

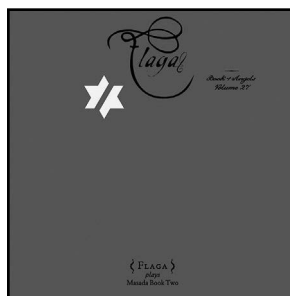
Row for William O.
Michael Bisio/Kirk Knuffke (Relative Pitch)
 by John Sharpe

Bassist Michael Bisio has waxed acclaimed duets in his career—those with pianist Matthew Shipp come to mind while going further back, a brace with multi-instrumentalist Joe McPhee also hit the sweet spot. To this list must now be added *Row for William O.*, which pairs the bassist with in-demand cornet player Kirk Knuffke, a member of Bisio's Accortet foursome (whose well-received debut appeared on the same label last year). The 37-minute program comprises four Bisio originals, one joint confection and one by William Overton Smith, the 90-year old dedicatee of the album, who is perhaps best known as the clarinetist in Dave Brubeck's seminal octet, as well as being both a mentor and teacher to Bisio in Seattle, Washington.

The pleasing contrast between Knuffke's floating lyricism and Bisio's brawny growling resonance, whether in counterpoint or partnership, is evident from the start. A jerky spacious unison engenders freewheeling interplay on Smith's "Drago", notable for Knuffke's breathy insouciance. They draw ample inspiration from the compositions, as is obvious in "Oh See O.C." where Bisio's solo plays off motifs in the head, with some of those insistent figures that mesh so tightly with Shipp, while Knuffke is at his most punchy and incisive. On Bisio's appealing "I Want To Do To You What Spring Does To Cherry Trees", Knuffke hews close to the tune while Bisio extrapolates in spirited abandon.

On the improvised "December", the stimulation stems from one another. Emphatic pizzicato slurs slither down the fretboard, prompting plaintive cornet exhalations. Such fluid interchange exemplifies the set, heard nowhere better than on the title track, where Bisio shows how tone rows can generate not only breezy unsentimental melody, but also dramatic give and take. Finally, after a trilling acappella cornet intro, the intimately choreographed dance of "To Birds..." provides a fittingly accomplished end to a fine disc.

For more information, visit relativepitchrecords.com. Bisio is at Judson Hall Jun. 8th with Connie Crothers and 9th as part of Vision Festival and Ibeam Brooklyn Jun. 13th with Darius Jones. Knuffke is at Urban Meadow Jun. 19th with Jeff Davis and Matt Pavolka as part of Red Hook Jazz Festival.



John Zorn: Flaga
Craig Taborn/Christian McBride/Tyshawn Sorey
 (Tzadik)
 by Tyran Grillo

Eight tunes from *The Book of Angels* make up *Flaga*, the 27th installment in a series exploring the parallel opus to John Zorn's popular *Masada* series. His interpreters this time are pianist Craig Taborn, bassist Christian McBride and drummer Tyshawn Sorey. "Machnia" puts listeners into the thick of things, highlighting the playing as much as Zorn's prolific gift for melody.

What would appear to be a triangular relationship in theory turns into a pyramidal one in practice. The atmosphere is joyful and exciting and finds each musician grabbing the wheel in succession with idiosyncratic vigor. It's a formula that leads to consistent piquancy in the remaining tunes, if at times dulled by the compactness of the engineering, which suffocates tunes like "Peliel" and "Katzfiel". Other places it works beautifully, however, as in "Shoftiel". Here Taborn balances sacred and secular impressions, launching into his solos with territorial wanderlust. But not even a few misfires at the mixing board can reign in a double take on "Talmi", of which the landscape is vast and the rhythm sectioning robust.

As may be expected in anything branded Zorn, abstractions are never too far away. Their wonders enliven "Katzfiel" and "Rogziel", the latter recalling its composer's fascination with the cartoon music of Carl Stalling. In this respect, the trio allows the spirit at hand to take the music where it needs to go, even if, like sand in an hourglass, every particle of improvisation eventually funnels into a steady passage of time. Which is not to say that reveries are absent: "Agbas" and "Harbonah" show sensitivity in kind, the latter an atmospheric gem that draws an arco bass thread through a stormy patchwork of piano and cymbals, teasing out the indestructible heart of the whole enterprise.

The way these veterans ease into and out of such eclectic themes is masterful, yielding a fresh take on Zorn that may just be the standout disc of the series and one that reasserts his position in the modern jazz canon.

For more information, visit tzadik.com. Taborn is at The Stone Jun. 8th. McBride is at Blue Note Jun. 14th-19th. Sorey is at JACK Jun. 12th with Charmaine Lee and The Stone Jun. 25th. See Calendar.

