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The Elegance of the Jazz Trio

Harald Walkate is a Dutch pianist based in Amsterdam, who realizes his musical and mainly compositional skills in an original project with the slightly confusing name of The New York Second. It took a bit of online research before I learned that underneath this term is a very amusing term for the supposedly shortest measurable time span in the multiverse. Specifically, it's supposed to be the duration between the green light turning green and the honking of the nervous taxi driver in the car behind you. This abstract unit of time, which everyone, depending on where they live and their own experience of the stress of city traffic, would probably call a Bratislava, Vienna, Prague, etc. second, serves more as a distraction in this case.

The gifted composer and instrumentalist doesn't infuse his music with as much humour as the band's name might suggest, in a jokey phrase from New York lingo. Harald Walkate's compositions are full of contemplation. In this spellbinding sonic yarn are materialized not only private contents full of emotional colors, but also philosophical proclamations, demanding an attentive listener and a discerning spirit.

The album "After the Hours, the Minutes" (NY2 Records) is permeated through and through with poetic references with hermeneutical qualities. That supposedly the world cannot be interpreted and interpreted in verse and lyrical freedom? If you think so then unfortunately you probably haven't been lucky enough to have good poetry or a good philosophy teacher/lecturer.

For every second of the music by the Italian-Dutch trio of Max Sergeant - percussion, Lorenzo Buffa - double bass and bandleader Harald Walkate, combines a book of sonnets with a critique of pure reason. Also in the enclosed booklet for each piece you will read precisely about their ambition to affect more than just the musician's intuition and to extract more from the notes than just the fluttering of air particles in a particular wavelength. Walkate has similarly no small ambition with his The New York Second since the group's 2017 albums Bay of Poets (2017), Emergo (2020) and Music at Night (2022).

Unlike previous realizations, this is the first time the format has been a trio, suggesting that this chapter of jazz's sensual philosophy will be about intimate statements and personal interpretations of the lived. The time you spend with this elegant piece of music will definitely not feel like that second in a busy intersection of a noisy big city. From "After the Hours, the Minutes" you will be richly blessed with peace and inspirational impulses to ponder the depths of music and its poetic ability to grasp the complexities of life.

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