

Phronesis 'Alive' review, Metro 2010

Phronesis' empathic playing and dynamic stage presence are handsomely captured on their outstanding new album, one of a handful of soulful new jazz releases.

Mention the name Phronesis and jazz insiders start to salivate. So what is it about this young group that gets people so excited?

First, there's the infectious, easy grace of bassist-leader Jasper Høiby's compositional style, which draws on African, Middle Eastern and South American, as well as north European, sources.

Then there's the trio's empathic playing and dynamic stage presence, qualities handsomely captured on their outstanding new album, *Alive (Edition)*, recorded in front of a live audience.

Check out the glorious *Abraham's New Gift*, on which Høiby's propulsive, resonant bass line and Mark Guiliana's lithe but fierce percussive attack initially do battle with pianist Ivo Neame's pattering, descending chords before the trio join forces to charge full steam ahead to a thrilling climax.

Robert Shore, Metro