

Jazzwise

"We're trying to
build bridges"

Christian Scott

Rebel With A Cause

"Everything
is connected"

The Comet Is Coming

Space Invaders

Veneri Pohjola

A Family Affair

John Coltrane

50 Years On

Lionel Loueke

Turning Point

Plus
Jaimie Branch
Samuel Eagles
Daisy Palmer



New Simplicity Trio

Common Spaces

Babel BBDV16147 ★★★★★

Bruno Heinen (p), Antonio Fusco (d) and Henrik Jensen (db). Rec. June 2015



Formed in 2014, the moniker New Simplicity Trio is inspired by the breed of late 1970s

German contemporary music composers that rejected the complexity of the new avant-garde. They are a London-based piano trio made up of German-born pianist-composer Bruno Heinen, Italian drummer Antonio Fusco and Danish double-bassist Henrik Jensen. New Simplicity Trio entirely live up to their moniker with a 'less is more' approach to melody and harmony, and a collective view to exploring what might be the *Common Spaces* of the album title. Heinen has made an impression already as a pianist-composer looking to remodel a classical music repertoire through the prism of contemporary jazz and improvised music, using Stockhausen and more recently Vivaldi as points of departure on recordings released, as is this one, through the London-based Babel Label. *Common Spaces* has a democratic collective approach to writing, and Heinen's playing echoes his unfashionably lyrical, classical music-orientated influences from Bill Evans (he recorded a tribute CD in 2015 with guitarist Kristian Borring), Dave Brubeck through to Fred Hersch and his former Royal Academy mentor, the late John Taylor. Nevertheless, some evidence here of acoustic looping and contemporary grooves sounds like the work of a newer generation. That the only cover, of Mingus' 'Goodbye Pork Pie Hat', is of lesser interest reflects the high quality of the writing and its intimate execution. **Selwyn Harris**

Paal Nilssen-Love/ Frode Gjerstad

Nearby Faraway

PNL Records PNL 036 ★★★★★

Frode Gjerstad (as, bsx) and Paal Nilssen-Love (d). Rec. 2016

To celebrate the 25th year of their musical partnership, Norwegian free jazz players Paal Nilssen-Love and Frode Gjerstad came together in the studio to record these sessions. The set was also a tribute to their colleague and fellow musician Eivin One Pedersen who, with Gjerstad, was a member of the late drummer John Stevens' trio Detail. Made up of nine tracks, *Nearby Faraway* is a sometimes meditative exchange, with Nilssen-Love's softly padding drum beats on the opening 'Dreams' slowly gathering momentum as Gjerstad's alto sketches out abstract detail. 'Flying Circus' (as its title suggests) is more acrobatic and playful, with both drums and reeds somersaulting over each other as the tempo of the piece gathers pace. The closing 'The Ghost' is equally energetic, a cut that causes a full-blown poltergeist to materialise in the musical shape of Albert Ayler. Throughout the recording the close creative relationship that Nilssen-Love and Gjerstad continue to share shines through. **Edwin Pouncey**

NYSQ

Sleight of Hand

Whirlwind Recordings WR4704 ★★★★★

Tim Armacost (ts, ss), David Berkman (p), Daiki Yasukagawa (b) and Gene Jackson (d). Rec. 27 July 2015

I've liked everything I've heard from this group before, whether on record as here, or in live performance. Clearly, Armacost and Berkman are formidable improvisers with many strings to their respective bows but in reality for them this group is the thing. They've all been together for over a

