

## 'Life to Everything' 4\* review Jazzwise UK 2014

Phronesis has been one of the bigger success stories in contemporary UK piano trio jazz of a type that's reaching out not only to established and more casual jazz listeners but as well for those who thought they had no interest in jazz at all. Part of this broad ranging appeal - as it was with EST, the widely acknowledged godfathers of the scene - comes down to their explosive energy as a unit and magnetic stage presence in live performance. This is the second 'live' album (and fifth in the discography) following up the highly praised *Alive* that came out in 2010 on the Edition Label. The tracks here are all new compositions and selected from the best of three performances recorded at the

Cockpit in Marylebone, the home to the monthly Jazz in The Round, at last November's London Jazz Festival. While the magnificent US drummer Mark Guiliana stood in for Eger on the previous recording, the Swede is back at the kit stool for *Life to Everything* and the trio more than any previous album, come across like a three-pronged percussion instrument. All three members now share writing contributions and all three bring to the table different qualities without distracting from the distinct sonic universe that is Phronesis - Neame's are harmonically impressionistic, Eger's rhythmically frenetic but hugely tuneful, Hoiby's majestic and succinct, closer to latin vamps than drawn-out themes. They shift imaginatively between improvisation and classical and folk-influenced written material in a way that avoids any traditional black-and-white format such as theme-solo-theme. The trio has dug in over a heavy touring schedule last year and the rewards are clearly felt on *Life to Everything*. How do you top such a high quality 'live' album as *Alive*? Phronesis just have.

- Selwyn Harris