Mark Wade Trio
Event Horizon

MARK WADE MUSIC

★★★½

The three musicians on *Event Horizon* haven't been a trio for very long, but according to bassist Mark Wade, the music for the album was written with his bandmates in mind. Featuring Wade, pianist Tim Harrison and drummer Scott Neumann, the CD begins on a conventional note, Wade's "Jump For Joy" a breezy, medium-tempo swing waltz. The leader's first solo almost passes without notice, so natural and smooth is Wade's insertion before Harrison and Neumann follow suit.

The album becomes progressively more engaging as one tune follows another. "Apogee" is another showcase for Wade, the song's lyrical bent helping to frame the bassist's labyrinthine solo, its rubato ruminations appealing, altogether fitting for such a melody. "Singsong" plays like a malleable dance tune. Its recurring themes are more like instances or fragments, and the enveloping structure enhances Wade's soloing throughout. *Event Horizon* is as interested in form as it is with pure expression, the nooks and crannies evidence that a real group-mind is at work.

That seemingly formless form that permeates this project comes to an end with a 5/4 dance through the album's only cover, Harold Arlen's "If I Only Had A Brain." Played as if the Wizard of Oz always meant it to be in 5, this playful song (with another plucking solo from Wade) injects a leavening dose to a project that otherwise lingers in realms more akin to mystery, invention and not a little bit of brooding.　　　　*—John Ephland*

Event Horizon: Jump For Joy; The Prisoner; Apogee; Singsong; Tossed; Valley And Stream; Twist In The Wind; Cold Spring; If I Only Had A Brain. (54:12)

Personnel: Mark Wade, bass; Tim Harrison, piano; Scott Neumann, drums.

Ordering Info: markwademusicny.com