



Eivind Austad Trio – Moving (Ozella Music 2016)

It's been a long time coming. For 15 years the Norwegian Eivind Austad Trio has been an important part of the Bergen jazz scene, but only now their international debut „Moving“ hits stores.

After graduating from jazz college in Trondheim, northern Norway, pianist Eivind Austad settled in Bergen about 20 years ago, where he came to be an elementary protagonist not only of the local music scene but also the jazz college. Like many other Norwegian musicians, Austad was trained not only in jazz but also in classical and folk music. Still being the inspiration for exiting new music from different genres, the Norwegian folk tradition is held up high in the country's musical education.

The „Norwegian school“ has left it's marks on Eivind Austad, but he had lost his heart long time ago to America. Gospel, R'n'B and blues form the essence of the trio's sound and compositions. It's this intrinsically American accent that distinguishes the Eivind Austad Trio from other ensembles of their generation who are putting the possibilities and impossibilities of piano jazz to the test.

There is a lot of soul in „Moving“, it will surely hit the inner blue not in every true jazz fan. Also, the lyrical and narrative piano style of Eivind Austads evokes memories of Bill Evans, Keith Jarrett, Chick Corea and other legends. Magne Thormodsæter on double bass and drummer Håkon Mjåset Johansen are the perfect accompanists – subtle, yet with impeccable timing and intuition. Beside the six mature and versatile original compositions its the cover version of David Bowie's “Life on Mars” that really stands out. Austad, Thormodsæter and Johansen manage to wrap up the song completely in their signature sound without ever loosing track of the songs original flow.

Like all good Norwegian jazz records these days, „Moving“ was recorded at Rainbow Studios in Oslo, known for their clear and transparent productions.

Press quotes:

remarkable right-hand work and some **Keith Jarrett**-like interpolations... (ginalovesjazz.com) Allegedly makes the Norwegian pianist Eivind Austad its already long established American colleagues as Chick Corea and Keith Jarrett now orderly competition... (sound-and-image.de)

Nevertheless, the 15 years that required **Eivind Austad** as start for his appearance in the international arena, a surprisingly long time. Especially when you hear him play! (vinyl-fan.de)

Exiting and different... (Tor Hammerø)

After this album the good burghers of Bergen are going to have to share this band with the rest of Europe... (Stuart Nicholson, Jazzwise)

Grand trio debut! After many years as a jazz musician pianist Eivind Austad breaks with a class album... (Roald Helgheim, Dagsavisen)

The compositions of Eivind Austad combines the intellectualism of jazz with the melodic simplicity and soulfulness of folk music and gospel... brilliantly executed by the beautiful touch and sound of Austad, the steady swing of Thormodsæter and the precise drumming of Mjåset Johansen... (jazzinorge.no, Terje Mosnes)

one of the most beautiful and delicate albums from recent times... (musenblaetter.de, March)

listening to the deeply rooted blues influence...one would never suspect it to come from Norway (Jazzthing)

«Life On Mars»... just goes to show with able, sensitive and creative artists, anything can be like clay ready for reinvention... (allaboutjazz.com, John Applend)

Then came pianist Eivind Austad's trio. Austad and double bassist Magne Thormodsæter, both from Bergen, were joined by Trondheim-based drummer Håkon Mjåset Johansen to form a quite decisive unit which moved with taste and clarity along the more interesting corners of trioism... (allaboutjazz.com, Henning Bolte)

Lineup: Eivind Austad (piano); Magne Thormodsæter (bass), Håkon Mjåset Johansen (drums)

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