

FROM THE PRESS

MICHAŁ WRÓBLEWSKI

ADAM BARUCH

This is the third album by the young and very gifted Polish Jazz pianist / composer Michal Wroblewski, which sees him returning to the piano trio format with bassist Michal Jaros and drummer Pawel Dobrowolski. The album presents eight original compositions, all but one by Wroblewski, with the exception being a piece based on the music by Frederic Chopin and arranged by Wroblewski. The music was recorded (same as his debut album) at the now legendary Studio Tokarnia, with Jan Smoczynski doing his usual sound magic with spectacular results.

The music, as stated by Wroblewski, was influenced by playing a concert tour in 2013 with American superstar trumpeter Terence Blanchard, but the experience influenced also the trio's approach to music, which became much more focused and intense. As a result this album is remarkably stronger and vital than the two earlier efforts, even though those two were already first class achievements, and places Wroblewski just a notch higher on his way to fame and fortune. His compositions, as usual, combine the right amount of melodic substance with lyrical contents and harmonic beauty, very much like many Jazz standards do. [Listening to this album is a true delight from start to finish, with time passing by in a breeze.](#)

Of course a piano trio is only as strong as all three musicians involved and Wroblewski is extremely lucky to find two partners who fulfill him completely, match his sensibilities, his virtuosity and his elegance. This piano trio is a classic example of what a piano trio should sound like in the mainstream Jazz milieu. Yes, this music does not make any groundbreaking discoveries as far as Jazz is concerned, but we need to keep the legacy alive and this trio is just perfect in that capacity.

It is difficult to predict how Wroblewski's career will develop from this point on, but he certainly already made his mark both as a pianist and a composer. I am certainly keeping my eye, or rather ear, on his moves, as he managed to impress me for the third time in a row. Jazz fans who love the piano trio format will have a field day with this one. Well done indeed!

CULTURE.PL

The label Gats Production Ltd release by a jazz trio led by Michał Wróblewski, who develops and looks after the sound of his band very carefully. Culture.pl is the media partner of this record.

Michał Wróblewski, born in 1983, plays and composes piano music. He is a graduate of the Department of Jazz and Popular Music of the K. Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice. He has won many awards, in 2012 he became a laureate of the competition Transatlantyk – Instant Composition Contest and a finalist of the Nottingham International Jazz Piano Competition 2012. A year later he won a Słowik, a cultural award of the city of Gorzów Wielkopolski. He performed at many jazz festivals including the Jazz nad Odrą Festival, the Jazz Jantar Festival, the Pomorze Jazz Autumn, Jazz Fest Berlin, Jazz on Guido, the Nottingham International Jazz Piano Competition, the Ars Cameralis Festival – these are only some of the festivals, at which he gave performances.

Since 2010 he has been leading his own ensemble – Michał Wróblewski Trio, which consists of Michał Jaros (double bass), Paweł Dobrowolski (drums) and Wróblewski himself. The trio won the 1st award at the Kraków competition for young jazz bands Jazz Juniors. The group has under its belt the debutant album I Remember, which was noticed by critics and fans in Poland and also in Israel, the USA and Japan. The album got great reviews, it also appeared on the Japanese market in September 2012. In November 2013 the musicians from Wróblewski's trio went on a concert tour with Terence Blanchard – a world famous trumpet player, composer of film music, Ellis Marsalis' pupil and the author of music for A Streetcar Named Desire and films by Spike Lee.

The sound of a piano trio is probably the most popular sound in jazz music; we encounter this sound in the music of almost any large band, where this sound plays the role of the rhythm section – wrote Ryszard Borowski in the magazine Jazz Forum. The recording of a trio album featuring a unique sound delivered by a band, and consisting of a few compositions, of which everyone will be distinctive – this seems downright impossible. However this feat was accomplished by the three young musicians from Michał Wróblewski Trio. I haven't heard such a great Polish album in a long time!

Maciej Nowotny from Radio Jazz adds: What distinguishes him from the many Polish pianists leaving the Academy of Music in Katowice is surely his composing talent. The compositions are diverse and display a wide range of musical inspirations – from traditional stride piano, through bop, cool, Polish folk, to free jazz. Anybody can be impressed by the easiness with which he combines these influences, singing at the same time his own, original song.

On the new album Michał Wróblewski's group moves on in the direction the band had chosen: instead of formal experiments we will hear catchy tunes; in the place of wild solos we will find rather toned displays, which carefully choose the used notes; untamed expression is substituted by sparing and traditional, but very diverse compositions. Warsaw Blues which opens the album could have well been created in the 20s in one of the jazz clubs of Harlem. The next number Take Nine (a wink of an eye to Dave Brubeck's classic Take Five) is based on rhythms typical of Brazilian popular music. On Wróblewski's urban album one can also find the Chopinesque, lyrical, but also aggressive Etude E – Flat Minor, or the sentimental Ballad for Mary. The record ends with Joyride, a composition, or rather a cheerful blues song devoid of words.

Michał Wróblewski is only shaping his way of musical expression, but he's doing it very carefully and thoroughly. His music was appreciated in Japan and in the near future he will perform in the USA, Germany, Italy and a few other places in the world.

PRESS KIT BRIEF

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The pianist extremely carefully selects individual sounds and controls the spread of individual parts, making the album communicative and convincing whole.

Apart from meeting exceptional mastery and unusual virtuosity, the „City Album” enchants with its melodies and enthralling tone.

A.Baruch

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LP.pl

Incredibly mature pianist and composer, and an artist giving impression of breaking free from the bondages invisible before

In Michal Wroblewski newest tracks we can find his fascination with Club Jazz of the 20's, Brazilian rhythms, blues but also with classical composition of Frederic Chopin.

www.michalwroblewski.com