

Kingpins pay tuneful tribute to The Yale

KINGPINS

This Road

Self-distributed ★★½

Kingpins, a Vancouver band made up of veteran city musicians, pay tribute to a Vancouver landmark on the new recording, *This Road*. The Yale, where the band often plays, accurately describes that venerable watering hole: The servers slinging beer, the weekend jam sessions, the regulars like Slim Jim who show up to listen. It's a rock number that make a case for the place with the unknown future; at this writing it's not certain whether the Yale will continue its current live music policy.

Bassist-vocalist Jack Lavin is the group's main man, writing or co-writing 12 of the octet's 14 songs. Most of these lean toward rhythm-and-blues (*Rain Come*

Down), blues (*Night Cat*) or rock (*That's What I've Been Dreaming Of*). If the band has a distinctive sound, it comes down to the gruff-and-ready vocals of Big Hank Lionhart and the drive of the three-piece horn section. Kingpins play the Yale Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m.

JEAN-MICHEL PILC

Live at Iridium

Dreyfus ★★½

If you haven't heard of Jean-Michel Pilc, you're not alone. The French-born pianist and one-time musical director for Harry Belafonte has lived in North America for more than a decade, released numerous CDs and toured, yet his name never tops the annual jazz polls.

Live at Iridium captures Pilc

fronting a vibrant trio at a club in his adopted hometown of New York City.

The opening, hard-driving original number *No Print*, on which Pilc plays both flowing and choppy sections, segues into a couple of Thelonious Monk songs, which lead to a free-form piece (during which Pilc plays a line from *Fiddler on the Roof*), which then concludes with another offering by Monk.

Pilc is a bold, two-fisted pianist with a forceful presence at the keyboard. He can be as dynamic as McCoy Tyner or Michel Petrucciani, yet can tone things right down, as he does on the original *Voices*, which has a classical air, like an etude from Chopin. Pilc performs Friday night, 8 p.m., at Capilano College's Performing Arts Theatre.

Marke Andrews