

JAZZFLITS

THE NEW YORK SECOND Music At Night (And Other Stories)

(www.haraldwalkate.com)

The New York Second is the cryptic name of a jazz formation led by Harald Walkate. The band has been around for seven years and *'Music At Night'* is its third CD. Besides pianist Harald Walkate is also a talented composer. His pieces are really 'about something'. About what? This he explains in great detail in the liner notes booklet accompanying the album.

The music on the record has many sources of inspiration. The essays by the British-American writer Aldous Huxley are one key leitmotiv, but personal experiences and anecdotes have also been converted by Walkate into sonorous jazz music. The piece 'The Keys Ain't the Keys No More' refers to a taxi ride in Key Biscayne, for example. The taxi driver was born and raised there and thought it the most beautiful place on earth. When asked how he viewed the irrevocable fate of the islands in light of climate change, the taxi driver succinctly answered the title of the song. The song 'Him, a Bull? Ha! A Bird!' is based on an anecdote about Hemingway, whom Picasso finely corrected regarding a representation of a recent painting in his studio. You get the idea: everything is very well thought-through.

Harald Walkate needed more voices for these compositions. This is why the group The New York Second has grown into a septet for the album. This polyphony comes out very well in the compositions. Walkate makes evocative music with a hint of jazz from the big city. Tranquility and turbulence alternate, but in everything there is harmony. The melody of the piece 'The Ayes Have It' is intonated in unison by the wind players with a subtlety that is reminiscent of the glory years of the famous Gil Evans.

The reason everything sounds so fine is not only the beautiful compositions, but also the 'jazz power' behind the music stands. Thoroughbred musicians like trumpeter Teus Nobel, saxophonist Jesse Schilderink and trombonist Vincent Veneman know how to get the job done. A special role in Harald's pieces is reserved for bassist Thomas Pol, who delivers his wonderful bass parts with a clear, resolute attack.

On this album The New York Second demonstrates that jazz music is constantly renewing itself and that today's musicians can make contemporary music that builds on traditions yet has its own signature.

Sjoerd van Aelst

Teus Nobel (trumpet, flugelhorn), Mark Alban Lotz (alto flute), Jesse Schilderink (tenor sax), Vincent Veneman (trombone), Max Sergeant (drums), Thomas Pol (bass), Harald Walkate (piano).

Listen to a track from the record here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50f8KxnYDHE>

<https://www.jazzflits.nl/jazzflits20.13.pdf>