

# JAZZ EDUCATION JOURNAL

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JEAN-MICHEL PILC TRIO. "Welcome Home," Dreyfus Jazz FDM 36630. Talk about originality—and super chops to go with it hand in hand! Jean-Michel Pilc, an extraordinary prize-winning pianist-composer, has been hailed as the "best French jazz musician of the year" by the French Academy of Jazz. Living and playing regularly in New York City, he has gigged with top U.S. and European jazzmen Michael Brecker, David Liebman, Roy Haynes, Martial Solal, and Daniel Humair. Pilc's Trio consists of his regular bassist Francois Moutin and drummer Ari Hoenig. "Welcome Home" reveals his creative translation of standards and classic jazz pieces, along with his fully bloomed composing skills. His bright, fresh visions of musical ideas are uplifting. Jumpstarting with *So What*, the trio fires up the modal trip with white heat, Olympian vigor, and celerity—generating spirited exhilaration. Flash points signal numerous instances unlike the less-surprising approaches typifying many trios. Coltrane's *Cousin Mary* and *Giant Steps* are powered by the trio's eloquent quicksilver repartees. Subtleties in voicings and luminescent textures re-paint Ellington's *I Got it Bad*; and *Solitude* receives a Satie-ish infrastructure, coaxed and pierced with chordal angularity. And Pilc's originals carry his personal stamp. He shows great ease in executing a wide sweep of idiomatic leanings. "Welcome Home" is a dynamic statement with staying power and is a "finished" product that refuses to be "finished."



Jean-Michel Pilc Trio