced Sonic Liberation Front, which also includes Engle. “We usually talk in detail about each composition, both in terms of concrete things — rhythm, dynamics, improvisational cues, and instrumental pairings — and abstract concepts like shape, texture, and sonic space.” His own “Volzalisle” — the most instantly spellbinding of the five performances here, with its dovetailing saxes, suspended rhythms, and slow combustion — is a kind of mantra based on a theme he originally composed on kalimba and meant to exploit the boomy acoustics of St. Mary’s Church (whose rectory once housed the Empty Foxhole, the only place in Philadelphia to hear the likes of Cecil Taylor, the Art Ensemble of Chicago, and

Don’t buy the lie that jazz has completed its evolution and virtuoso recapitulation is all we have to look forward to from here on out. Something fresh and exciting is unfolding in jazz, and these talented young Philadelphians are doing their part to speed it along. It’s been ages since I’ve heard a debut recording this adventurous and assured.



SHOT × SHOT

Bryan Rogers – tenor saxophone
Dan Capecchi – drums
Dan Scofield – alto saxophone
Matt Engle – bass

Selected Press Quotes

“Casual, grand, somber yet easy, propulsive but unhurried, naturally man-made – yeah, free – engaging and soulful, dramatic as an art ensemble.”

– **Howard Mandel**, author of *Future Jazz*

“It’s been ages since I’ve heard a debut recording this adventurous and assured.”

– **Francis Davis**, author of *Jazz and Its Discontents*

“3.5 stars... Shot × Shot takes deceptively simple, bare-bones structures and turns them into spacey, infinitely layered improvisations... I wonder what’s next for this excellent young quartet.”

– **Downbeat**, July 2006

“All [tracks] leave an impression, upon completion, of being neither solipsistic nor beholden to cliché—a small miracle, these days. This calmly assured debut bodes well for the future of all involved.”

– **The Wire**, May 2006

"This is a remarkable album and a rare event that we hardly ever see a debut recording..."

– **WNUR Radio**, April 2006

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SHOT × SHOT

Bryan Rogers – tenor saxophone
Dan Capecchi – drums
Dan Scofield – alto saxophone
Matt Engle – bass

Shot × Shot is an improvisational acoustic quartet performing original compositions steeped in jazz tradition, but with experimental sensibilities. Formed in 2003, while the members were students at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Shot × Shot has quickly established itself as one of the most groundbreaking bands in one of jazz's most important cities. On its self-titled debut, the group showcases its compositional dynamism and transcendental vibrancy creating a unique balanced sound that is often missing in improvisational jazz. While many improvisational bands take their liberty to extreme, Shot × Shot navigates that freedom with an informed sense of control – grounding their compositions with a rich austerity that intrigues but doesn't overwhelm.

Fellow Philadelphian, jazz critic and author Francis Davis hears the band's vitality. "Something fresh and exciting is unfolding in jazz, and these talented young Philadelphians are doing their part to speed it along," writes Davis. "It's been ages since I've heard a debut recording this adventurous and assured."

Usually in jazz, youth is seen as a liability, but for Shot × Shot the opposite is true. Having been exposed to and performed all sorts of eclectic music, Shot × Shot infuse their music with diverse modern influences and a daring spirit, creating an experimental mix of sounds and structures. With Dan Scofield (alto) and Bryan Rogers (tenor) on dueling saxophone ballasted by Dan Capecchi (drums) and Matt Engle (bass), the band's multi-dimensional, layered sound relies on each musician's unique contribution. Both Scofield and Engle are key members of Sonic Liberation Front, the African percussion-infused jazz group, whose 2004 High Two album *Ashé A Go-Go*, was widely praised by the Village Voice, Jazz Times, The Wire, among others. Scofield is also a member of the noise-improv band Wolf Vs. and performs, alongside Rogers, in Bobby Zankel's large ensemble. Capecchi, a recent transplant from Minnesota, is a former member of indie rock band Triangle and the folk ensemble Jackaroo.

Shot × Shot is reminiscent of Human Feel, the band that launched the careers of Chris Speed, Jim Black, Andrew d'Angelo, and Kurt Rosenwinkel when they were music students in Boston. Similarly, Shot × Shot unites unique voices who are poised to be important musicians individually and collectively.

Untitled Debut Album Out APRIL 2006:

- Liner notes by distinguished jazz author and critic Francis Davis
 - Features members of Triangle, Jackaroo, Wolf Vs., Jeff Baumeister Quartet, Bobby Zankel's Warriors of the Wonderful Sound
 - Half of Shot × Shot are members of Sonic Liberation Front
 - Saxophonist Dan Scofield is featured on four other High Two CDs (Sonic Liberation Front, *Ashé A Go-Go*; Arc And Sender, *Arc And Sender*; Make A Rising, *Rip Through the Hawk Black Night*; Sonic Liberation Front, *Change Over Time*)
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