Acid jazz rose to prominence in the early '90s, with Bay Area acts like the Broun Fellini, Slide Five, and the Hieroglyphics Ensemble updating traditional jazz with funky rhythms and hip-hop attitude. Berkeley native Will Bernard played for Hieroglyphics, and even after the movement lost the national spotlight, he continued composing with the Will Bernard Trio, Motherbug, and Grammy-nominated T.J. Kirk while also collaborating with the Coup and the Greyboy Allstars. On Bernard’s latest disc, he seems to be trying to find some middle ground between his funky roots and the contemporary jazz scene, in the process coming up with a style that might appeal to both young social unacceptability of hyphy—a wild rap style that takes its name from combining hyper with fly—has been rapping since the hyphy kids were in diapers. So calling this compilation Hyphy Hitz is akin to saying there’s real produce in Froot Loops. That said, many of these tunes have been mainstays on Bay Area radio stations like KMEL-FM for the last couple years. This comp is just a way to position the style alongside the Deep South’s crunk genre as a national phenomenon. Of course, the rest of the country might not be ready for hyphy, with its oft-repeat ed choruses, minimalist clanging percussion, and ‘80s-style synthesizer hooks. As party music goes, it’s incessantly catchy, with tracks like the late Mac Dre’s “Get Stupid (remix)” providing undeniable hooks and goofy personality. And if you’re unsure about hyphy’s staying power, check out D.B. Z’s “Stewy,” which has little boys calling out its chorus, pointing the way for the next generation of gouda chasers. (Um, cheese means cash.) A-

DAN STRACHOTA