

**MADS LA COUR  
& IM BERUF**

# GRANDPA LEFT YOU NOTHING

The newest addition to the long list of top-notch Danish trumpeters comes from the lovely island Funen. He reached a large audience when at the young age of 25 he became a member of the Danish Radio Big Band's trumpet group, where he is also a popular soloist. Mads La Cour began playing the trumpet when he was eight, and in 2008 he received his diploma from The Carl Nielsen Academy of Music in Odense. The same year he CD-debuted to enthusiastic reviews with *À LA COUR*. Especially his work on French horn has established his unique position on the Danish jazz scene as well as abroad. It has been said of Mads, that his inventive, unpredictable and beautiful playing attracts unconditional attention from an audience.

Mads' new quartet Im Beruf lists pianist Magnus Hjorth, bassist Petter Eldh – both Swedes – and from Norway drummer Snorre Kirk. Danish saxophonist Niels Lyhne Løkkegaard is impressive as the second horn. Combined they are a powerful group of young jazz musicians all with reputations as masters of many of the diverse facets of jazz.

Mads' original compositions find their inspiration in the lyrical texture of Scandinavian jazz with a touch of the temperamental New York scene as heard in the playing of people like trumpeter Ralph Alessi and saxophonist and clarinetist Don Byron. Im Beruf has successfully bridged the gap between the lyrical Scandinavian sound and the spontaneity and excitement created in a freer space. The musicians share a passion for beautiful, minimalistic and abstract sound tapestries as well as spontaneous improvised music. Including rock and pop-inspired

elements in their playful communication, they produce an innovative and exciting sound. These two idioms, catchy grooves and hardcore jazz combine to create a fascinating and different music, in which humor, temperament and improvisation meet solid melodies.

The internationally acclaimed artist Per Arnoldi's cover illustration conveys the music's minimalism. Without trying too hard, this music communicates simply and directly. We're not really sure what the title implies, but GRANDPA LEFT YOU NOTHING leaves the listener with the impression of a young composer and instrumentalist who does not feel the need to rehash superfluous musical heritage. La Cour has found his own stride and GRANDPA LEFT YOU NOTHING is a condensed and original release from a group of young Scandinavian musicians steaming with talent and energy.

Mads La Cour (French horn and trumpet) may be heard in numerous contexts. He is a regular member of the Danish Radio Big Band with whom he has performed with many prominent international artists. He also plays with his own group "Á La Cour" and "Quartz", "Niels Ryde Quartet", Anders Mogensen's "Gifted Youth", "Elektro" with John Tchicai, "Tip Toe Big Band" and Thomas Blachman's new group, "The Pulse". Over the past few years Mads La Cour has received several awards for his original playing and composing: Funen Jazz Musician of the Year 2007, Danish Broadcasting Company's P2 Jazz Award 2007, a Sonning grant in 2009, and "New Name of the Year" at the Danish Music Awards Jazz 2009 for his debut CD *À LA COUR*.

*Grandpa Left You Nothing / Bob The Painter / Ub labu / Mrs. Pong / I visto Banasto / Shades Of Green / Invisible Walls / Inspirations / Snooze'n'Lose / T. H. Vang.*

**Mads La Cour (trumpet and French horn), Niels Lyhne Løkkegaard (alto sax and bass clarinet), Magnus Hjorth (piano), Petter Eldh (bass), Snorre Kirk (drums).**

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**Niels Lyhne Løkkegaard** (alto sax, flute and clarinet) is one of Denmark's leading saxophonists. He performs in many constellations: He is the lead alto in Klüver's Big Band, with whom he has recorded several CD's. He also plays with Light Airborne, Plus3 and Danmarksmeester – all his own bands with different musical approaches. Using the name Ugly Customer, the latter won the Young Jazz contest 2004. Niels Lyhne Løkkegaard is an occasional member of Niels Jørgen Steen's Monday Night Big Band, Tivoli Big Band, The Orchestra, Tip Toe Big Band and Illumination 4tet. He has performed at jazz festivals in Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Croatia and Russia. In 2007 Light Airborne received an award from The Danish Art Council as one of the year's best rhythmic music releases. In 2008 Light Airborne won the award for "New Name of the Year" at the Danish Music Awards Jazz.

**Magnus Hjorth** (piano) is extremely active on the Danish and Swedish jazz scenes, and his trio backs vocalists Benni Chawes, Malene Mortensen and Sidsel Storm. He also plays with The Orchestra, Thomas Fryland, Bob Rockwell and many others. He has toured Europe, USA and Asia, and is a very popular trio pianist in Japan. He recently put the finishing touches on his second recording for a Japanese label. Magnus Hjorth plays piano in the Swedish Monday Night Big Band, and has written several arrangements for the band as well. In 2007 he won the international Getxo Jazz Contest with People Are Machines. He also won the judges and the audience prizes for best soloist.

**Petter Eldh** (bass) is also extremely active on the Copenhagen and the international jazz scenes. He is a regular member of the legendary Django Bates' trio as well as bassist in Bates' big band Stormchaser. He also plays with the prizewinning orchestra Exil, who won Young Jazz 2007, and with Thomas Agergaard's Time Span Band and Malene Mortensen Group.

**Snorre Kirk** (drums) is a versatile drummer who masters jazz and other idioms, which may be heard in Malene Mortensen Group and Jørgen Emborg Trio. In 2006 he won Young Jazz with Refraction. He too has toured in Europe and Asia with among others the international percussion legend Johnny Kalsi.