

Jan Harbeck Quartet Copenhagen Nocturne



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Stunt Records
STUCD 11042



"The tenor saxophone is the sound of jazz. The soul of the music. Once Copenhagen had Ben Webster to blow that soul to life. Now we have Jan Harbeck." Big words, but none the less, that is what one reviewer wrote about one of the popular tenor sax man's many concerts.

Dark horse Jan Harbeck took us all by surprise when he won "Album Of The Year 2009" in Jazz Special's poll as well as a nomination for "New Jazz Name" at the Danish Music Awards 2009. His evocative and swinging playing has made him many friends.

COPENHAGEN NOCTURNE, the new release from the award-winning jazz combo, features this powerful group in a selection of jazz standards, dancing ballads and classic, but rarely played, up-tempo songs. Timeless tunes in exquisite interpretations. The band's sound unmistakably comes out of the jazz tradition, but with that special something that gives their music a personal twist – the original sound of standards played in 2011. The ballads are played as "walking ballads" – a notch quicker than usual and with a steady beat, which still yields plenty of space to solo and phrase freely.

Jan Harbeck's natural authority, pianist Henrik Gunde's relaxed musical excess, and bassist Eske Nørrelykke's richly soft style all contribute to the group's special sound, as does drummer Anders Holm's ability to play softly with a formidable swing. He always uses well-worn heads to get as dark and full a sound as possible.

The band landed at the recording session for COPENHAGEN NOCTURNE straight from a tour, and they all felt so comfortable with the fresh repertoire, that it was almost just a matter of punching "record" and counting in. Recorded in one session, most tracks are first takes. COPENHAGEN NOCTURNE was recorded at STC studios by legendary engineer Bjarne Hansen, and the album features the natural presence and warmth of his trademark sound.

Instead of separating the band members completely, Harbeck and Gunde were together in a large room in order to capture the natural sound of their instruments. The sax mike was placed almost a full yard from the bell to pull in all facets of Jan Harbeck's rich tone. Nørrelykke and Holm were in separate rooms, giving the drummer the opportunity to play himself out without bleeding into the other instruments.

Politiken

"It's great, that there is room for this kind of nostalgia in today's jazz."

Jyllandsposten

"Nostalgia? Certainly not. Timeless melodies in exquisite interpretations? Yes!"

Berlingske Tidende

"It's good for the ears, body and soul."

Harlem Nocturne / Is You Is Or Is You Ain't My Baby / Sing, Sing, Sing / I Love Paris / We'll Be Together Again / Too Darn Hot / Lazy River / Carioca.

Jan Harbeck (tenor saxophone), Henrik Gunde (piano), Eske Nørrelykke (bass), Anders Holm (drums).

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Sundance Music ApS Gothersgade 107 1123 Copenhagen K Denmark
T: +45 3333 8720 F: +45 3315 0206 www.sundance.dk sundance@sundance.dk