



The Critics Sound Off On THE WEE TRIO

James Westfall - Dan Loomis - Jared Schonig

"For its fifth album as a unit The Wee Trio has chosen to double down. Literally. The group has expanded twofold for this outing, recruiting colleagues Nicholas Payton (trumpet), Nir Felder (guitar) and Fabian Almazan (piano) to appear as guest soloists on individual tracks. The result is a spirited, intellectually rigorous 11-piece program that respects the diversity of the individuals involved while pointing to a shared aesthetic of lush grooves and winsome improvising." – **Brian Zimmerman, DownBeat Magazine (★★★★, "Editor's Pick")**

"The Wee Trio is the kind of band that undermines conventional expectations of what a jazz group is, besides being outstanding musicians . . . one of the few jazz bands that started out with as much love for Nirvana as Monk." - **Marcus Crowder, The Sacramento Bee**

"Wee + 3 holds many provocative moments, though even at its most intense the music remains accessible. Talent will do that. The name the Wee Trio might sound diminutive but the musicianship is giant."
- **Geraldine Wyckoff, OffBeat Magazine**

" . . . Infectious . . . raucous . . . More, please." - **The Boston Globe**

"Moments of majesty" - **The Philadelphia Inquirer**

"A perfect marriage of straight ahead and experimental." -★★★★ - **Best of 2014 Downbeat Magazine**

"As the Wee Trio, vibraphonist James Westfall, bassist Dan Loomis, and drummer Jared Schonig balance the rock 'n' roll attitude of the Bad Plus with the capricious classicism of the Modern Jazz Quartet—they somehow evoke both John Lewis and Ethan Iverson without even so much as a piano."
- Will Friedwald, **The Wall Street Journal**

"With James Westfall's vibes in the forefront, the group has a fresh sound, and bassist Dan Loomis and drummer Jared Schonig flow like the tides. Wee's sound is not wee, it's huge"
- **The San Francisco Chronicle**

"This is a group one needs to see and hear in person. Find this recording then go find the band - you will not regret one minute! The music is irrepressible and irresistible." - Richard Kamins, **Step Tempest**

"The trio puts forth a compelling case that they are the ambassadors of the genre's future."- **The Saratogian**

"On their recently released fourth album, they display edgy infectious energy, eliciting the kinds of audience responses more prevalent at rock shows than comparatively staid jazz concerts . . . a more wholesome sum than each part . . ." - Tom Greenland, **The New York City Jazz Record**

"The Wee Trio are part of a new breed that doesn't just serve up solos over the chord changes, but . . . deploys fresh-sounding arrangements that suggest the creation of structural shapes on the fly."
- Peter Margasak, **The Chicago Reader**

The Trio tells stories of impressive depth through jazz; it is the most narrative an album could get without having words." - **Carrie Booher, WWOZ New Orleans 90.7 FM (New Music Spotlight)**

"The Wee Trio have found a unique slant, not only in their vibes/bass/drums instrumentation but in their lyrical songwriting and flowing interaction." - **The Philly Daily News**

"A sonic playground that's grounded with dazzling teamplay . . . manically fun" – Nick Bewsey, **ICON**

"The members of the Wee Trio are chameleons in every sense of the word. Like the subject of their latest venture, *Ashes to Ashes: A David Bowie Intraspective*, the trio's ability to shapeshift musically, and adapt to an arsenal of individual influences, is what helped the group blend so succinctly . . ." - **DownBeat**

"Refreshing . . . no one-note jam band . . . intelligent, highly interactive tracks . . ." - **JazzTimes**

"An investigative vehicle which shakes with energy . . . inventive jazz which works on its own merits while retaining Bowie's spirit and self-assurance." - **Audiophile Audition**

"Even among the inventive ranks of jazz musicians, the Wee Trio is a group of iconoclasts. The trio loves to play a style of music with bigger dynamics than most rock, more groove than a lot of modern soul, and certainly more excitement and accessibility than a lot of contemporary jazz . . . The Wee Trio's music moves and grooves, thunders and crashes, and caresses delicate nuances of melody too." "One of the year's most riveting albums . . ." - **The Patriot Ledger**

"*Ashes to Ashes* is the best kind of tribute disc: Rooted in respect, fueled by inspiration, and allowing the tribute-makers to put their own indelible mark on the music" - J Hunter, **State of Mind**

"This Brooklyn-born trio plays a fun, energetic form of music that I'm tempted to call punk jazz." "The music makes a wonderful jumping-off point for these inventive musicians . . . a take-no-prisoners romp"
- **The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle**

". . . Some thrilling directions. Nifty recording, and one I hope that inspires other jazz outfits to do the same." - **eMusic**

"the Wee Trio's third album, '*Ashes to Ashes: A David Bowie Intraspective*' (Bionic Records), will simply knock you out. It's rare when an experimental jazz record makes one smile this much."
- **The San Antonio Express News**

"*Ashes to Ashes* suggests that if you wash 30 years of glam off of Bowie, durable songs remain. . . . there's plenty of adventure and invention in these tracks." - **OffBeat Magazine**

“a pleasure to hear . . . For 31 minutes, forget Bowie. Then hit YouTube to find out more about a combo—to use that old term—you’ll want more of.” - **BlogCritics Music**

“These players share a marvelous sense of artistry, where everything they do shines with purpose and precision” - **Allaboutjazz.com**

“One of the most dynamic trios around . . . Capitol Diner Vol 2 Animal Style is a breath of fresh air from an exciting group” - **Allaboutjazz.com**

“The world's most vicious vibes-led threesome” - **Something Else**

“A winning debut” “as true to the jazz tradition as it is to their freewheeling tastes.” - **The Boston Globe**

“An immediate musical simpatico” - Keith Spera, **The New Orleans Times Picayune**

“How exciting, you might ask, can a vibes/bass/drum trio be? Well listen to these three and you’ll find out.”
- Jeff Simon, **The Buffalo News**

“Largely entertaining” - Owen McNally, **The Hartford Courant**

“Bulging with even more muscular jazz chops than the Bad Plus but displaying more earthbound taste than the late, lamented E.S.T., the Brooklyn-based Wee Trio makes a larger than wee splash on its debut.”
- **The Boston Herald**

“Joining the Bad Plus, Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey and the Leviathan Brothers on the national scene, Brooklyn’s The Wee Trio are stirring up jazz you don’t have to be old to enjoy, Bring a teen.”
- Greg Burk, **MetalJazz.com**

“Intriguing combination of which to my knowledge there’s no peer in jazz, or any other kind of music”
“The Trio traverses over jazz, pop, grunge, and anything else that gives them a vehicle for pursuing richly intense, vibe-led, acoustic trio music.” - **BlogCritics.com**

“‘Lightning in a bottle’” is an excellent metaphor for The Wee Trio's *Capitol Diner Vol. 1*, given how the music crackles like high-tension wires in a rainstorm.” “grabs the listener by the lapels and yanks-hard.”
- **Allaboutjazz.com**

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