

# VINCENTZ

**NIELS  
VINCENTZ  
CAMERON  
BROWN  
BILLY  
HART  
& TOM  
HARRELL  
IS THAT SO?**

**Stunt Records**  
STUCD 13172

A few years ago, the Danish magazine *Jazz Special* called Niels Vincentz “one of the best kept secrets in Danish jazz”... This is no longer true!

Almost 14 years ago Vincentz recorded in New York in a trio format with bassist Cameron Brown and drummer Billy Hart. For various reasons the recording was not released by the SteepleChase label before late in 2011. It was titled *EARLY REFLECTIONS* and it was received ecstatically. The trio got together again and in 2012 they went on a tour, which ended with the recording of *GRAVITY*. Since then they have played jobs on both sides of the Atlantic, and on their third album, *IS THAT SO?*, recorded in New York in autumn 2013 and featuring trumpeter Tom Harrell. Vincentz's collaboration with Brown and Hart has received due acclaim, and the accolades will surely be no less for their new release.

*IS THAT SO?* is distilled jazz. The music cuts to the bone and is stripped of anything irrelevant and superfluous. The album features interaction on the highest level. Fronted by Danish saxophonist Niels Vincentz, the music leans on the tradition known from piano-less trios. Vincentz enjoys the sound of sax, bass and drums without a harmony instrument. He likes the naked expression. With inspiration ranging from Sonny Rollins and Steve Lacy to the sound of early free jazz, the trio follows its own path. Augmented by Tom Harrell on most tracks, they have gained new explosive dimensions of expression in a repertoire consisting of Niels Vincentz originals supplemented by two Cameron Brown tunes, “Baby Suite” and “Is That So”, and Ted Dameron's “Hot House”.

Billy Hart is 73, Cameron Brown is 70 and Tom Harrell is 67, so 43-year old Vincentz has not chosen a group of kids. Their enormous experience brings the best out in a saxophonist who likes playing in the now. When you play with musicians on their level of accomplishment, a lot of things become possible, Niels Vincentz explained to *Jazz Special*. When playing this kind of music, there are always a lot of factors that are out of your control – whether it's biorhythms, chemistry or whatever. It isn't something you can control by will power.

Stylistically, Niels Vincentz has one leg in mainstream and one in an open, free expression. Born in Connecticut, USA, he grew up in Odense in Denmark and has moved around a lot. First he moved to another Danish city, Århus, and later to Copenhagen, where he took his diploma from The Rhythmic Conservatory. Then he moved to New York where he worked as a musician. When he returned to Denmark, he settled in the countryside

of Jutland, which he loves just as much as The Big Apple. He has played with just about everybody on the Danish jazz scene.

There is so much happening on the drum kit, that it almost makes you dizzy. Billy Hart is a true legend and requires no further presentation after five decades as one of the most popular musicians in jazz, sought out by everyone from Miles Davis to Herbie Hancock, from Stan Getz to Charles Lloyd and Eddie Harris. The list is long, and he has often visited Denmark, where his work with Niels-Henning Ørsted Pedersen, Doug Rainey and Ben Besiakov is remembered with special fondness. Billy Hart is a great musician, incredibly dynamic and quick to act on any idea, and always playing for the group and the music, leaving plenty of space for Cameron Brown's rich bass.

Brown is another veteran of half a century emerging from the progressive jazz jungle in New York. A life-long affair with his bass has led him through associations with Art Blakey, Don Cherry, Dannie Richmond, George Adams and Don Pullen, Joe Lovano, Don Byron, and not least Sheila Jordan, with whom he has a revered and well-known duo collaboration.

Trumpeter Tom Harrell is a very special musician. Despite his schizophrenia, his playing has an almost unbelievable presence and impressive depth. Despite his age, he is still among the most important trumpeters in the world. He started out in the orchestras of Stan Kenton and Woody Herman, played in Horace Silver's band and spent a number of years with Phil Woods' quintet. He also leads his own bands.

“... this trio is close to exceptional in interplay, tension/relaxation, dynamics [...] It says a lot about Vincentz, that he seems on a par with his much more experienced collaborators. It is extremely convincing.” – *Jazz Special*

“... saxophonist Niels Vincentz with bassist Cameron Brown and the wild drummer Billy Hart, lift your wig. For the past ten years, Vincentz has won an increasingly strong position in the already overloaded Danish jazz scene.” – *Politiken*

“There is a perfect balance here: nothing is overplayed nor underplayed [...] Vincentz is centered and focused, and it is easy to hear why these Americans dig him.” – *Downbeat*

*Jericho Rose / Haiku / Hot House / Cecilie / Modal Dancer / Baby Suite / Raison D'être / Is That So?*

**Niels Vincentz (ts), Cameron Brown (b), Billy Hart (d) & Tom Harrell (tp).**

*Niels Vincentz, Cameron Brown, Billy Hart & Tom Harrell, IS THAT SO? STUCD 13172, Stunt Records/Sundance Music.*



STUNT RECORDS

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