

THE NEW YORK SECOND. After the Hours, the Minutes

<https://www.culturejazz.fr/spip.php?article4005>

Harald Walkate: piano, compositions

Lorenzo Buffa: double bass

Max Sergeant: drums

At the turn of the 60s/70s and beyond, the Netherlands was the figurehead of New European Music (NME), as it was called to differentiate it from the Afro-American New Thing. The Willem Breuker-Misha Mengelberg-Han Bennink trio in particular brought a generation or two of Dutch musicians up to date, and played a major role on a European scale. Fifty years on, where does this leave us?

Two piano-bass-drums trios raise questions. This type of formation, classic jazz if ever there was one, has been revived just about everywhere and, it must be said, takes us back a long way in time.

And yet, Harald Walkate's trio, the first example, goes beyond the "comfortable" level at which many trios indulge.

The group demonstrates – besides the quality of the melodies, the articulation and the particularly well-balanced exchange between the three members – they have grasped what the (well-worn) trio formula means and allows us to express.

The meaning of the twelve themes is extensively detailed in the booklet, offering clues, if not answers, that place this music in its time.

To be listened to beyond seduction, I gladly invite the reader.