

ENTROPI: NEW ERA

Saxophonist and composer Dee Byrne leads an adventurous, exciting new band exploring group improvisation and our relationship with space.



1. New Era
2. Mode For C
3. In Flux
4. Orbit
5. Exploration Part I
6. Crippled Symmetry
7. Exploration Part II
8. Space Module

All compositions by Dee Byrne

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New Era is the debut album from Entropi, an innovative and exciting ensemble making compelling improvised music based on strong concepts and ideas. The music explores notions of chance and fate, our relationship with space and the cosmos and the unpredictable and insecure nature of existence. These themes provide a fruitful context for exploring the relationship between order and chaos and between organisation and spontaneity in improvised music. The band's name (using a European spelling reflecting Byrne's time studying English and Linguistics in Stockholm) also reflects these ideas.

The opening New Era explores the idea of a new dawn emerging from uncertainty through the use of open-ended sections giving rise to group interaction. In Flux explores unpredictability through abruptly shifting musical environments, creating radically different feelings. Rebecca Nash's piano solo, delivered in a modal setting, offers a sense of release. Orbit directly explores notions of outer space (for Byrne 'a means of contextualising our existence'), particularly the idea of rocks weaving between each other in an asteroid belt, sometimes creating collisions. The music also creates a sense of otherworldliness emphasising the vastness of space.

Crippled Symmetry explores the idea of chance encounters - do they happen purely by chance or is some kind of synchronicity at work? The musicians in the band are all given individual phrases of varying lengths that meet at various points in the piece and then diverge. This is followed by a 'cathartic rock section' that perhaps expresses frustration and the inability to find answers to all these questions! Space Module presents the human journey through the metaphor of a vessel in space - an unknown quantity creating a disturbance. Byrne's approach emphasises that life is transient - a hopeful rather than depressing thought in that it hopefully inspires us to live more fully. Byrne's music is full of vitality and joy as well as intelligence and intensity.

Entropi also features the melodic improvising and clear tone of trumpeter Andre Canniere (who has released two acclaimed albums under his own name on the Whirlwind label). Keyboardist Rebecca Nash offers an appropriately responsive and interactive approach whilst drummer Matt Fisher offers a malleability and versatility drawn from his wide experience in a range of different musical contexts. Bassist Ollie Brice is well suited to this improvising environment, offering depth and spontaneity. Having performed live together for some time, the band has achieved a striking empathy and freedom to take risks.

PRESS QUOTES

‘Opening with the title track you get the distinct feeling that something is going on. You’re slap, bang in the middle of a conversation.... Interesting, stimulating music that is quite hard to pigeonhole gripped by a strong group instinct that moves from hard bop and structured modal sounds into more improv-soaked free-bop’ - [Marlbank](#)

‘Entropi’s New Era is an engaging album that signals the presence of a talented, creative band with imaginative, enjoyable compositions from Dee Byrne. If you get the chance to hear them play live, go. If not, then the album certainly stands on its own as an impressive debut performance.’
Ian Maund - [Sandy Brown Jazz](#)

‘The macrocosmic concept of ‘order and chaos’ (translated musically as ‘organisation and spontaneity’) is key to Entropi’s success, as revealed in title track New Era which, though heralded by nebulous sax-and-trumpet forays, actually widens into the most accessible, breezy, Herbie Hancock-style outing full of double-horn licks and eloquent solos over a compelling Rhodes-led groove. The quintet’s front line partnership is strong – Canniere seems particularly ‘at home’, as revealed in his bold, unfettered extemporisations in Mode for C (a track inspired by Coltrane’s Miles Mode); and although Byrne can be effortlessly lyrical, there’s also a constant sense of looming, edgy unpredictability in her delivery which frequently bursts into exciting, raucous alto outpourings.’ **Adrian Pallant** - [LondonJazznews](#)

‘Interesting space jazz project from composer & saxophonist Dee Byrne and her quintet of trumpeter Andre Canniere, keyboardist Rebecca Nash, double bassist Ollie Brice and drummer Matt Fisher. The constant shifts between a playful groove and melodic thoughtfulness keeps the ear engaged. A real fun album, even when the mood grows conspicuously serious.’ [Bird Is The Worm](#)

‘...Entropi led by alto sax player Byrne cooked up a storm.... a tapestry of improvisation was unfurled with each member of the quintet contributing solos embedded within the overall ensemble’s performance. It was a refreshing and thoroughly exhilarating exhibition of modern improvised music.’ **Steve H** - [Bebop Spoken Here](#) (Live review)

‘...tremendous new album from alto sax player Dee Byrne and her group. There’s marvellous interaction between the five players with a noticeably punchy lead from Dee Byrne and trumpeter Andre Canniere...’ **Peter Bevon** - Northern Echo

‘Byrne’s compositional devices however conceived are clearly highly productive and creative mechanisms given the responses they bring from her ensemble fellows.’ **Peter Urpeth** - [Jazz Views](#)