decade now and have a following in Japan where this recording was made during their most recent tour. Yasukagawa is back in place of Whirlwind's Michael Janisch who took over from him temporarily on *Power of 10*, their previous release. Inflate the initials NYSQ to read New York Standards Quartet and that's the clue to their collective intention: to take familiar classics and transform them creatively, even playfully. As Berkman says: "These are such great melodies, you can do almost anything with them," and so they do. 'Soul Eyes' is taken at a spritely strut, Armacost's fluent tenor front and centre, Jackson's drums the epitome of industry ahead of Monk's 'Ask Me Now' with Berkman playing tag with the theme and then turning in a free-flowing, boppish solo over Jackson's rhythmic manoeuvres. Armacost takes 'In A Sentimental Mood' on a slow tenor meander, Jackson's mallets providing a soft undertow before the title-track (by Berkman and based on Gershwin's 'But Not For Me') gets a perky reading, its nicely intricate outline prompting more literate piano from its composer. I especially liked 'This I Dig Of You', with Armacost's tenor evoking the Blue Note version by Hank Mobley, evidently a key influence for the saxophonist. All in all, an elegant confection made up of hard-driving, percussion-led intensity balanced by temperate versions of fine old songs, all those concerned at one. A winner all the way. **Peter Vacher**

Eddie Palmieri

Sabiduria

Ropeadope ★★★★★

Eddie Palmieri (p), Luques Curtis (b), Joe Locke (vib), Anthony Carrillo (perc), Little Johnny Rivera (congas), Luis Quintero (timbales), and Obed Calvaire (d), plus guests incl. Marcus Miller (b), Alfredo de la Fe (v) and Iwao Sado (bata). Rec. 2017

Eighty years young, and Senor Palmieri knows a thing or two about life, latin jazz and cross-cultural collaborations; this album, his first in a decade, is a birthday jam pulse with the sort of borders-down energy found in a meet of musicians at the top of their game: bassist Marcus Miller, conguero Johnny Rivera and Fania violinist Alfredo de la Fé. Here are sambas from Brazil via New York, with the mallets of vibraphonist Joe Locke chasing each other on the gorgeous 'Samba Do Suenho'; from Cuba via West Africa, and featuring the great Oawo Sado on bata, comes 'Wise Bata Blues', a cats-cradle of drumming grooves that morph into agile hard-bop. Throughout, Palmieri and his tight-knit four-strong crew of core players are clearly having a ball,

with the octogenarian pianist firing on eight cylinders – one for every decade. As they say in Latin America, *aguaaa...* **Jane Cornwell**

Parisien-Peirani- Schaerer-Wollny

Out of Land

ACT 9832-2 ★★★★★

Emile Parisien (ss), Vincent Peirani (acc), Andreas Schaerer (v) and Michael Wollny (p). Rec. 2016

Though this was the first performance by this intriguing line-up in Bern in 2016, it is already being hailed a supergroup. And with good reason. Between them, this hugely talented group of thirty-somethings have won 12 German ECHO awards – and let's not kid ourselves here, the ECHO award given by the the Deutsche Phono-Akademie, an association of recording companies, is to recognise outstanding achievement on record and *is* a big deal in Europe – placing them among the *crème de la crème* of European jazz musicians. Parisien and Peirani are leading exhibits on the Paris jazz scene, Schaerer from Switzerland is one of the great singing improvisers of our time while Michael Wollny's shooting star career into the top ranks of European jazz has been a thing to behold. What is remarkable in the light of these performances is that neither Wollny or Schaerer had previously played together before three days of rehearsal prior to the concert. Yet what emerges is a series of five highly interactive, in-the-blink-of-an-eye-give-and-take creations where each individual performer is charged with sustaining the creative moment in solo without upsetting the symmetry of the collective whole. In other words, they don't go off in pursuit of their own creative muse that may or may not fit the context of what has been created collectively, but work within its parameters. During the course of these remarkable performances each musician seems intent in raising the bar of collective interaction so that what emerges is something that exceeds the sum of its component parts. Climaxed by 'Ukuhamba', an audacious 14-minute epic, it demands recognition for the triumph of spontaneously conceived jazz improvisation it is. **Stuart Nicholson**

Evan Parker, John Russell & String Thing

Reunion – Live from
Cafe OTO

FMR Records FMRCD 430-1116 ★★★★★

Evan Parker (ss), John Russell, Ian Brighton (g), Philipp Wachsmann (vn), Marcio Mattos (b) and Trevor Taylor (d, elec). Rec. August 2016

Paal Nilssen-Love and Frode Gjerstad