- Wed, Jun 1 **MARTIN NEVIN GROUP 8PM**
Immanuel Wilkins, Sam Harris, Craig Weinrib
- Thu, Jun 2 **BEN VAN GELDER QUINTET 8PM**
Mark Turner, Matt Brewer, Craig Weinrib
- Fri, Jun 3 **LAGE LUND 3 9PM & 10:30PM**
Matt Brewer, Justin Faulkner
- Sat, Jun 4 **PETROS KLAMPANIS 9PM & 10:30PM**
Julian Shore, Kelta Ogawa, Rogério Boccato, Maria Im, Eylem Basaldi, Lev Zhurbin, Colin Stokes, Magda Giannikou
- Sun, Jun 5 **JANE IRA BLOOM EARLY AMERICANS 8:30PM**
Mark Helias, Bobby Previte
- Mon, Jun 6 **DAVID AMRAM & CO 8:30PM**
Kevin Twigg, Rene Hart, Elliot Peper
- Tue, Jun 7 **VOXECSTATIC: VALENTINA MARINO QUARTET CD RELEASE 8PM**
Alberto Pibiri, Cameron Brown, Anthony Pinciotti, Maximilian Zool
JOHN HART TRIO "EXIT FROM BROOKLYN" CD RELEASE 9:30PM
Bill Moring, Tim Horner, Deborah Latz, curator
- Wed, Jun 8 **NEW BRAZILIAN PERSPECTIVES: Q MORROW GROUP 8PM**
Evan Francis, Sam Bevan, Rogério Boccato
NEW BRAZILIAN EXPRESSIONS: KATHRYN CHRISTIE 9:30PM
Matt Aronoff, Ross Pederson, Billy Newman, host
- Thu, Jun 9 **SOFIA RIBEIRO GROUP 8PM**
Sofia Ribeiro, Juan Andrés Ospina, Petros Klampanis, Marcelo Woloski
- Fri, Jun 10 **JON IRABAGON TRIO 9PM & 10:30PM**
Gary Versace, Tom Rainey
- Sat, Jun 11 **KEVIN HAYS, NEW DAY TRIO 9PM & 10:30PM**
Rob Jost, Greg Joseph
- Sun, Jun 12 **DJANGO AT CORNELIA STREET: ULTRAFAX 8:30PM**
Michael Joseph Harris, Sami Arefin, Eddie Hrybyk, Koran Agan, host
- Mon, Jun 13 **DAVID LOPATO QUARTET 8:30PM**
Lucas Pino, Ratzo Harris, Mike Sarin
- Tue, Jun 14 **THE OUT LOUDS 8PM**
Tomas Fujiwara, Ben Goldberg, Mary Halvorson
- Wed, Jun 15 **MARIO PAVONE/MIXED QUINTET 8PM**
Tony Malaby, Dave Ballou, Oscar Noriega, Peter McEachern, Michael Sarin
- Thu, Jun 16 **JOHN HADFIELD: SAINTS OF PERCUSSION 8PM**
Billy Drewes, Matt Kilmer, Tim Keiper, Shane Shanahan
- Fri, Jun 17 **JOHN HÉBERT QUARTET 9PM & 10:30PM**
David Virelles, Tim Ries, Billy Drummond
- Sat, Jun 18 **JASON RIGY: DETROIT-CLEVELAND TRIO 9PM & 10:30PM**
Cameron Brown, Gerald Cleaver
- Sun, Jun 19 **JIM BLACK TRIO 8:30PM**
Elias Stemeseder, Thomas Morgan
- Tue, Jun 21 **MOSTLY OTHER PEOPLE DO THE KILLING 8 & 9:30PM**
Ron Stabinsky, Moppa Elliott, Kevin Shea with special guest Matt Nelson
- Thu, Jun 23 **DAN WEISS TRIO 8PM**
Jacob Sacks, Thomas Morgan
- Fri, Jun 24 **SCOTT DUBOIS QUARTET 9PM & 10:30PM**
Jon Irabagon, Thomas Morgan, Kresten Osgood
- Sat, Jun 25 **JAZZTOPAD FESTIVAL: PIOTR DAMASIEWICZ QUINTET 9PM**
Tony Malby, Maciej Obara, Dominik Wania, Max Mucha, Krzysztof Dziedzic
JAZZTOPAD FESTIVAL 10:30PM
Tony Malaby, Gerard Lebek, Artur Tużnik, Max Mucha, Krzysztof Dziedzic
- Sun, Jun 26 **PATRICK CORNELIUS OCTET 8:30PM**
Matthew Jodrell, Sam Sadigursky, Nick Vayenas, Alex Wintz, Fabian Almazan, Thomson Kneeland, Eric Doob
- Tue, Jun 28 **PAUL JONES/CURTIS OSTLE GROUP 8PM**
David Berkman, Eliot Zigmund
ALEX LORE 4 9:30PM
Nick Sanders, Martin Nevin, Mark Whitfield Jr
- Wed, Jun 29 **ISRAELI JAZZ SPOTLIGHT: NOAM WIESENBERG 8PM**
Will Vinson, Ben Wendel, Jeff Miles, Shai Maestro, Tommy Crane
HAGGAI COHEN-MILO TRIO 9:30PM
Ben Wendel, Haggai Cohen-Milo, Ziv Ravitz, Or Bareket, host
- Thu, Jun 30 **MATT BREWER QUINTET 8PM**
Ben Wendel, Lage Lund, Tommy Crane

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