

Seven Continents

Blue Lotus

Stunt Records



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A flying carpet to seven continents.

The trio BLUE LOTUS has created a unique tapestry of sounds from all over the world. Their genuinely borderless music can be heard on the formidable new release SEVEN CONTINENTS (Stunt Records) with the South Indian flute virtuoso Shashank Subramanyam as featured guest.

When BLUE LOTUS appeared on the music scene in 2010, it was a gigantic leap. Their debut album received enormous praise. Three Danish musicians with origins in their own Scandinavian reality connecting particularly to Indian music. The connection was carried off with the virtuosity necessary when attempting to add new dimensions to space previously opened by musicians like John McLaughlin and groups like Shakti. Their debut four years ago was utterly successful.

The voyage continues with SEVEN CONTINENTS. The line-up is the same: Mikkel Nordsø on acoustic guitar inspired greatly by flamenco; his cousin, Tine Rehling, whose harp examines the classical music, which she has mastered as few over the past 20 years. But she also treads new paths with floods of notes reminiscent of the northern Indian stringed instrument, the santuur. The trio's third member is the Danish tabla master Ole Theill. A disciple of the Indian master Pandit Ishwar Lal Mishra, he has reached an amazing level of proficiency.

Together they examine a diversity of musical traditions with their usual skill. Echoes of Sevillan and flamenco combined with Nordsø's life-long love of Brazilian music – as in Buki Yamaz, the launching ramp of his career. With their sights on the holy city Varanasi by the river Ganges or southern destinations as Chennai, it is a scoop for BLUE LOTUS to join forces with the Indian bansuri-flute master, Shashank Subramanyam.

Shashank Subramanyam has visited our part of the world previously, but the interplay with BLUE LOTUS brings out new facets in his playing, and he virtually sparks in interaction with his musical relations from Denmark. Take a listen to the opening track, Mikkel Nordsø's composition, Sunflower – a flying start!

Shashank Subramanyam sprints away with Ole Theill's tablas following right behind like a congenial shadow and prances along with Mikkel Nordsø's guitar. The latter is famous for his dancing speed across the frets of his guitar, and the music runs freely in precise compositions that incorporate the collaborators' playfulness within the tight-fitting framework.

This is a voyage across seven continents, and after several virtuosic Indian excursions a fresh breeze lands us in a Brazilian bossa, Hello October, with a friendly nod to Nordsø's and Rehling's work with Thomas Clausen's

Brazilian Quartet. The trip ends with a humorous but also beautiful version of The House of the Rising Sun, with the tablas tapping joyously along with several lightning fast flamenco guitar licks – perhaps sent off as a tribute to the recently deceased Spanish guitar hero Paco de Lucia.

SEVEN CONTINENTS is a thunderous roar of an album: Explosive, poetic, gentle and melodious – and above all full of surprises. Listen and enjoy!

About BLUE LOTUS:

Mikkel Nordsø (b.1955) made his reputation in Buki Yamaz. He was a rock star in Sneakers, and as a leader of Mikkel Nordsø Band he has released a string of fine solo albums. He travels constantly, and when he is home, he works in the studio below his apartment – where SEVEN CONTINENTS was created – often collaborating with his sons Frederik and Fridolin, well-known musicians and producers, and lately also with his third son, photographer Benjamin Nordsø.

Ole Theill (b.1956), a long-term student of the Indian tabla master Pandit Ishwar Lal Mishra, has been a drummer with many artists in Denmark and abroad. He began his career in Instant Breakfast, but is best known for his work with Mikkel Nordsø Band and Bombay Hotel (in which he and Nordsø joined forces with keyboard wizard Kenneth Knudsen), and with the Dutch guitar virtuoso Jan Akkerman (previously of Focus).

Tine Rehling (b.1964) is one of Denmark's most renowned harpists. She worked with her cousin, Mikkel Nordsø, in the band Timewave, which also included her father, cembalist Jesper Boye Christensen, and Mikkel's elder brother Klavs Nordsø. Tine Rehling has had a long and distinguished career. She is a recipient of the Jacob Gade Award, and she is particularly appreciated for her intense collaboration with composer Per Nørgaard, who composed his harp concert, Gennem torne, for her in 2003. On June 1., Rehling celebrated her 50th birthday with a concert in Copenhagen featuring – among other acts – her own ensemble and BLUE LOTUS.

Guest soloist Shashank Subramanyam (b.1978) is one of India's most distinguished flutists. He is rooted in the South Indian Karnataka tradition, which is quite different from the North Indian tradition that is better known in our part of the world. He lives in Chennai (previously Madras) in South India. Shashank is famous for revolutionizing the flute playing of his country, and since his debut as a six year-old he has performed with leading musicians all over the world including John McLaughlin, Paco de Lucia, New Jungle Orchestra and many of India's foremost masters.

*Sunflower / Ekaas Ballad / 5 Eiffel / Cadencia de Tarantos / Seven Continents / Life Folw/ Sunset Cruise / Cloud 9
I Rosens Tegn / Hello October / House of The Rising Sun.*

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