

the bad plus

"Audacious, rule-breaking jazz trio crunches and at times pulverizes swing to let improvisational freedom shine...jazz purists tremble while the vanguard flocks."

- Billboard

"So, if this piano trio wants to play as loud as a rock band...well, let 'em rip...these bad boys have the musicianship to back up their attitude."

- The New Yorker



For the past ten years **The Bad Plus**—Reid Anderson, Ethan Iverson and David King—have broken down the walls of jazz convention and created an uncompromising body of work. Few jazz groups in recent memory have amassed such acclaim, and few have inspired such controversy. Their belief in the band ethos and their personal brand of avant-garde populism has put them at the forefront of a new instrumental music movement, drawing audiences both traditional and mainstream.

While the bulk of their output has been original music, they have deconstructed songs in the pop, rock as well as the country and classical music idioms.

The threesome has been exchanging musical ideas since their teenage years. In the late '80s, Anderson and King were two Minnesota high schoolers playing in fledgling rock bands and digging records by **Coltrane** and **The Police**. Anderson met Iverson in 1989. All three played together on one occasion a year later before going their separate ways for ten years.

They reconvened for a gig in Minneapolis in 2000. Sparks flew, studio sessions for an indie release ensued, and suddenly *The New York Times* called their maiden voyage **one of the best releases of 2001**. The band signed with Columbia, where they released *These Are the Vistas* in 2003, followed quickly by *Give* and then *Suspicious Activity*. In 2007 they released *Prog*, an album which balanced originals with spellbinding covers of **Bowie**, **Bacharach**, **Tears for Fears** and **Rush**. *For All I Care*, with its intriguing juxtaposition of rock and classical sensibilities, followed in 2009.

Never Stop, is the band's latest release, and their first album of all-originals. Hailed by the *Los Angeles Times* as "deadly cohesive, the record has been named as one of the **best jazz albums of 2010** by *Slate* and *iTunes*. *Never Stop* showcases the band's range as well as its three distinct personalities. From gentle and melodic to fierce and abstract, from swing to 80's techno, **NEVER STOP** is tied together by a group sound that embraces diversity as strength.

The Bad Plus was commissioned by Duke University to rework **Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*** for the 2011/12 season, illuminating the impact of *The Rite* on so much of the thrilling music that has emerged over the last hundred years.



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