SJB SELECTION

REVIEW · JAZZ

The Ground | Tord Gustavsen Trio

While many pianists seem drawn to height, speed or the need to fill space, Tord Gustavsen makes almost the opposite move, asking how deep one can go while seemingly standing still.

SJB SELECTION · NOVEMBER 2026

While many pianists seem drawn to height, speed or the need to fill space, Tord Gustavsen makes almost the opposite move, asking how deep one can go while seemingly standing still.

The music of “The Ground” weighs every note before letting it fall.

Blues, gospel, early jazz and Scandinavian sensibility are already dissolved into the language.

The piano doesn’t occupy the space.

It measures it.

Double bass and drums do the same.

The result is a **silent intensity**.

The piano has almost a cold warmth; the cymbals breathe more than they mark time; the bass moves with the confidence of someone who knows the room perfectly.

The music behaves like a person who speaks softly and forces us, without asking, to lean closer.

Every note chosen also implies many notes refused.

And those absences become part of the piece.

> ***In “The Ground”, minimalism doesn’t mean having little to say. It means removing everything that could stop us from clearly hearing the few things that really matter.***

LISTEN

The Ground — Tord Gustavsen Trio — is in our playlist Midnight Piano & Blue Notes.

Tord Gustavsen Trio. Updated every Friday. Selected by ear.

LISTEN FIRST. SELECT SECOND.