

Jonas Cambien Trio

Andreas Wildhagen - drums - (Paal Nilssen-Love Large Unit, Nakama)

André Roligheten - reeds - (Gard Nilssen Acoustic Unity, Friends&Neighbors)

Jonas Cambien - piano and compositions - (Aksiom, Simiskina)

"You rarely get to see a band from the freer side of the jazz world, that works with such an open and playful, yet at the same time tight approach. On stage, no sheet music is to be seen, but Cambien's compositions are ingeniously constructed (...) Free, surprisingly accessible -with melodies that will stick to your mind for hours- and most of all highly original."
Guy Peters on enola.be

Listening to Jonas Cambien Trio can feel like getting a sneak peak under the hood of the music, a clear view of how the gears and levers move. At the moment, the Norwegian jazz scene is filled with inventive, small ensembles, but this band still stands apart. There's a certain clarity about their music, musical short stories that you can experience on their two full length albums, both released on the Portuguese label Clean Feed: 'A Zoology of the Future' (2016) and 'We Must Mustn't We' (2018). Sometimes it's complex, other times it's simple and catchy, like a children's song or a riff or a pop hook. Listen, for example, to the off beat swing on "We the People", from their debut album. Sometimes, there's almost no improvisation, like the gorgeous "Renaissance" off their second album. Other times, it is as if the three musicians make their separate, subtle suggestions, still fitting together as one piece.

Jonas Cambien came from classical studies in Brussel to study jazz at the Norwegian Academy of Music for over ten years ago. The meeting between contemporary classical music and jazz is still evident in the trio, as Cambien's different ideas are filtered through the different temperaments of drummer Andreas Wildhagen, known from bands such as Nakama and Paal Nilssen-Love Large Unit, and reed player André Roligheten, known from Gard Nilssen's Acoustic Unity and Albatros, among others.

The key is the way the three musicians perform their parts, sometimes as if they are oblivious of each other, other times as one big mysterious instrument. The music is cerebral, but there's a understated lightness to it. It can be an uplifting experience - in one moment, the joy of hearing a childish melody, the next moment the relief of solving a complex musical equation, to watch it unfold, disappear and make room for new, odd moments in the world of Jonas Cambien Trio.

(text: Filip Roshauw)

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