

PHRONESIS biography

Jasper Høiby (Denmark) - double bass

Ivo Neame (UK) - piano

Anton Eger (Sweden/Norway) - drums

"One of the most exciting bands on the planet today!"
(Jazzwise)

Scandinavian/British jazz trio Phronesis have the ability to excite, inspire and move people in a way that few bands are able to do. Formed in 2005 by Danish double-bass player Jasper Høiby, their charismatic live performances have captured the hearts and minds of audiences worldwide and prompted Jon Newey (Editor of Jazzwise Magazine) to describe them as *"the most exciting and imaginative piano trio since EST"*.

In **2017** Phronesis have touring plans in the UK, Germany, Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands and Scandinavia and they return to North America in the summer for seven festival appearances. The band will perform their recent big band album project 'The Behemoth' at North Sea Jazz Festival in July, with the New Rotterdam Jazz Orchestra and in Germany with the hr Frankfurt Radio Big Band in the Autumn.

In Spring **2016** Phronesis launched their sixth album 'Parallax' (recorded at Abbey Road Studios, London) with concerts at the 950-seater Cadogan Hall in London and at Jazzhouse in Copenhagen, plus tour dates in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Poland and France. In the summer the trio were invited to perform at the opening of the Danish Olympic Pavilion in Rio, Brazil alongside dates at the prestigious SESC venues in São Paulo. September saw the trio returning to the studio in Germany to record Julian Argüelles's arrangements of their compositions with the hr Frankfurt Radio Big Band. This album, titled 'The Behemoth' was released in March **2017**.

2015 *"Ten years on the road, and Phronesis are established as one of the great trios. Three players, moving as one – head, heart and hands."* – London Jazz News. The trio began their tenth anniversary year with a Music Network tour of Ireland, followed by a spring tour in Germany and Switzerland. In May the trio performed their 'Pitch Black' project for a sold-out show at Cheltenham Jazz Festival, where Jazzwise described their *"deep, almost uncanny empathy that stands them apart from any other piano trio in Europe."*

In the summer, the band returned for the third time to the Canadian festival circuit, performing at Montreal and Vancouver Jazz Festivals.

Following performances in Germany, Austria, the UK, Belgium, Luxembourg & the Ukraine in the autumn, the band recorded their sixth album 'Parallax' at the renowned Abbey Road studios in London. In November the trio celebrate their tenth anniversary at Sendesaal Frankfurt and the London Jazz Festival with a special project for which UK composer/arranger Julian Argüelles has created innovative arrangements of the trio's compositions for performances by the Frankfurt Radio Big Band alongside Phronesis.

In **2014** Phronesis released their critically acclaimed fifth album 'Life to Everything'.

With a reputation for spell-binding roller-coaster live performances and a second **MOBO Award nomination** for 'best jazz act', the year's performing schedule took them to concert stages across the world from Morocco to Brazil, to festivals including North Sea, Copenhagen, Middelheim and Elb, and on tours across the UK, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, marking their rise to the forefront of the European club scene.

In **2013** Phronesis began the year touring in Australia, Scandinavia, Germany, Switzerland and the UK. They returned to North America in the summer to perform at Montreal, Vancouver and Edmonton jazz festivals in Canada and Rochester Jazz Festival and the Jazz Standard NY in the USA. In September the trio toured on the West Coast of the USA for the first time, including two performances at the Monterey Jazz Festival, and in October they repeated their extraordinary 'Pitch Black' project for three shows in Belgium. The trio recorded their fifth album of brand new material, 'Life To Everything', live in the round, over three sold out EFG London Jazz Festival performances in November.

In **2012** the trio released fourth album, *Walking Dark* (Edition). Described in a 5* review in BBC Music Magazine as "*arguably the best disc yet from one of the best of the bunch of contemporary bands*", it is the first album in which all members of the band contribute to the writing as well as the arranging. The album launch saw the trio touring in Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, Spain, France, Romania, Ireland and the UK including performances at Istanbul, Vitoria, Palatia, C-Mine and Copenhagen Jazz Festivals. Earlier in the year Jasper Høiby was awarded the Copenhagen Jazz Festival's '**Young Spirit Award**' and in June the trio won the '**London Jazz Award**' at the **London Awards for Art and Performance**. With their "*rare combination of solid jazz credentials and zeitgeist*" (jazz journal), Phronesis were chosen by the International Jazz Festivals Organisation, (as one of only six groups worldwide), for the **IJFO new talent support programme**, which includes performances for the trio at up to 17 IJFO festivals over the coming two years.

In **2011** the trio received an outstanding reception on their first tour of North America, including the Rochester, Montreal and Ottawa International Jazz Festivals and the legendary Jazz Standard club in New York. In August 2011, they premiered their 'Pitch Black' project at Brecon Jazz Festival – a performance in total darkness, which was described in a 5-star review by the Telegraph as a '*unique, unmissable triumph*'. 'Pitch Black' was also repeated in Germany and to a sell-out house at the 2011 London Jazz Festival in November.

In **2010** Phronesis developed a fierce reputation as one of the most formidable trios in the UK. They were nominated for 'Best Jazz Ensemble' in the **Parliamentary Jazz Awards**, featured on the front cover of Jazzwise Magazine and nominated for 'Best Jazz Act' at the prestigious 2010 **MOBO Awards**. The trio gained increasing attention in Europe, with acclaimed performances at the Banlieues Bleues Festival in Paris, and the Copenhagen and North Sea Jazz Festivals in addition to the Brecon, Glasgow and London Jazz Festivals in the UK. The trio's third album, *Alive* (Edition), featuring guest drummer Mark Guiliana (Avishai Cohen/Meshell Ndegeocello), was released in July 2010 to great critical acclaim and chosen as '**Jazz Album of the Year**' by Jazzwise and MOJO Magazines.

The energy and individuality of Phronesis comes from an extraordinary democracy of expression and intuitive empathy between the musicians - British pianist Ivo Neame and Swedish drummer Anton Eger come together with Høiby to create a propulsive

groove-driven sound that is utterly accessible despite its underlying complexity. *"Phronesis have a precocious compositional strength, hitching striking themes to engaging grooves; they have improv virtuosity to spare, but never show off, and make light of travelling the most devious rhythmic routes."* – the Guardian

The trio's debut album *Organic Warfare* was released in November 2007 on Loop Records. Their second album *Green Delay* was released in June 2009, receiving critical acclaim from The Guardian, Jazzwise (who voted it as one of their top ten albums of 2009) and The Times.

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