

## Parallax review Downbeat (USA) 2016

"Imagine if Chick Corea and Stanley Clarke convened a modern edition of Return to Forever that opted for acoustic instrumentation instead of electric, while retaining the high-velocity improvisational jousting and flair. Such impressions casually make their way onto Parallax, the sterling new disc from the Danish/British jazz trio Phronesis. It's difficult not to think of Corea's fleet finger-work and labyrinthine improvisations on the zigzagging open-er "67000 MPH" or Clarke's sinewy pulse and supple essays on the suspenseful "Ayu." Pianist Ivo Neame and bassist Jasper Høiby bring plenty of full-throttle dialogue, but Phronesis isn't so beholden to the iconic fusion band that its own voice never emerges.

Anton Eger's skittering drum patterns, forward-leaning momentum, wily rhythmic displacements and sudden bursts of combustion provide a good measure of the trio's differentiating characteristics. For all its virtuosic resources, Phronesis doesn't allow pyrotechniques to obscure the cogency of its compositions. Delicacy, dynamics and spatial awareness play strong factors in this music.

Given that this trio has been together for 10 years, it comes as no surprise that the accord among the three musicians is striking; melodies and improvisations unfold without announcing themselves too forcefully. In addition, each member contributes fetching compositions that don't become showcases for their chosen instruments but rather protean platforms for a multifaceted yet likeminded unit."

3.5 STARS DOWNBEAT, John Murph, August 2016