



MARC PERRENOUD TRIO

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DOWNBEAT

Jazz, Blues & Beyond SINCE 1934

BY FRANK ALKYER

Marc Perrenoud Trio, *Vestry Lamento* (Double Moon)

The Marc Perrenoud Trio assaults your ears in the best way possible—with a fiery vengeance grounded in groove and the ability to play together as easily as others breathe. On *Vestry Lamento*, its third album, this piano trio just slays it. This is a band of unmatched power, technique and taste. The title track opens the set with an incredible bass solo by Marco Müller that kicks off a high-wire groove. Müller and drummer Cyril Regamey lock the rhythm down tight, allowing Perrenoud to glide over the piano with extreme soul in his heart and classical chops in his fingertips. It's an 8-minute ride that makes you want to hit repeat as soon as it's over. And just in case you think that might have been a fluke, the next tune, "Igor," turns the heat all the way up. Perrenoud is a blur of notes and chords, with rare power and intensity. It's amazing that Müller and Regamey not only match that intensity and prowess, but drive it even deeper. When the band slows down the tempo, it somehow maintains an inner smolder that makes you wonder when it will erupt again. In the hands of this trio, the standard "Body And Soul" becomes a hymn of power, angst and beauty. The same holds true with Perrenoud's "Nymphaeas Blues," which is sad, otherworldly and lovely. But the most awe-inspiring piece in this eight-song program is "Bosendorfer Piano Club." This ode to one of the greatest names in pianos is appropriately titled. If you ever wonder what can be done on the piano, this sprint is all you need to hear. I have one favor to ask: Would someone *please* book this band for a tour of the States? We want to see them live!