## Jersey Jazz – February 2017

Although he has been a professional and prolific jazz pianist and educator for several decades, *Matrix* (Shore Thing Records – 1116) is my first exposure to the artistry of **FRED HUGHES**. His trio, with bassist Amy Shook and drummer Frank Russo, addresses compositions by keyboard artist ranging from Johann Sebastian Bach and Pytor Ilyich Tchaikovsky, through George Gershwin, to Bill Evans, Dave Brubeck, Horace Silver, Chick Corea and Herbie Hancock. Hughes proves to be an eclectic, delightful and wonderfully creative artist. He explores a stylistic variety of compositions with superb intelligence, endowing each selection with a unique freshness that would have delighted the creators of the music who are no longer with us, and should bring smiles to the faces of the still active Corea and Hancock. This is a thoroughly delightful collection of songs played by a trio of musicians who are consistently on the same wavelength. (www.FredHughes.com)



