

Phronesis 'Green Delay' review, Jazzwise 2009 ****

The first thing you notice about this second CD from Loop Collective member and bassist Jasper Høiby's trio is the sound. This is a dynamic, high quality contemporary piano trio recording, following the example set by Esbjörn Svensson Trio that actually advances the band's aesthetic rather than merely adding a bit of spit and polish. It brings to front of stage the Copenhagen-born Høiby's full-bodied double bass playing; jumping out of the speakers, the bass sounds rich in both melody and sensuous, dancey rhythms on some very fine original themes inspired by Mediterranean, Latin and East European folk music.

With drummer Anton Eger's taut grooves, Phronesis become a vigorous rhythmic unit. It's also the best and most comfortable I've heard the Chick Corea/Jarrett-influenced pianist Ivo Neame play. Following the debut *Organic Warfare* released in 2007, and Høiby's return to London the fellow Looper took over the piano stool and he fits the role very well, riding on the groove power of bass and drums without sacrificing the underlying melancholy in the themes. Fans of Avishai Cohen or EST would do well to check this one out.