



# griffith hiltz trio - press clips

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## jazmusic.com

Forward-leaning, nail-biting jazz, addressed with bold innovation, excitement and originality; delivered by a trio of brazen musicians with boundless talent, and genre-spiraling ideas. Hardly the types of cats you'd observe in the 'musical gym' ambling around, sneaking peeks at themselves in the mirrors lining the walls.

Putting honest spit and shine to the awareness that good jazz always will be appealing, Griffith Hiltz Trio finds a dynamic 'collective voice' that departs from the mainstream to establish a sonic footprint of melody, harmony, and form, more redolent of a well-honed sextet; a more accurate descriptor, in light of Johnny Griffith's fearsome multi-instrumental dexterity, plus Nathan Hiltz's electric guitar wizardry, and simultaneous 'sleight of foot' bass pedals; and the indispensable purveyor of precise timing, drummer Sly Juhas. A group of seekers unified by a cooperative of extraordinary composing skills, forged into a solid brand intent on establishing singular cutting edge status.

The Griffith Hiltz Trio, is a band, first and foremost, of first rate musicians/composers. Their approach to jazz music is daring, innovative, modern. They respectfully eschew the mainstream, in favor of bending the genre almost to breaking point, and letting their inner selves come through. Their music possesses a subtle power, and true grit that emerge with the inspiration gained from the influences of Ellington, through Ornette Coleman, and Otis Redding to Black Sabbath. So, this is what you get. Hold on. It may be a long wonderful ride.

By  
**C.J. Bond**, jazmusic.com  
Published: September 14, 2013

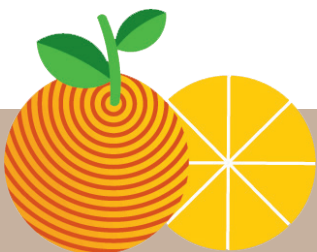
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## Bebospokenhere.com - UK

...a delightful listen. It doesn't really fit any genre nor is it in a timewarp. It's the music of the past - it's the music of tomorrow played today.

Griffith blows gutsy, almost rock tenor, mellow alto and bass clarinet that could have been BG if he'd been born later and opted for bass clarinet. Guitarist Hiltz operates the bass pedalboard as good as some organ players I've heard and his guitar playing offers extra support as well as solos that swing in both a contemporary and a traditional manner. Sly Juhas' playing is vital capturing the varying moods and responding accordingly.

By  
**Lance Liddle**,  
Published: September 3, 2013



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## bopnjazz.com - 5 stars

Perhaps the most innovative improvisational act to come out of Canada...ever!

The sophomore release from the Griffith Hiltz Trio is aptly titled *This Is What You Get* and... it is. Genre lines are blurred as a melodic sense of urgency runs the spectrum from surf influenced sounds to that of what some might refer to as “metal-lite.” What you get is an amalgam of influences that will have most critics scratching their collective heads and most label executives and publicists perched on the nearest ledge which at times is not necessarily a bad thing.

Creativity here is off the charts, no one sound predominates while maintaining an incredibly engaging ebb and flow throughout the release. Having often said labels are for cans of soup this formidable trio hammers the point home while walking an organic harmonic tightrope on an incredibly windy day.

Solid compositions that are well thought out and developed seal the deal and avoid the sophomore slump that so often hammers ensembles such as this. This is post modern improvisational music for a thoroughly modern world.

By  
**Brent Black,**  
Published: September 10, 2013

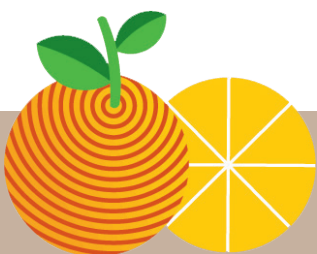
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## Allaboutjazz.com

...Canada's Griffith Hiltz Trio opens its second album, *This Is What You Get...*, with “Strawman,” which sounds like a cross between a theme song for a *Secret Agent Man* movie and crunchy guitar-style, 1960s-era surf rock, featuring saxophonist Johnny Griffith's crisp melody lines and drummer Sly Juhas' shuffling rhythm. Then guitarist Nathan Hiltz twangs toward an atmosphere of the movie *Deliverance* (1972) by plunking into a back country banjo groove. Strong sounds to open a strong recording...

...The Griffith Hiltz Trio—which sounds more like a quartet, thanks to guitarist Hiltz' use of bass pedals—has an upbeat, party-time feeling, made by virtuosic players who seems to find nothing wrong with having a good time with their music...

By  
**Dan McClenaghan,**  
Published: September 8, 2013





## Allaboutjazz.com

This band may be a trio in body, but it's so much more in spirit and sound, together they make up a single entity that expands and contracts at will, occasionally coming off as a legitimate sounding quintet or breaking away in various duo contexts; they completely obfuscate the very idea of the trio, and that's a wonderful thing.

While different influences pop up throughout the program, the music itself moves beyond them. Even the lone cover—a celestial re-imagining of “The Rainbow Connection”—stands apart from its origins. People intimately familiar with the tune may not even recognize it, as Griffith's bass clarinet and Hiltz's guitar transform the piece into something less shaped but equally beautiful.

The Griffith Hiltz Trio tapped producer/multi-instrumentalist Don Thompson to produce its debut—Now And Then (Self Released, 2009)—but the band went in a different direction when it came time for this one: they enlisted the services of Hawksley Workman, a singer-songwriter-producer who's manned the helm in the studio for acts like Tegan and Sara, Serena Ryder, and Great Big Sea. Workman's production credits don't really tie him to the jazz world, so it initially seems odd that he's on board for this one, but it quickly becomes apparent that his work outside of jazz made him the perfect producer for this album; this band wanted to be pushed out of its comfort zone and Workman did the pushing. The end result is a joy to hear, so kudos to all of these risktakers.

By  
**Dan Bilawsky,**  
Published: October 12, 2013

## Step Tempest

The Griffith Hiltz Trio - move away from the more straight-ahead style of their debut CD and head into a bop-blues-fusion playground on “This Is What You Get...” (self-released). This is music for a sunny day, whether it's the bouncy bop of “For Otis”, the fiery rock sound of “Strawman” (and, in a wonderful twist, Hiltz plays a solo on Banjo-tar..yes,a banjo with the neck of a guitar) or the modal swing of “Bone Arm.” Juhas is a solid drummer, playing with fire when called for but usually providing a steady beat with fine cymbal work. He and Hiltz lock in on the high-energy title track, the guitarist's chords providing excitement in support of Griffith's solo.

“This is What You Get...” is the appropriate title for this CD from the Toronto, Canada-based Griffith Hiltz Trio. Few if any frills, this effort is played by 3 musicians having what sounds like tons of fun, enjoying the “groove”, serious about their music but not taking themselves too seriously. Check it out.

By  
**Richard B. Kamins,**  
Published: October 12, 2013

