

TYSON NAYLOR TRIO – PRESS SHEET

Tyson Naylor has a growing reputation as the go-to pianist on the Vancouver scene. Naylor (who is also a member of Canadian folk artist Dan Mangan's band) has an impish sense of humour that shows an affinity for the merry-makers of the ICP Orchestra. You can hear Misha Mengelberg's spare, subtle intervals and dry-martini wit in his playing, though it's Mengelberg filtered through Brad Mehldau.

-Richard Moule, Signal to Noise, Fall 2012

Tyson Naylor Trio's Kosmonauten offers a fresh, lively vision

It's rare for a record to display both a singular compositional vision and lively collective interplay, but the Tyson Naylor Trio's debut offers just that—along with a fresh take on the blues and a couple of guest appearances by clarinetist François Houle, who fits right in.

Naylor's sensibility is essentially bittersweet, occasionally showing touches of his work in the indie-rock world with songwriter Dan Mangan, among others. "Allee Der Kosmonauten", a reference to his three years in Berlin, almost begs for lyrics; given the right poet, it could become a modern standard. "Adrift" begins with an "outside" touch thanks to some inside-the-piano clattering but soon switches into a lonesome melodica melody; the aforementioned blues number, "Book It", oscillates between choogling Otis Spann authenticity and enigmatic, Thelonious Monk-inspired modulations. Naylor's grasp of various keyboard idioms is immense, but he's rarely showy, and he's subsumed his influences into a personal style that's especially impressive given his youth.

Bassist Russell Sholberg and drummer Skye Brooks play together in several different contexts beyond this trio, and their rangy and loose-limbed but deeply sympathetic rapport also helps the music cohere.

My only caveat is that I'm sure I've heard a big chunk of Naylor's composition "PKP" somewhere else; he's definitely quoting from Ornette Coleman's "Dancing in Your Head", and there's a hint of Sonny Rollins as well. Still, if those are the names Naylor's writing evokes, he's doing a whole lot of things very right.

-Alexander Varty, Georgia Straight, June 28, 2012

Vancouver pianist **Tyson Naylor's** trio suggests the maxim "less is more," making almost every phrase count on a debut that reflects the post-rock minimalism of the Bad Plus and EST. **Kosmonauten (Songlines SGL 1594-2)**, is imbued with musicality and an instinctive lyricism, with the group managing to invoke the exuberant abstraction of the Amsterdam avant-garde and the rhythmic vitality of the South African townships, all on the opening track *Paolo Conte*.

Naylor, bassist Russell Sholberg and drummer Skye Brooks develop cohesive, evolving textures, while guest clarinetist François Houle brings a gorgeous sound, at once woody and liquid, to *See It Through*. There's a tendency on a debut to show everything one can do, but Naylor's deliberate approach suggests he has plenty in reserve.

-Stuart Broomer, Wholenote, June 29th, 2012