

## BIJMA/OLIVER/MULDER Picatrix ICP

Line-up:

Greetje Bijma (voice)

Mary Oliver (violin, viola, Hardanger fiddle)

Nora Mulder (piano)

The man who brought this trio together is secretly present on this album. Drummer and visual artist Han Bennink designed the cover of *Picatrix*. As curator of the Utrecht festival, Le Guess Who?, he also had the idea that vocal artist Greetje Bijma, violin and viola player Mary Oliver and pianist Nora Mulder would form a good trio. He was certainly right about that - on their debut album the trio sounds like no other improvising ensemble. The ladies combine their broad musical interests in a series of improvisations that are anecdotal, amusing and exciting. The classical background of Oliver and Mulder is most evident in *Donaudampfschiff*, where Bijma's melody line suggests a mixture of Kurt Weill and Alban Berg. *Wally Wally* is a folk song from the Scottish tradition, and in *Frigus mundi* the blues pops up, with a fine boogie-woogie bass on the piano. Abbey Lincoln's *Caged Bird* is given a surprising interpretation, with whistling bird sounds from the violin and Messiaen-like warbling from the piano. In the long title number the three improvisers call each other out and explore the enormous sonic possibilities of their instruments, never letting the abstraction become too unrecognizable or the experiments too wild. Everything is in service of the total musical story, and that is more than worth listening to.

Herman te Loo: 5 Jazzflits number 320 24 June 2019