

Søren Kristiansen - Biography

Søren Kristiansen – born December 7th 1962 comes from the picturesque town of Ærøskøbing on one of the small islands south of Hans Christian Andersen's native island, Funen. He made his debut as a professional jazz musician at the Copenhagen Jazz Festival in 1985. He comes out of a tradition led by figures such as Art Tatum, Oscar Peterson and Bill Evans. Among the bandleaders with whom he has played and made several recordings, are two of the most prominent Danish mainstream musicians, clarinetist Jorgen Svare and tenor saxophonist Jesper Thilo. In their bands Kristiansen has been able to cultivate his gift for basic, unfailing swing. Through the years he has also toured with several jazz greats, such as Harry "Sweets" Edison, Al Grey, Clark Terry, James Moody, Art Farmer, Putte Wichman and Rolf Ericsson.

Søren Kristiansen is a very popular pianist on the Danish jazz scene as a sideman (with many recordings under his belt as such), with his own trio, and now as a solo pianist. In 1992 he was awarded The Ben Webster Prize, in 1995 The Danish Jazz Prize, and in 2001 his first recording as a leader (Søren Kristiansen Trio: VERY EARLY... VERY LATE) was nominated for a Danish Grammy. He received Pala Bar's Jazz Prize in 2007 and Best Album Of The Year 2007 for his first solo album WITH A SONG IN MY HEART. He has recently composed and recorded the music for world famous director Henning Carlsen's new movie "Springet".



FOTO: GORM VALENTIN

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Søren Kristiansen er født i 1962, stammer fra Ærøskøbing og var syv år, da han første gang satte sig til klaveret som elev af den lokale organist. Han har spillet professionelt siden sin debut med Jørgen Svare Trio på Copenhagen Jazzfestival i 1985. Her vakte han opsigt og blev hyldet som det nye "pianistiske talent". Siden er fulgt en frodig karriere som medlem af diverse bands og som akkompagnatør for adskillige solister, Stolle/Svare Jazzkvintet, det faste husorkester i Jazzhus Slukefter i Tivoli, København, et 10 år langt medlemskab af Jesper Thilo Kvartet med Hugo Rasmussen og Svend Erik Nørregård, utallige koncerter med danske navne som fx Finn Ziegler, Jacob Fischer eller udenlandske solister som fx Harry "Sweets" Edison, James Moody, Art Farmer og Putte Wickman - for blot at nævne nogle få. Læg hertil en omfattende plade- og cd - produktion og utallige turnéer i bl.a. Skandinavien, Tyskland og Sydøstasien. Senest har han tilføjet komponist til sit cv, da han har skrevet og indspillet musikken til Henning Carlsens spillefilm "Springet".

Søren Kristiansen modtog i 1992 "Ben Webster Prisen", i 1995 "Dansk Jazz Prisen" og blev i 2001 nomineret til en Grammy for sin første trioudgivelse i eget navn. Modtog i juli 2007 Palæ Bars Jazzpris og hans første soloudgivelse WITH A SONG IN MY HEART modtog prisen som årets bedste jazzplade 2007.