

Robert Mitchell's 3io

The Embrace

3io Records - 3ioCD001 - Distributor – Kudos released 12th Sept

+ UK tour dates attached

Robert Mitchell should really need no introduction, an award winning pianist, composer, arranger and teacher, since his recording debut a decade ago he has been one of the most powerful, creative presences on the British jazz scene. A deft, inventive pianist with a unique style of improvisation that finds him riffing on lateral motifs rather than following classic bop influenced lines, Mitchell has been compared to the likes of Craig Taborn and Andrew Hill. He has recorded a series of superb albums as a solo artist, in duo with Omar Puente, with his group **Panacea** and his trio, **3io**. As a sideman Mitchell has worked with some of contemporary jazz's most creative figures, including saxophonists Courtney Pine, Matana Roberts, Greg Osby and Steve Coleman and with leading figures from the UK dance music scene such as Jhelisa Anderson and IG Culture.

His trio, **3io** features Mitchell on piano with bassist **Tom Mason** and drummer **Richard Spaven**. Their musical relationship goes almost a decade, and has developed out of Mitchell's larger band 'Panacea'. Their debut album, **The Greater Good**, won *Best Jazz Album* at *Gilles Peterson's Worldwide Awards in 2009* and was hailed by the Guardian newspaper as Mitchell's finest album. **The Embrace** is their second album and is the fruit of a long period of playing and working together. Drawing on music written over nearly two centuries, by creators from the UK, Africa, Sweden, and Germany alongside original music from all the trio, they find inspiration from all great music regardless of genre and generate a wonderful tension, and excitement from pulling the music into trio clothing! An excitement that will be equally apparent on the bands UK tour which commences in London on September 15th with the album launch at the Jazz Refreshed night in West London.

The album opens with an unlikely cover, **Alberto Balsam**, by Aphex Twin, a great tune which sets the tone for much of what follows, with imaginative recastings of material rubbing shoulders with exhilarating new tunes from the band. Tom Mason's **A Desperate Man** draws on his work with singer-songwriter Jono Mcleery and is the result of jamming with McLeery over a bass-line he came up with. The album's title track, **The Embrace**, a composition by Mitchell, was written for his father and uses an offset rhythmic grouping of three in its bass part, and a piano melody which overlaps (embraces) the bass and unusually was also arranged for the left hand of the piano part to take prime melodic importance (for half the the initial statement) a form taken from African music. An idea partly inspired by a workshop by Nana Tsiboe, in which he explained that this rhythmic lilt, is an African norm, prevalent in the rhythms of many languages from the continent. An embrace on several levels. Which in turn seemed to fit the ethos of the trio and provided the inspiration for the album title. Elsewhere **Maz**, is an enigmatic original from Spaven originally written for his quintet with singer Jose James, and **Twice** finds the trio exploring the music of Swedish electronica group Little Dragon and despite the vastly different instrumentation, Mitchell manages to keep the unique atmosphere of the original tune. Finally the album closes with **Traumerei** (Dreams), a piece by Robert Schumann, that Mitchell recalls playing in his early studies and later heard Horowitz perform as an encore in his famous 1986 Moscow concert. Needless to say Mitchell takes the beautiful lullaby on quite a journey just as 3io take us all into a world of never ending musical possibilities: One where we have no choice but to submit to their embrace!

Further information from kerstanmac@gmail.com 07775655573

Quotes:

'Robert Mitchell creates chamber jazz of astonishing beauty. His music communicates rapt attention, inquisitiveness, high intelligence and refined feeling. British jazz is far richer for his presence.' **Metro**

"Robert Mitchell's best album so far, He performs here with a sympathetic acoustic trio, including Tom Mason on bass and Richard Spaven providing a discreet percussion whisper - and, at times, a climactic alternative voice. Mitchell's phrasing is unusual: he improvises in unexpectedly juxtaposed motifs rather than long postbop lines" **The Guardian**

"Mitchell demonstrates a unique way of merging the angular voicings and textures of contemporary classical music with the trance-like funkiness of the UK's urban music underground. The piano trio maybe one of the more oversubscribed formats in jazz right now, but Mitchell proves he's one of its most original" **Jazzwise**

Tour Dates:

15 Sept Jazz Refreshed , West London, - Album launch
(10pm £6) www.jazzrefreshed.com

22 Sept Bonnington Theatre , Nottingham
(†8pm £12/10 Box Office†0115 956 0733)

3 Oct Hastings Angling Club (8.30pm £7 www.jazzhastings.co.uk †01424 250221)

5 Oct Enjoy Jazz Festival, Heidelberg, Germany <http://www.karlstorbahnhof.de/>

6 Oct Rays, Foyles , Charing Cross Road, WC2H 0EB, (free - 6pm)

13 Oct Vortex, Dalston **8.45pm †Bookings 020 7254 4097** /<http://www.vortexjazz.co.uk/>

19 Oct Capstone Theatre, Liverpool 7.30 pm £12.50 0151 709 3789

22 Oct The Drum, Birmingham, Box Office †0121 333 2444

4 Nov South Hill Park, Bracknell <http://www.southhillpark.org.uk>†

8 Nov Dempseys, Cardiff, 9pm info†<http://www.jazzatdempseys.org.uk/>

12 Nov London Jazz Festival - RFH Ballroom - Jazz Line-up (Radio3)
(free - 30min set - between 4-6pm with several other great bands)

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