The title of the record tries to capture the style of this trio in how they jump from one style to another mixing compositions with free improvisations. Each track has a composer listed with 2 and Surdej listing all three. The compositional aspects of the record are obvious in that proper themes can be recognized, but they become jumping off points for improvisations. The compositions have structure, but the improvisational sections often break from that structure. In this regard Hopscotch is like many other groups. This is not a bad thing, of course, but at least to my ears, there is less originality here than the producers would have us believe. The band was recorded in a big room and the acoustics are great. We can hear the breathiness of the tenor and the resonance of the drums. Sometimes I just listened to the sound. Also the stereo separation is great with Bigoni on one speaker and Solberg on the other. The opening piece begins with a nice breathy tenor, almost reminiscent of Ben Webster, backed by some very nice guitar chords from Solberg. The drums enter in a very supportive manner. The next track begins with a composed riff and then develops into some raucous playing with a return to the opening riff. Almost is a slow moody piece with very nice interaction between sax and guitar with some very nice subtle drum accompaniment from Brow. On other tunes we hear some nice harmonics from Bigoni. In short there is some excellent playing on this record and I love the overall sound, and there is a playfulness that reflects their name, but there is little to distinguish this group from a lot of other groups playing in this style.

Bernie Koenig