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PLAYLIST

A Family That Plays Together

by Ben Ratliff

There's such a thing as a family sound, and the musicians calling themselves the 3 Cohens have it. The tenor saxophonist and clarinetist Anat Cohen, the trumpeter Avishai Cohen and the soprano saxophonist Yuval Cohen — originally from Israel and now all part of the New York jazz world — weave their lines through “Braid” (Anzic), a straight-ahead jazz record with Latin and Middle Eastern tinges. (The rhythm section is first-rate: Aaron Goldberg on piano, Omer Avital on bass and Eric Harland on drums.) Over the past few years, Anat has emerged as one of the best clarinet players in jazz, with a warm and singing tone; Avishai can play bebop and ballad lines and outer-limits trumpet sounds with tireless fluency; Yuval has a full and relaxed sound on the soprano. The arrangements are good, but the record is best when they strain against the composed lines and babble together in intuitive counterpoint. It makes a strong case for each of them individually, but it's a surprisingly good band record