



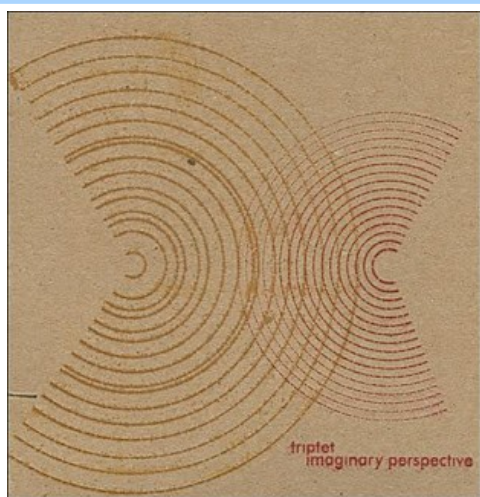
# gapplegate music review

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THE BLOG COVERS INTERESTING RELEASES, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREAS OF FREE AND MAINSTREAM JAZZ AS WELL AS CONTEMPORARY CLASSICAL AND AVANT GARDE MUSIC. THE EMPHASIS WILL FOR THE MOST PART BE ON SMALLER LABELS. BOTH ESTABLISHED MUSICIANS AND LESSER KNOWN ARTISTS THAT DESERVE ATTENTION WILL BE COVERED, WITH THE ACCENT ON WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW.

friday, november 11, 2011

## Triplet, "Imaginary Perspective": A Visionary Trio Performs Nine Conceptually Advanced Free Improvisations



Triplet does something rather rigorously avant on *Imaginary Perspective* (Engine 040). Each of the members (Michael Monhart, sax,

percussion, Tibetan horn; Greg Campbell, drums, percussion, French horn, Tibetan horn; Tom Baker, fretless guitar, electronics) for any particular piece chooses a particular playing parameter and sticks with it, so that each piece has a kind of three-fold structure of togetherness-in-separation. If that sounds opaque, an example I hope will clarify. For the opener, "Autumn Sonar," Monhart plays long-toned multiphonics centered around a particular pitch, Tom Baker plays long tones in the lower register, and Greg Campbell plays a rapid series of drum-percussion patterns that contrast against the long-toned mode.

There are variations and there is movement, there are some numbers that have a more open free-form feel like more conventional free jazz, but for the most part this is a group that thrives on a sort of "triplet" of tri-patterned sound making. It's as if each player is an independently functioning body part that coordinates with the other two in ways that lead to a result that is more than the sum of its parts. This is not freebop. It's abstract sound weaving of a provocative sort.

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In that way the music is a bit akin to the classic formalist sublimities of AMM and MEV. There aren't many ensembles out there today pursuing the extension of what those pioneering groups conceptualized. Triplet is one. The music is a good example of why it all still rings true, of why there remains much more to be expressed along these lines. Triplet have found their own way to go about it.

posted by [grego applegate edwards](#) at 5:52 am  
labels: "free" jazz, abstract improvisation, avant improvisation, triplet's "imaginary perspective" [gapplegate music review](#)

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#### about me



[Grego  
Applegate  
Edwards](#)

**New York City**

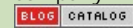
**Metro Area, United States**

I've spent my life making and listening to music, editing, writing and trying to put food on the table. I've gone to music schools (Berklee College of Music, School of Contemporary Music), gotten

advanced degrees in various related subjects (New York University, University of Chicago), written novels and been a working stiff like you. The rest is cannon fodder for those who steal identities, isn't it? Oh yes, I also write for Cadence, a periodical covering jazz and improv music, and All About Jazz, a website devoted to . . . guess! I ran a guitar shop for a while. That was interesting. I am working on some new cross-tempo-ed ensemble pieces. That's what I do. . . some of it anyway.

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