

- 1 **MOONAGE DAYDREAM** 5:58
- 2 **EXPLORING** 4:46
- 3 **MINOR TO MAJOR** 8:09
- 4 **EASTBOUND MEDITATION** 5:20
- 5 **DODECAPHONE** 4:17
- 6 **BEFORE THE STORM** 3:04
- 7 **FIVE AGAINST THREE** 6:57
- 8 **RE-VIEW** 5:31
- 9 **PASSACAGLIA** 6:03

Total time 50:05

All compositions by Eivind Austad
(co-composed with Magne Thormodsæter
and Håkon Mjåset Johansen),
except Moonage Daydream by David Bowie
Recorded November 17–18, 2022
by Davide Bertolini at GSS Studio, Bergen, Norway
Mixed November 2023 by Davide Bertolini
at Griegakademiet, Bergen
Mastered April 2024 by Morten Lund
at Lund's Lyd, Oslo, Norway
Produced by Thomas T. Dahl Co-produced by Eivind Austad
Executive producer Odd Gjelsnes
Cover photo by Kjersti Holst
Portrait photo by Jannica Luoto (Bergens Tidende)
Design by Max Franosch
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LOS 292-2



EIVIND AUSTAD TRIO EXPLORE

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This is an exploratory album. The well-known format of the piano trio is a starting point for exploring in composition and improvisation what a piano trio can also be. And how it might sound. It is an opening for these explorations, one can hear musicians stretching musical ideas to something barely known if not the unknown.

Eivind Austad has given himself restrictions when composing. He has searched for inspiration, tools, ideas and musical elements from a number of sources, in order to challenge himself creatively. The resulting ideas and sketches have then been worked on by the entire trio, who has collectively developed the compositions. The album is rich in musical ideas, and explores both tonal, rhythmic, and sonic dimensions, often simultaneously. At the same time, there is a simplicity in the musical ideas, as if they are built up from fragments. The interaction between the musicians is testimony to how they clearly know each other musically, while it also sounds as if they have jointly agreed to explore the very format of the piano trio. Where Austad's recognizable melodic playing often takes central stage, the different musical elements move between the players, they all contribute melodies. It is a cliché to describe a piano trio as all musicians contributing to one musical entity, but this cliché can also say something about how to listen to these musicians co-creating.

Listening to *Exploring* feels like a parallel to seeing a three-dimensional object; it can be turned around, viewed in multiple perspectives. The same is done here in sound, the instruments pull in different or similar directions, making the music sound multidimensional, as if what is foreground and what is background can change in the act of listening. The exploration of the album as a whole also comes about in how composition and improvisation coexist; it hardly makes sense to ask about the difference between these elements. The result of the collective creation is an example of a music from strong individuals with inspiring musical voices, but seemingly devoid of ego.

Erik Steinskog
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