

JazzFlits

<https://www.jazzflits.nl/jazzflits21.10.pdf>

THE NEW YORK SECOND

After The Hours, The Minutes

Do I hear someone whistling outside in the garden? The last track on this CD, 'Let's go where the mountain people go,' ends with a whistle and the gentle blowing of the wind. Or am I just imagining it, because the garden doors are open? It's a peaceful ending of "After The Hours, The Minutes," a CD of intense reflections on the passage of time and our dealing with it.

Pianist Harald Walkate is a master at creating cinematic music around a theme. He has done this before in projects such as "Music at Night," inspired by essays by the British-American writer Aldous Huxley.

And once again, Harald has read something that falls into fertile ground with him: about the passage of time, in particular an essay by Paul van Tongeren.

And many of Harald's associations fan out. A good example is the song 'What the bagelman saw,' named after the title of an article from the New York Times. The article ended up on the "to-read-list" but just the title was already intriguing. Harald's imagination ran wild with the phrase, and when the piece was finally read, his own imagination proved to be more of an inspiration than the actual article.

There is a story, thought or anecdote like this about every song on the CD. Harald Walkate does not scamp on his task – the listener-reader is drawn into his microcosm and way of thinking, both through the music and through the explanations in the booklet.

Another story like this: the composition 'Moon, 2018' was inspired by a photograph by Ilona Langbroek, that hangs prominently in his living room and is included in the liner notes. It is a very beautiful, mysterious photograph of a full moon in a very distinctive twilight. The music Harald has composed to accompany it is evocative and cinematic.

But beautiful as the compositions may be, in the end everything hinges on the execution, which is top-notch. The three musicians all play subtly and in service of the music. And precisely because of this, the leading role on this production is played by each of Harald Walkate, bassist Lorenzo Buffa and drummer Max Sergeant individually, but also – and especially – by them collectively.

Sjoerd van Aelst

Line-up:

Harald Walkate (piano, compositions), Lorenzo Buffa (bass), Max Sergeant (drums).