

STRING SWING

BLUE HAT

A HATFUL OF BLUE SONGS

On the new String Swing release, Blue Hat, Josefine Cronholm sings as enticingly as ever, proving that she is on a par with more well known names like Norah Jones and Lisa Ekdahl. Josefine's spellbinding vocal quality and charisma stops the world for a moment, and as everything comes to a standstill, musicians listen as never before and contribute their very best in sublime interplay. Audiences are united despite differences in age and musical taste.

Since the release of their breakthrough debut "Red Shoes" (awarded a Danish Music Award), String Swing has collaborated with the French star and accordion virtuoso Richard Galliano, widely known for his recordings with Charles Aznavour. The result is Blue Hat, a magic alloy of musette, latin, gypsy jazz, bossa nova and blues, featuring a string of catchy pearls.

Although Richard Galliano (a protégé of Astor Piazzolla) takes the lead in a cinematic and seductive rendition of 'Last Tango in Paris', all the other tracks on the album come from the highly original mind and hand of Søren Siegumfeldt. While paying due respect to tradition, his compositions always have a tongue-in-cheek sparkle and a variety of refreshing ideas. Each song is a world unto its own – you may choose to delve into it or let it pass on parade.

The soloists are Galliano, Søren Siegumfeldt on alto saxophone, and Jacob Fischer, whose contributions on dobro and guitars of varying sizes reveal his love for the music of Django Reinhardt as well as blues roots and Jaco de Bandolim. And from the sideline, pianist Rasmus Ehlers slips in with a hip, updated version of Clare Fischer's bossa accomplishments of the '50s. In the album's poetic and lofty conclusive song, a Balkan fantasy about the widows of Metvo, we hear the intense violin of virtuoso Meltiade Mihalache

Once again, the famous Danish designer, Per Arnoldi, has come up with an ingeniously simple graphic design for the cover and booklet, contributing considerably to the charming and captivating final product.

String Swing are: Josefine Cronholm, vocal; Richard Galliano, accordion, Søren Siegumfeldt, alto saxophone & penny whistle; Jacob Fischer, Jacob Gurevitsch, guitars, dobro, etc.; August Engkilde, bass.

Guest musicians: Peter Fuglsang, bass clarinet; Rasmus Ehlers, piano; Thobias Durholm, Meltiade Mihalache, violins; Dimitri Golonov, viola; Ingemar Brantelid, cello; Jeppe Kjellberg, cümbüs, Rune Olesen, congas; Afonso Correa, Kresten Osgood, percussion.

- 1) So It Better Be
- 2) Blue Hat
- 3) Last Tango In Paris
- 4) Vi Sparker Boll
- 5) Where Do You Go
- 6) Rag Bone Man
- 7) Above The Hatwear
- 8) Tragic Hero
- 9) Afonso & Jacob
- 10) The Stolen Alphabet
- 11) Orlando Superstar
- 12) When The Rain Stops
- 13) The Widows Of Metvo

STRING SWING "BLUE HAT"
STUCD 04142, STUNT RECORDS

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