

THE WIRE / LONDON / 1998

Uwe Oberg / Georg Wolf / Jörg Fischer - LO (LEO LAB 030 CD)

Twin reference points for LO are Paul Bley and Cecil Taylor - fitting with the trio's aim to play "pulsating earthy music as well as soar up in spheres of choice fragility", as they say. Uwe Oberg is on piano, Georg Wolf on bass and Jörg Fischer on drums: the trio, based in the Rhein-Main-area, was formed in 1994. The word "Lo" seems to have some Zen significance and all the titles begin with those letters, except "Valid, Interim 1 and 2" for solo piano. There's a sense of form, and each piece is an individual creation. "Loco" exploits a remarkable range of percussion sonorities, while "Lostloose" comes across like one of Paul Bley's dark ruminations, with what sounds like prepared piano. Two solo piano pieces are limpid pastel shadings. Thoughtful and impressive.