

DENVER
Westword

Music

Playground

Dreams Go Through Me

Self-released

By **Jon Solomon** Tuesday, Jul 5 2011

For the past decade, Playground (also known as the Playground Ensemble) has been one of the few groups to delve into adventurous, forward-thinking, avant-garde chamber music while also exploring a variety of other genres such as jazz, world music and rock. "NO one To kNOW one," the opening track on *Dreams Go Through Me*, is an ideal example of what the ensemble — made up primarily of graduates of the Lamont School of Music's master's program and faculty — is capable of creating. Anchored by composer **Andy Akiho**'s steel pans, the piece incorporates elements of **Philip Glass**; a groove-based section featuring vocals by **Flobots** MC Brer Rabbit comes in about halfway through. The song is one of the more ambitious pieces on the album, but the other selections, such as **Leanna Kirchoff**'s three-part "Dreams Go Through Me" suite, which features soprano **Megan Buness**, and **Brian Ebert**'s five-part "Contrandances," are just as compelling.

