

WHAT THE PRESS HAVE SAID ABOUT:

PIXEL

WE ARE ALL SMALL PIXELS

CUNEIFORM RECORDS

2013

"Pixel's debut release *Reminder*... a shot of adrenaline... with its sprightly and irrefutably seamless alliance between Indie Rock and progressive jazz... a signature sound, merging technically challenging jazz compositions with radio-friendly vocal choruses and gushing with highly melodic content... On *We Are All Small Pixels*, the band hits its stride in rather momentous fashion... Wang's memorably melodic refrains unify pop culture with a chops-minded jazz outlook... The bottom line is that Pixel could potentially take the jazz world by storm with the assistance of a substantial marketing push and aggressive worldwide touring schedule... they possess the goods and paint a sunny outlook that exudes energy, excitement and a penchant for writing hummable compositions that sustain long-term value."
-Glenn Astarita, *AllaboutJazz*, January 20th, 2014

"Their sound combines jazz elements with a pop sensibility during the vocal numbers that constitute about half the album. At times they may remind you of such early fusion artists as Weather Report, Passport, or Flora Purim... gives each instrument room to breathe and helps produce an uncluttered sound... catchy melodies belie the intricacy of the music, beginning with the tricky vocal-and-horn unison lines, delivered with razor-sharp precision and captured in a pristine and detailed recording... This accessible young band, true to jazz but with a fresh approach, renews my conviction that new artists exist who, with a little exposure, could help jazz reach a broader audience. **4 of 5 stars**"
-Jeff Wilson, *The Absolute Sound*, June 23, 2014

"Alternately peppy, unpredictable crossover music... Wang's clarion voice is doubled with instrumental lines, the tight arrangements here offering a latin flair ("Be Mine"), some sass with a nasty blackbeat ("Dreaming"), a lullaby ("Time")... **4-Stars**"
-John Ephland, *Downbeat*, June 2014

"This Norwegian quartet truly has a magical sound unlike anyone else out there right now, and this, their newest release just begs for repeat listens... With a powerful string bass presence, a beautiful voice, and seven of the eleven compositions to her credit, Ellen Andrea Wang commands the operation with a lean, jazzy, and somewhat chamber-esque vibe that's immediately accessible, intensely melodic, and just blasts warmth and brilliance out from your speakers... drummer / percussionist Jon Audun Baar has just the right element of support... the front line of Harald Lassen (saxes) and Jonas Vemoy (trumpet) really give Pixel much of its character... blowing some splendid solos. The lack of a single chordal instrument gives the proceedings a bit of chamber character... and a 'little big-band' quality... but it's Wang's vocals and lyrics that give... cuts featuring her voice an undeniable approachability. ...I can't give this one a high enough recommendation..."
- Peter Thelen, *Expose*, November 11, 2013

"I play Pixel's album *We Are All Small Pixels* and I get stupidly happy... the songs singer and double bassist Ellen Andrea Wang writes for the band are really fetching and they rock... Drummer Jon Audun Baar, trumpeter Jonas Kilmork Vemøy and saxophonist Harald Lassen give substance to the music and make what could be what is... It's in a way as radical as Morphine (with that bari doing rock) in that they work with what they have and make something different... This may be only their second album--but hey they sound really seasoned and hot as hell..."
- Grego Edwards, *Guitar and Bass Blog*, February 13, 2014

"The Pixels have creativity combined melodic, vocal lines with fresh, contemporary jazz... for those fed up with classical bop, but afraid of something modern that is too vanguard..." **4/6 Rating**
-*Lizard Magazine*, 2013

"Ellen Andrea Wang has a voice that could be described as 'crystalline'. It's certainly clear and has a jaunty pop feel... a warmth that contrasts with the muscular sounds of her three band mates... Pixel has a joyful pick-&-mix of influences with jazz the strongest flavour but there are definitely elements of indie-pop... there's... varieties of tempo, loudness and harmony to keep things interesting, chief among them are Ellen Andrea Wang's voice and Lassen's sax playing, particularly the ground-shaking, single note riffs on *Dreaming* that could shake the plaster off the walls. Wang is also a kick-ass bass player and composer... This band has something new to say musically and produces tunes that are toe-tappingly, wantonly catchy. Ellen Andrea Wang's voice is a new colour on European jazz's vocal palette and, based on this album, is deserving of display on a bigger canvas..."
- *London Jazz News*, January 27, 2014

"Pixel sounds like the promise of modern pop jazz... this Norwegian band is the face of modern popular jazz: it is vital, it is memorable and tuned to the gently orchestrated, small ensemble jazz. Listen to the deliciously "Edge" – Jazz's answer to contemporary R&B (what a cool groove!)... Furthermore, all of the above is achieved while staying true to the artistic freedom of jazz in form of angular deviations as well as mellow, inspiring European jazz styled vibes... The former is evident in "Daylight," with its bright and propulsive modern jazz... The latter traits presented clearly on the ECM flavored "Farris," which sounds as lyrical as Tomasz Stanko's music... leader Ellen Andrea Wang sings her lyrics in perfect interlock with the vivid horns as well as utilizes her voice nonverbally as an instrument, which enhances the openness of the entire work... Nothing here sounds forced and this is hardly ever the case with music which relies on pop sensibility as a prime attraction, and that is exactly why we consider this album truly exceptional."
- *Maelstrom*, 2014

