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Nettavisen (Norway)

The New York Second – Room for Other People



Harald Walkate, third from the right, together with Rob Waring, second from the left, gives us something unique.

Dutch pianist and composer Harald Walkate has created beautiful and highly personal music with good help from our own Rob Waring.

07.02.25 16:27

Tor Hammerø

Harald Walkate (54) is a new acquaintance for me. Fortunately, his music has found its way to the 'Home of Giants' (Norway) and I strongly suspect that 'our own' Rob Waring has a hand in it.

As it happens, the American-Norwegian Waring was discovered on NRK by Walkate, invited to take part in the recording of this album together with some of the very best men in the land of wooden shoes, and now he's also performed live in connection with the launch of "Room for Other People".

Photo inspiration

Walkate, who lived in New York/Chicago for eight years, was inspired to write this music after visiting an exhibition of photographer Vivian Maier's images. The photos were largely taken in New York by nanny Maier and were never exhibited during her lifetime. No one knows if she wanted them published either, but now that they have been, it's great that creative minds like Walkate are taking them further.

Ten pictures

Since the exhibition in Amsterdam, Walkate has delved deeper into Maier's work and become increasingly fascinated. As a result, he has written extraordinarily beautiful and powerful music for ten of her artworks, which are included in the fine liner notes booklet and for which Walkate has written excellent accompanying texts.

The music was written for an octet with Tom Beek on tenor saxophone, Lorenzo Buffa on bass, Mark Alban Lotz on flutes, Teus Nobel on trumpet and flugelhorn, Max Sergeant on drums and Vincent Veneman on trombone, plus Waring on vibraphone and the boss himself on piano. Apart from the

outstanding Waring, who gets to show on several occasions why he has been invited, everyone is unknown to me. Both collectively and as soloists, they show that they belong on a very high shelf.

Unique music

The melodic music Walkate has written is very personal and suits the ten photographs brilliantly. Walkate says that his musical ideals are an exciting triumvirate, namely Antônio Carlos Jobim, Pat Metheny and Steve Reich, and this shines through. They are absolutely not the worst ideals to have – not least because Walkate has managed to set his own personal stamp on the music.

The New York Second - 'Room for Other People' - haraldwalkate.com

Jazz and football are important ingredients in life. Part of the reason may be that I come from Molde. I've lived in Oslo since the 1980s and worked for TV 2 as a duty manager, commentator and reporter. I like pineapple soda, which is natural when you come from Norway's most beautiful city.

I write about music on a daily basis - pop, rock, world music, show tunes and country, but mainly jazz. I also review books. Mostly fiction and a lot of crime fiction.

Tor Hammerø

Music and book reviewer