

Phronesis at the Barbican London, Jazzwise 2011

Fresh from picking up a MOBO in Glasgow just three days earlier as half of the best jazz act-winning Kairos 4tet, bassist Jasper Høiby and pianist Ivo Neame joined drummer Anton Eger thus completing the line-up of Phronesis who opened for the Wayne Shorter Quartet concert at the Barbican last night.

The bass-led trio were not hanging about and launched straight away into 'Abraham's New Gift', the opening track from their 2009 album *Green Delay* which also featured on *Alive* recorded just last year three miles away in Camden Town. Høiby later joked that they were there as a "fan band, boy band" for the main act, but the audience had by then already responded to the band's energy, characterised in the bouncy compound time signatures that give Phronesis an elastic springiness that produces a kinetic energy. 'Charm Offensive', 'Love Song', the band's musical response to prevailing influence Avishai Cohen, and Neame's opportunity to shine in 'Happy Notes', completed a set that had plenty of impact. Judged solely by the unindulgent reaction of this audience Phronesis have made the transfer from their habitual playing environment in jazz clubs and connoisseur festival slots to a large concert hall with ease.