

AN ALBUM OF CINEMATIC AND CONTEMPLATIVE MODERN JAZZ

La Gazette Bleue d'Action Jazz

THE NEW YORK SECOND - HARALD WALKATE

"After the hours, the minutes

Harald Walkate: Pianist and composer

Max Sergeant: Drums

Lorenzo Buffa: Double bass

Label: NY2 Records

By Sylvie Baudia

Harald Walkate's album 'After the Hours, the Minutes', performed with his band The New York Second, hit record stores on 23 May 2023. All the tracks were composed and arranged by Harald Walkate himself. Harald Walkate, born in 1970, began playing the piano in 1980 and has been composing since 1990.

This is The New York Second's fourth album, following 'Music at Night', released in 2022, 'Emergo' in 2020 and 'Bay of poets' in 2017. After performing as a quartet, quintet and septet on his last album, he plays here as a trio, with the excellent Max Sergeant on drums and the talented Lorenzo Buffa on double bass.

The Netherlands-based musical ensemble The New York Second was formed in 2015, around pianist-composer Harald Walkate.

The music of The New York Second is contemporary jazz. Its influences range from soul to Latin and classical music.

A MUSICAL JOURNEY THROUGH OUR SENSE OF TIME

Contemplative and poetic, atmospheric and "cinematic", this album is a musical journey through the various ways in which humanity perceives the hours and therefore the minutes. As the title suggests: "After the hours, the minutes". The main theme of the tracks is how we feel about time.

We have the feeling that the older we get, the faster time seems to accelerate. Our future shrinks as our past lengthens. Similarly, a meaningful reality only has meaning if we pay attention to it. This is reflected in two tracks with magnificent, fluid solos: "Song about Nothing" and "The Great Wait", where waiting is a joy.

"What The Bagelman Saw" is inspired by a New York Times article: "Without our attention, nothing important exists". And in "Your Cat Got my Rabbit", the speed of time depends on our will. So without our attention, nothing important exists, as in 'What The Bagelman Saw', a song inspired by a New York Times article. Fortunately, the greatest philosophies of life try to console us from the suffering felt by the passage of time, as in 'There But For The Grace Of God'.

The piano, double bass and drums are real communicators. Especially in "Now we're talking", because a conversation is only real if the speakers know how to listen and also add something unique or new. And the trio succeeds in doing just that.

CONTEMPLATIVE AND PHILOSOPHICAL TRACKS

The beautiful, contemplative and poetic track 'Professor Nelson Strikes Again' was inspired by the book 'The Moon and the Ghetto'. In this book, published in 1977 by the American economist Richard R. Nelson, the question was asked: "If we can land a man on the moon, why can't we solve the problems of the ghetto?"

"Moon, 2018" – This title was inspired by a photo his wife gave him, which he had hung in his living room. The photo is part of a series called "Silent Loss" by Ilona Langbroek, a Dutch photographer.

Inspired by a French football song, the title 'Allez Les Bleus' is a tribute to Lorgues, the small Provençal town where Walkate and his trio holidayed and rehearsed last summer. It was in this haven of peace, among the oaks and pine trees, that they were able to immerse themselves in the slow passage of time to concoct this splendid album.

The poetic journey ends with 'Let's Go Where The Mountain People Go', a light, airy whistle and the sound of footsteps moving away.

With its sensitive, introspective melodies and flowing solos, this album of modern jazz is magical and luminous.

A superb new opus, which I recommend to you.

Titles:

1. Prelude
2. Professor Nelson Strikes Again
3. Song About Nothing
4. The Great Wait
5. There But For The Grace Of God
6. Moon, 2018
7. After The Hours, The Minutes
8. Your Cat Got My Rabbit
9. What The Bagelman Saw
10. Now we're talking
11. Allez Les Bleus
12. Let's Go Where The Mountain People Go