

SERIOUS

Alexander Hawkins

Press Quotes

ALEXANDER HAWKINS ENSEMBLE

- Top Ten Albums of 2009, Bill Shoemaker, *Village Voice*
- Best Debut Album of 2009, Bill Shoemaker, *Village Voice*
- Top Ten Albums of 2009, Clifford Allen, Ni Kantu, *Village Voice*
- Best Debut Album of 2009, Clifford Allen, *Village Voice*
- Top Albums of 2009, Derek Taylor, *Dusted*
- Top Sessions of 2009, Jazz on 3, *BBC Radio 3*

“The range of tonal colors and breadth of activity that this ensemble can actualize is staggering... it’s a testament to Hawkins’ arranging abilities that he’s able to coax cottony delicacy and ferrous weight in the same instance. That same weight and delicacy manifest themselves in Hawkins’ pianism...such absolute joy and strength. There aren’t words to describe it...an incredible record, *No Now Is So* should put Alexander Hawkins on the map.”

Clifford Allen, *Bagatellen*

“Pianist Alexander Hawkins is one of the brightest rising young stars of British jazz and improvisation... Hawkins has technique in abundance and a brain quick enough to make creative use of it. With no obvious stylistic antecedents, he excels in a variety of styles, seeming to relish his eclectic approach to improvisation...[no now is so] is an unqualified success.”

John Eyles, *All About Jazz*

THE CONVERGENCE QUARTET

- Top ten albums of 2007: Nate Dorward, *Coda*
- Top ten albums of 2007: John Sharpe, *All About Jazz*

“A fundamental reassertion of composition within improvised music”

Stuart Broomer, *Point of Departure*

“A subverted organisational approach that results in a sustained sense of open-mouthed surprise”

Martin Longley, *BBC Music*

“Many profound moments of listening”

Paul Serralheiro, *Squid’s Ear*

“The Convergence Quartet put their collective shoulders to the free compositional wheel and give it a massive shove over the edge...Wow!”

Edwin Pouncey, *The Wire*

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"If you wonder where Jazz is at today, where it has evolved to, then here's one answer."

Tim Owen, *TheJazzmann.com*

"Highly unpredictable and thought-provoking music to savor with endless room for future consideration."

Jay Collins, *Cadence*

"...perhaps [Convergence] refers to their distinctive synthesis between composition and improvisation, arrangement and spontaneity...Here's a band that truly understands how to ride the edge of inside/outside, at times dulcetly melodic, at other times quite prickly; they're always doing something unexpected, weaving their way through collective counterpoint, lyrical solos, and bracing free interludes, as well."

Michael Rosenstein, *Paris Transatlantic*

"The Convergence Quartet ... are a powerful example of 21st-century musical catholicity, uninhibitedly mingling improv, contemporary- classical composition, old jazz references and new abstractions"

John Fordham, *The Guardian*

DECOY (ALEXANDER HAWKINS, JOHN EDWARDS, STEVE NOBLE)

- Oto: Album of the Year, 2010, Bill Shoemaker, *Village Voice*

"The most interesting Hammond player of the last decade and more, [Hawkins] has already extended what can be done on the instrument..."

Brian Morton, *Point of Departure*

"Alexander Hawkins on Hammond is a true heir to Larry Young"

Phil Johnson, *The Independent*

"In the hands of 60s hellfire preachers ... the Hammond B3 organ has always sounded on the verge of mayhem ... But it's taken Alexander Hawkins ... to let the monster loose ... [the] albums suggest a cult following is not far behind."

John Fordham, *The Guardian*

"Like Ra, [Hawkins] takes hackneyed saccharine tones and combines them into an inter-associative wonderland before threading events into a canvas of agitated angles and sanctified emphases ... a terse, inflamed minimalism ... Hawkins, Edwards, Noble and McPhee have created a performance--and a record--for the ages."

Clifford Allen, *All About Jazz*

"Hawkins' piano clearly displays free jazz influences, piling up torrents of notes in a display of technique that is breathtaking ... Altogether, the level of group empathy displayed here is scary"

John Eyles, *All About Jazz*

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“One of the fascinating aspects of Hawkins’ music is that even though working within compositional frameworks, he nonetheless encompasses the full breadth of contemporary jazz, including gambits more associated with total improvisation.”

John Sharpe, *All About Jazz*

“English pianist/organist and improvising composer Alexander Hawkins’ ... work tends to fall quite far from the European free improvisation mainstream, embracing bubbly lyricism, spiritual heft, and dedication to a diverse series of modern jazz threads.”

Clifford Allen, *Ni Kantu*

alexanderhawkins.com

serious.org.uk/artists/alexander-hawkins

soundcloud.com/alexanderhawkins

twitter.com/hawkinsmusic