

CYCLE BY THREE

A Press Release By Laura Kennedy

Travis Wesley's new CD reveals all the wisdom of maturity and none of the stodginess. "Cycle By Three" shows pianist and composer Wesley, along with bassist Toby Curtwright and drummer Tom Marko, in an intriguing, meditative light. That's not to say that this is a downbeat album --rather one that captivates the artists revealing their emotions. This contemplative tone is a constant and welcome companion. Wesley's original "Prelude" is compelling, but also unsettling in a way that leads us onward to explore more. The tunes "Keeper of the Keys" and "Fading Friends" reveal an assured spirit within Wesley the composer and performer.

Bassist Toby Curtwright contributes two songs to "Cycle By Three." Within "But He Himself Was Broken" are dark notes. And "For Us This is the End of Stories" is wonderfully pensive. Marko's performance is a standout as his playing entices us into quiet, restful shadows. He's no mere timekeeper, but an artist who shows us the lyricism in percussion.

"Postlude," another original from Wesley is a thoughtful bookend to "Prelude." The whole CD is marvelously produced, with a sustained reflective mood. There are moments of sweet melancholy tinged with the promise of optimism that's just coming into reach.

On "Cycle By Three," each track is a standout that holds tight to the thread that joins the songs together. The superb empathy between these players pulls you in from the start and will stay with you long after.

Press release written by Laura Kennedy, jazz radio host and news journalist for WGLT Radio "News & Ideas", 89.1FM in Central Illinois