

Ulf Wakenius

-Forever You-

Since 1997 Ulf Wakenius has occupied one of the most prestigious positions available to a jazz guitarist - the guitar chair in Oscar Peterson's quartet. His predecessors were legends such as Barney Kessel, Herb Ellis and Joe Pass. This says a lot about the 45-year-old Swedish guitarist's standard. In addition to Peterson, Wakenius has played and recorded with e.g. Milt Jackson, Ray Brown, Joe Henderson, Herbie Hancock, Michael Brecker, Phil Woods, Clark Terry, Johnny Griffin, Toots Thielemans, Jack DeJohnette, Max Roach, Jim Hall, Art Farmer, Benny Golson, James Moody, Roy Hargrove, Randy Brecker and lately also with his guitar colleague Pat Metheny.

Having as a child chosen the guitar as his instrument, Ulf has never looked back. Early on he was inspired by the virtuoso electric blues guitarists, but he soon moved on to more jazz-oriented music. John McLaughlin became young Ulf's guitar hero.

At 17 Ulf had already established himself as a jazz musician, and rumours about the gifted Swedish guitar player soon spread. And since then Wakenius has been a busy man. He has recorded solo projects in Brazil with inter alia Sivuca and Milton Nascimento, and in the '80s he began a still on-going collaboration with Niels-Henning Ørsted Pedersen ... just to mention a few things.

As permanent member of Oscar Peterson's quartet, guitarist Ulf Wakenius is today one of Sweden's finest jazz musicians, in demand all over the world and famous for his rich and equilibrist playing. When Wakenius was to record his first cd for Danish Stunt Records he went new ways. Everything - from the selection of tunes, the instrumentation, the choice of co-players so sensitive that they capture every detail and what remains unsaid, to the final sound in the loudspeakers - has been decided on from a wish to pass on an atmosphere of peace and harmony. It ended up being not only a declaration of love to the loved one, but also a musical tribute to life.

Ulf Wakenius chose only to use the acoustic guitar, and with lyrical pianist Carsten Dahl and sensitive drummer Morten Lund from Denmark, and his fellow Swede, brilliant Lars Danielsson, as perceptive partners, he has created a unique, wonderfully well-balanced album, light, airy and Nordic - like a breeze, dew in the meadow, a gentle touch ...

FOREVER YOU is a quality product from beginning to end - from the simplicity of the cover to the beautiful music and Bjarne Hansen (Sun Studio)'s marvellous sound. It takes so little, and yet so much, to create a small unpretentious miracle.

Ulf Wakenius: Forever You
STUCD 03192, STUNT RECORDS.