

UWE OBERG / GEORG WOLF / JORG FISCHER + FRANK GRATKOWSKI - After all  
([Konnex](#)) September 2006

Uwe Oberg is a talented pianist with a limpid, comprehensible phrasing that puts him at ease in the most different settings. The rhythm section mixes youth and experience, as drummer Fischer and bassist Wolf - two refined instrumentalists with class to spare - have worked both in more "mainstream" situations (including rock) and in company of high calibers such as Cecil Taylor and John Butcher. The trio is helped in three tracks by the inquisitive clarinet of Frank Gratkowski, who adds spice and a whole set of alternative directions to the music.

Eight segments (plus a short ghost track) that show a lot: brilliant technique, maturity and an absolute respect of jazz roots are put at the service of a bright-minded improvisation, characterized by a sensitive interplay which exalts the inspired counterpoint generated by these fascinating combinations. We can also enjoy several segments where the single instrumental voices are left alone or barely surrounded by a "presence", like if ancient spirits oversaw the activities of their worshippers while they prepare a ceremony; "Falling" is a good example in that sense.

This CD is a pleasing introduction to the best of what contemporary European jazz has to offer these days.