

# The Herald

## Andersen.Smith.Vinaccia, The Lot, Edinburgh

Star rating: \*\*\*\*

Louis Armstrong's assertion that jazz is folk music gets much support in this trio. Themes from the Scottish, Middle Eastern and Scandinavian traditions suggest themselves, form the glue that binds various movements and inspire the high-level solo improvisation and quick-witted intercommunication that make it one of the most revered groups working in Europe.

If this gig didn't have the visceral excitement produced when bassist Arild Andersen and saxophonist Tommy Smith drafted in Scots drummer Alyn Cosker for the absent Paolo Vinaccia at this year's Edinburgh Jazz Festival, it did show how much more deeply the cast has grown into the script, even since they recorded their excellent album, *Live at Belleville*. It's all about masters at work: Andersen creating big, warm structures through real-time double tracking and his fingers scampering gleefully over the strings; Smith variously understated, magisterial and venomous; and Vinaccia a brilliantly responsive, subtly propulsive livewire whose dynamic range enhances quiet atmosphere and charging tempo alike.

Familiar though they are with this material, there's a real sense of enjoyment and of creating it anew every time. Smith's *Prelude to a Kiss*, with its questing intro and soulful, downward slides, was a gorgeous re-reading of Ellington's melody and the encore of Andersen's beautifully gliding, ethereal *Dreamhorse* would, alone, make the final dates of this Scottish Arts Council Tune-up tour in Glasgow and Lanark this weekend unmissable.

12:33am today

By *ROB ADAMS*

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