



Jazz Views with CJ Shearn

ARCHIVE

Mark Wade Trio: Event Horizon (Self produced, 2015)

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

Bassist Mark Wade has been a mainstay of the NYC scene for twenty years, having played with such notable musicians as legendary tenor saxophonist Jimmy Heath, and Harry Whitaker. Wade is also a fine composer and he leads a trio consisting of pianist Tim Harrison and drummer Scott Neumann on his first release as a bandleader “Event Horizon”. The most apparent aspect through these nine originals, and lone cover of “If I Only Had A Brain” from “The Wizard of Oz”, is how intuitive the trio is and how fluid the interaction during the course of the album.

Wade is a gifted writer, and he demonstrates an affinity for strong melodies and nice harmonies on the waltz “Jump For Joy” featuring Harrison’s graceful, dancing playing and a modal vamp at the end raising the temperature. “The Prisoner” (not to be confused with Herbie Hancock’s tune of the same name) finds Wade a particularly resourceful improviser. “Apogee” gives the trio a flexible platform over Neumann’s skittering rubato drums, for free improvisation within a concise framework, and “Singsong” is one of the most striking tunes on the set with a recurring, singable two bar phrase and a variety of different time feels from even eighths to swing and Afro Latin flavors. Neumann gets a chance to really stretch out with a motif driven solo, even referencing Art Blakey at the 4:49 mark. Wade’s most impressive moment as a composer comes on the cinematic “Valley and Stream” where his arco and pizzicato playing are highlighted to great effect.

“Event Horizon” is an inspired set of tunes from a trio that is in the traditional piano-bass-drums configuration but they transcend the format with quicksilver interplay and really intriguing compositions. The future of this band is bright, and future directions will be very exciting to witness.

Rating: 8.5/10

Jun 12th, 2016

MORE YOU MIGHT LIKE

A detailed look at Pat Metheny & The Unity Sessions for Paris: (Metheny Group Productions) (ORB Records, 2016)

Pat Metheny: acoustic and electric guitars, guitar synth, electronics, proestrhythmics; Chris Potter: tenor and soprano saxophone, flute, guitar; Ben Williams: acoustic and electric bass; Antonio Sanchez: drums and cajon; with Giulio Carrassi: piano, flugelhorn, whistling, Larry Young: organ, piano; collective personnel including Woody Shaw, Sonny Greig; trumpet, Nathan Davis, Jean Claude Fohrenbach; tenor saxophone, Billy Brooks, Franco Manzecchi; drums, Jacky Bamboo; percussion, Jacques B. Hess; bass (disc 2, #5) Jack Dieval: piano (disc 1, #2, 4-5).

Anat Fort: Birdwatching (ECM, 2016)

Anat Fort: piano; Gary Wang: double-