

## Mark Lewandowski: Under One Sky

Rating: ★★★★★

Author: John Fordham

### Record and Artist Details

<b>Musicians:</b>	Addison Frei (p) Mark Lewandowski (b) Kush Abadey
<b>Label:</b>	Self-release
<b>Magazine Review Date:</b>	December/January/2021/2022
<b>Media Format:</b>	CD
<b>RecordDate:</b>	Rec. June 2021

Young British bassist/composer Mark Lewandowski made a striking album debut with *Waller*, in 2017 - dedicated to the 1930s piano magician, but from some very personal, idiom-vaulting perspectives. Since then, Lewandowski has relocated from London to New York, a move that's the subject of *Under One Sky*, a musical homage to two great cities that he feels have far more similarities than differences - and he's partnered here by Kansas-raised pianist Addison Frei and former Wallace Roney drummer Kush Abadey.

Waller's compositional promise has now gone the distance here, with all 11 tracks being originals, albeit with Lewandowski's signature empathy and awareness of the tradition being evident in tracks dedicated to Paul Bley and Andrew Hill, alongside his affection for classic songwriting on 'Very Well', a devotedly referential, gently swinging remake of Hoagy Carmichael's 1930s classic 'I Get Along Without You Very Well'.

The composer movingly evokes the space between the cities on the elegiac '3459 Miles', with its dreamy piano elisions, cymbal shimmers and swellingly romantic melodic shape, unwraps

his pizzicato-improv skills between Frei and Abadey's crisp inventiveness on the languidly circling 'Licks', while the band displays its poise between tight integration and skimming looseness (awesomely Herbie Hancockish in Frei's case) on the contrapuntal 'Provavus'.

Frei beautifully places the title subject's decisive energies within a languid bluesiness on 'For Paul Bley', and strokes an inquisitive reflectiveness through patient conversation with Lewandowski and Abadey on 'For Andrew Hill'.

It sounds like this new trio, a clearly sublime confection of compositional class and individual and collective improv skills, could be just at the beginning of an abundant run.