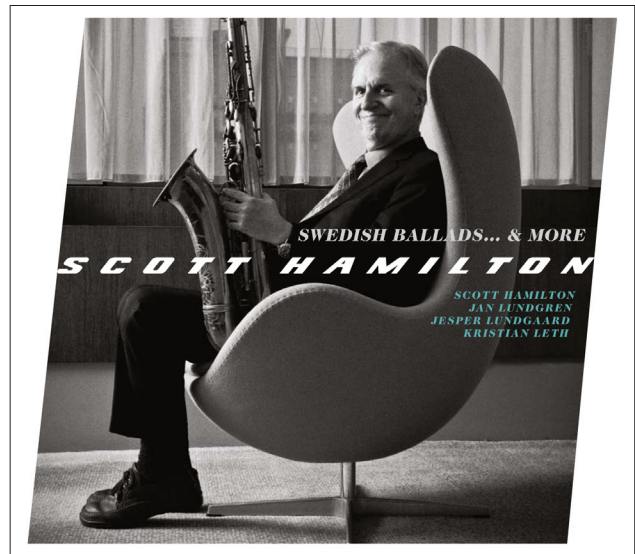


SCOTT HAMILTON

SWEDISH BALLADS... & MORE

With
Jan Lundgren
Jesper Lundgaard
Kristian Leth



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The album opens with the Swedish folk tune Ack Värmeland Du Sköna or Dear Old Stockholm – either name works for this lovely tune – and the mood is set. The tunes that we call standards have a timeless quality. They have stood the test of time and continue to inspire generations of jazz musicians. Most of the songs on this recording fall into this category. The American saxophonist Scott Hamilton and the Swedish pianist Jan Lundgren have chosen the repertoire, and each of the seven tunes is somehow associated with Sweden.

Dear Old Stockholm was first recorded and made famous outside of Sweden by Stan Getz. His version – in collaboration with pianist Bengt Hallberg – is from 1951. Since then, many others including Miles Davis have recorded it. On this album Scott Hamilton has created a classic and wonderful interpretation.

Swing in F is a simple little piece written by swing clarinetist Ove Lind back in 1953, but it was Teddy Wilson's version almost twenty years later that made it famous in the rest of the world. In 1953 the Swedish songwriter Ulf Sandström composed You Can't Be in Love with a Fool. It is not well known outside a small circle of connoisseurs, but this recording should change that. Trubbel, composed by the legendary Swedish songwriter Olle Adolphson, has a long recording history in Sweden and internationally. The composer's favorite version is by Michel Petrucciani, while the pianist on this album prefers Monica Zetterlund's.

Stockholm Sweetnin' is one of the first important early compositions by

Quincy Jones. It was recorded in Stockholm in 1953 with a line-up including Clifford Brown, Art Farmer and Arne Domnerus. It soon became a jazz classic and is still part of the standard repertoire.

Min Soldat is a popular song by Nils Perne (aka "Jokern"). Written in 1940, it was originally recorded by vocalist Ulla Billquist, but gained new momentum the 1970's when it was used as the theme for a television series about Sweden during World War II called "Någonstans i Sverige".

The album closes with Blues in Octaves, a typical Jan Johansson tune. Jan Johansson was a giant in Scandinavian jazz, and his reputation has grown steadily since his untimely death in 1969.

What a pleasure to hear Scott Hamilton playing his best! Inspired by Scandinavian sounds, intuitive, with a calm and mature approach, and in close interplay with Jan Lundgren, bassist Jesper Lundgaard and drummer Kristian Leth. From the very first bars, it is apparent that everyone feels at ease, and the "Swedish theme" is a great idea. Scott's love affair with Sweden has been ongoing since his first visit more than 30 years ago. He has many friends and fans in Sweden who have followed him closely over the years, and Scott has always been drawn to talented musicians and great music regardless of their origins. As most of us, he remembers things that have been meaningful to him, and his knowledge of Sweden and its part in the history of jazz and its musicians is impressive. It was easy for him to select the repertoire for this wonderful recording.

Dear Old Stockholm / Swing In F / You Can't Be In Love With A Fool / Trubbel / Stockholm Sweetnin' / Min Soldat / Blues In Octaves.

Scott Hamilton (ts), Jan Lundgren (p), Jesper Lundgaard (b), Krestian Leth (d).

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