



Luce Trio

The **Luce Trio** is pleased to announce the release of its debut album, **Pieces, Volume 1**, a bold reimagining of baroque and early music. Saxophonist **Jon De Lucia** formed the group in 2010 to explore these canonical works from a jazz improvisational perspective. The trio consists of De Lucia on alto saxophone and sruti box, **Ryan Ferreira** on electric guitar, and **Chris Tordini** on the double bass. Rendering this timeworn repertoire with the palette of saxophone, guitar with effects, and double bass revitalizes yet maintains the integrity of the music's form and character. De Lucia explains the foundational concept:

The baroque era is known to have produced some of the greatest pre-jazz musical improvisers. So I thought—and there is a tradition of this in jazz—that we could bring improvisation into play while playing the music of Bach and Handel. The results have been exciting, challenging, and very rewarding.

The album was recorded at Brooklyn's St. Ann and the Holy Trinity Church, a National Historic Landmark built in 1847. This talismanic space confers an ethereal quality on the recording, a feeling of delicacy and rarefied air, of grace and age: A frame of stained glass from the church, presently on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, is the oldest American-made figural stained glass in the country.

The Luce Trio was originally conceived as a performance outlet for classical and early music, which comprised the principal focus of De Lucia's listening and practicing in the year leading up to the group's formation. Vocal recordings of Handel and Bach arias were a major influence. Jazz musicians have performed Bach's inventions and instrumental music regularly over the years, but much of the vocal music has been left to vocalists. It is there that De Lucia found melodies and harmony that seemed more conducive to improvisation and the sound of this band.

Tracks

1. Chant (4:51)
2. Lascia Ch'io Pianga (5:17)
3. Passacaglia (5:39)
4. I Saw My Lady Weepe - Flow, My Tears (5:01)
5. Sinfonia 11 (2:06)
6. Variations (4:26)
7. The Dinosaurs (5:36)
8. Es Ist Vollbracht (5:32)
9. Jesu, Deine Passion (1:10)

Tracks 1,3,6,7 by Jon De Lucia

Track 2 by G.F. Handel

Track 4 by John Dowland

Tracks 5,8,9 by J.S. Bach

Personnel

Jon De Lucia - Alto Saxophone, Sruti Box

Ryan Ferreira - Electric Guitar

Chris Tordini - Acoustic Bass

Credits

Recorded at St. Ann and the Holy Trinity, Brooklyn, NY

November 9, 2011 by Jonathan Goldberger

Mastered by Michael Fossenkemper

Mixed by Ryan Ferreira

Produced by Jon De Lucia and Ryan Ferreira

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Luce Trio Upcoming Performances:

**September 26 - Sycamore Bar and
Flower Shop, Brooklyn NY**

CD Release with Empyrean Atlas

More Information:

<http://www.jondelucia.com/luce-trio>

<http://lucetrio.bandcamp.com>



About The Music

The album begins with De Lucia's original **Chant**, a solemn invocation opening with the sruti box, a harmonium-like device that De Lucia operates with his foot while playing the saxophone. Ferreira, who is known for his ambient solo recordings, weaves in and out of the sustained drone, amplifying and intensifying it while Tordini guides the band with his arco work.

Chant sets the stage for the beautiful Handel aria, **Lascia Ch'io Pianga**, from the composer's opera *Rinaldo*. The meter and form have been adjusted but the essence of the song, title meaning "Allow me to weep...", has been preserved. Solos by Tordini and De Lucia round out the performance.

Next is **Passacaglia**, another De Lucia original. The title refers to the classical form of a repeated bass line in $\frac{3}{4}$ time underpinning a melody that develops throughout the piece. Chris Tordini, a bassist known for his work with some of the most forward-thinking modern jazz musicians, begins the piece a cappella. Guitar and saxophone play the melody together and the group gradually heads into total improvisation before returning to the simple ostinato in G major.

The melancholia of Elizabethan lutenist John Dowland is some of the most beautiful music to come out of that era, and perhaps the most famous of his pieces is **I Saw My Lady Weepe**, followed by **Flow, My Tears**. The Luce Trio attempts their own version, with saxophone replacing the counter-tenor melody. An artfully crafted group improvisation fills the gap between the two pieces.

After a faithful reading of JS Bach's 3-part invention, **Sinfonia 11**, the trio launches into the canonical original **Variations**. Baroque harmonies lead into spiraling melodies from all members while the original melody is always present. De Lucia wrote **The Dinosaurs** originally for a performance with slide guitarist extraordinaire David Tronzo and bassist Garth Stevenson. It has more of a folk character than the rest of the album and is a band favorite.

The album ends with two pieces from JS Bach's Cantata 159, **Es Ist Vollbracht** and the chorale **Jesu, Deine Passion**. An intro by De Lucia sets the tone, followed by a lesser known Bach tune, full of interesting twists and chromaticisms. The chorale resolves the dissonance and concludes the recording.

Bios

Jon De Lucia is a Brooklyn based saxophonist and composer. Originally from Quincy, MA, Jon has become an integral part of the New York scene. Predominantly a student of jazz, he also has a deep interest in the folkloric music and instruments of Cuba, Japan, Ireland and Italy, having performed on a variety of ethnic flutes, drums and stringed instruments. Jon has led his groups and played as a sideman in Boston, New York and all over Japan with such musicians as Tommy Crane, David Tronzo, Bob Moses, Bob Gullotti, John Lockwood and Thomas Morgan among others. He leads the Jon De Lucia Group, and the baroque improvising Luce Trio. He continues to compose, perform and teach privately in New York City.

"Boston-based alto and soprano saxophonist De Lucia stitches together edgy improvising with surprise-filled writing that sounds both mysterious and eminently accessible."

-Bob Young, The Boston Herald

"De Lucia is refreshingly personal in his improvisations and the charts apparently are fairly flexible, leaving a lot of space for soloist and supporters to stretch out. Let's hope the fresh air continues...."

-Stu Vandermark, Cadence Magazine

Ryan Ferreira is a guitarist involved with a diverse group of musicians in NYC. He has played with Alarm Will Sound, Aaron Parks, So Percussion, Cuong Vu, Antibalas, Jerseyband, American Contemporary Ensemble, Ralph Alessi, John Shannon, Bell, Superhuman Happiness, Qasim Naqvi's Progressive Youth Club and Frantz Loriot. Ryan currently has duo projects with Carlo Costa, Garth Stevenson (5707), Loren Stillman (Elderflower), Joachim Badenhorst, Chris Dingman and Red Wierenga. Recently he completed the score for a short documentary, has been performing solo for yoga classes and has been working on the release of a few solo records.

Christopher Tordini is an in-demand bassist in the NYC music scene. In addition to Jon De Lucia's Luce Trio, he currently plays with the Becca Stevens Band, Andy Milne's Dapp Theory, Tyshawn Sorey's Oblique, the Michael Dessen Trio and Ilusha Tsinaidze's Mother Tongue. His own band, Tiger Blood, plays at various venues around New York. Christopher also co-leads the I.E. trio with Michael Pinto and Tommy Crane.