

In the best of ways, it's hard not to compare the trio of Paris-born, New York-settled pianist **Jean-Michel Pilc** (8:30 and 10 p.m., May 21. Firehouse 12, 45 Crown St. \$12-\$18. 203-785-0468, firehouse12.com) to that of Keith Jarrett: Both groups combine new music, improvisation and pieces from the jazz canon reinterpreted with a focus on melody, color and space rather than through their pyrotechnic harmonic possibilities. Similar also is Pilc's overall approach to leading his trio, which is characterized by an ongoing sensation of forward motion in which comping and soloing are satisfyingly similar, making his band mates equal contributors rather than "accompanists."