Review by Scott Yanow: Marc Perrenoud Trio - Two Lost Churches

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Marc Perrenoud is 32 and was born in Geneva. He started on piano when he was six and was classically trained. He has been active on the European jazz scene since 2001, performing at quite a few festivals. In 2008 he recorded his first trio CD. Logo. Two Lost Churches, from 2012, is his second.

Perrenoud's trio, with bassist Marco Muller and drummer Cyril Regamey, explores six of the pianist's originals plus a mostly disguised version of "Autumn Leaves" and "You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To." Muller and Regamey are stimulating in support of the pianist but the main focus throughout is on Perrenoud. He displays a creative post bop jazz style that is full of both high energy and self-restraint. He is at his most hyper and hard swinging on the brief but memorable "Swisswalk." His compositions are complex and sometimes utilize polyrhythmic and unusual accents but swing in their own way. Among the other highlights are "Big Pope," "Two Lost Churches" and "Corbin Drive" but every selection is worth hearing.

Most impressive is that Marc Perrenoud, while part of jazz's modern mainstream, does not sound like any of his historical predecessors.

Developing one's own sound is always one of the main goals of creative jazz musicians, and on Two Lost Churches Marc Perrenoud shows that he has his own colorful musical identity.

Scott Yanow