

titel/billing name

JOHN ABERCROMBIE ORGAN TRIO



John Abercrombie	Guitar
Gary Versace	Hammond B3
Adam Nussbaum	Drums

availability/touring period: April 2010

last/next release: tba

website: www.johnabercrombie.com

The John Abercrombie Organ Trio (By Budd Kopman)

If one did not know who John Abercrombie was, the natural thing would be to assume by the name of the group that he was an organist leading a trio with a drummer and a guitarist or a saxophonist — the typical "organ trio." However, since Abercrombie is a guitarist, calling this group "The John Abercrombie Trio" would be equally confusing, since he has led a number of trios with bass and drums. Moreover, the Hammond B3 is always a big enough of attraction in its own right to merit marquee status. Hence, the awkward group name will just have to remain. (...)

His connection to the organ goes back to his earliest days, as he has always professed a love for the sound of the organ and guitar together. The drummer on this date, Adam Nussbaum, links this group to his original group with organist Dan Wall, which made a number of records for ECM including *While We're Young* (1993), *Speak Of The Devil* (1994) and the live *Tactics* (1997). This concert set at the Jazz Standard, however, found the ubiquitous Gary Versace in the organ seat. (...)

Nussbaum and Abercrombie know each other so well that one could see and feel the give and take between them. Abercrombie, as nominal leader, would let Nussbaum take the music temporarily to a different place and simply enjoy what happened. Nussbaum returned the favor, always listening to the nuances in Abercrombie's phrasing and quickly adjusting, thus creating the sort of feedback loop that characterizes the best jazz. Versace has recorded with both Abercrombie and Nussbaum, but not together in this format, though he has toured in Europe with them recently, at least since Wall decided he'd had enough of the road. But Versace is such a sensitive and creative musician that what he played fit right in, raising the level of the music—as testified by the numerous nodding approvals of both of his band mates. His solos, moreover, manifested a combination of emotion and intellect that appeals to the best in the listener.