"The pick of the new crop of Norwegian jazz bands making a 'beyond' reputation internationally... 'Farris' has a Chet-like atmosphere while 'Edge' is new wave in spirit with a punky edge and a scene-stealing saxophone solo from Lassen... 'Night Dreamer' has a big chunky sax riff jutting out against insistent drums to begin and so as the album develops the indie pop end of things and the improvising merge... 'Passport' indicates just what an excellent groove maker Wang is, as the horns move into Get the Blessing territory a bit. Pixel unites vocal and instrumental jazz in a winning formula."
- *MarlBank*, October 25, 2013

"The Oslo jazz scene seems to be a very fertile and creative environment for musicians such as Jaga Jazzist and Elephant9 have gone on to find success overseas. One act that could set to follow in those bands' footsteps is Pixel, a four-piece acoustic outfit that plays their own distinctive blend of jazz, pop and indie rock... *We Are Small Pixels* is their second album featuring eleven original tunes that really deserve to out the band on the map... *Be mine*, is pop heaven yet with some great jazz chops from the horns and an impressive soprano sax solo... *Edge*, is a stripped down tune with an infectious chorus set over a rock-flavoured drumbeat... These really catchy tunes are interspersed with instrumentals such as the extended *Night Dreamer*, which starts out as a stomping rock number... Elsewhere you have some quieter, more reflective numbers... The closing tune *Time*, an ethereal tune that has an almost Cocteau Twins feel to it... All this comes together to make a superb whole... With the right exposure, Pixel could go a very long way... Popularity of jazz crossover music in Japan with the younger fan base... Highly recommended..."
-Sean Smith, *Tokyo Jazz Notes*, February 6, 2014

"Wettré comes as part of a Nordic package, along with Pixel and Tord Gustavsen, funded by Music Norway..."

- Jim Gilchrist, *The Scotsman*, March 7, 2015

“Time to hit Spor 5 where Norway's Pixel was already onstage... With two exceptional records out on the American Cuneiform label—2012's *Reminder* and 2013's *We Are All Small Pixels*—Pixel is already a serious up-and-coming act in Norway, as clearly evidenced by the full house...The group's music was a quirky, catchy blend of pop hooks and jazz- centric soloing has helped position the group in a space with few peers... it was in Pixel's use of trumpet and saxophone to create not just linear melodies but actual vertical harmonies that, with just a hint of electronics, suggested a far richer harmonic accompaniment for Wang's vocals on tracks like the slow-groove of "Passport"...It was an exhilarating set by a group that, if there's any justice, will find its way to other places in Europe. It's rare for a group so young to emerge with such a fully formed and distinctive concept, but Pixel seems to have accomplished just that...This is a group that has found a way to take jazz training and turn it into something that has eminent pop appeal without losing any of its credibility... If all goes well, there's a bright future ahead for Pixel...”

-John Kelman, *All About Jazz*, May 24, 2014

“Pixel’s sax/trumpet/bass/drums line up is similar to that of the UK... However Wang’s Bjork like voice and words set Pixel apart evidencing a greater debt to the world of indie rock...Wang drives the group with her surprisingly muscular playing as drummer Baar whips up a storm... Both Lassen and Vemoy are powerful soloists but at other moments they pack a weighty combined punch...

Pixel aren’t all sound and fury, there are moments of subtlety as well... Poppier than the more uncompromising Synkoke Pixel clearly have their eye on some kind of crossover success... Sharp, punchy and well drilled they have considerable potential and I certainly enjoyed this... The album “Reminder” is well worth a listen.”

- Ian Mann, *The Jazz Mann*, Nov. 29, 2012

“It’s no mean feat to lay down funky grooves on a double bass and sing at the same time, but Wang makes it look easy and Pixel hit the ground running... Landing somewhere between Björk and Beyoncé, Wang’s tracks are complex compositions masquerading as throwaway ditties, with lyrics that turn out to be knowing subversions of the usual pap of pop. One of the night’s stand-out tracks is the funkily chromatic Call Me - not the usual anguished pleadings of a lovelorn girl but the forceful demands of a woman in control... The band turns to more nuanced instrumentals. Trumpeter Jonas Kilmork Vemoy and saxophonist Harald Lassen make two horns sound like more, with echoes of Mingus and Dave Holland... the mythical Nordic sound. With Wang and drummer Jon Baar laying down a spacious groove, Vemoy stomps on a reverb pedal... If this is music from a fjord, it’s a pretty funky fjord where Michael Jackson and James Brown are bouncing back off the mountainsides. Vemoy and Lassen put down their horns and pick up a cowbell and beer crate for the night’s closer. The two men even add harmony vocals to the chorus that are so good... **Concert Review: 12 Points Festival**”

-Cormac Larkin, *Irish Times*, April 9, 2014

“Jazz band Pixel with Ellen Andrea Wang on vocal and stand up bass... I saw her perform at a TONO celebration recently and was impressed, both with her playing and singing... The band is bass, trumpet, saxophone and drums, and they deliver high energy and funky jazz with an extremely precise and tight playing... Something to look out for...”

- Per Ole Hagen, *Artists Picture blog*, March 2, 2014