

JACOB ARTVED

METAMORPHOSIS

Released on CD and digital distribution
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Stunt Records

CD: STUCD 21122

The contemporary jazz scene in Denmark is currently made up of a vast array of talented and dedicated young lions. Jacob Artved, in no uncertain terms, is at the forefront of the movement and the moment.

At the young age of 15, he became the youngest person ever admitted to Copenhagen's prestigious Rhythmic Music Conservatory, and at 18, he interrupted his studies and moved to New York City to study the old-fashioned way – playing at jam sessions and clubs, *paying his dues* and putting in the work that's expected and demanded of a new musician when they move to *The City*. It was through these opportunities that Jacob would start getting the chance to play with some of the bigger names on the scene. "Sometimes it's intimidating to play with musicians you admire... it can smother your creativity, out of respect and the fear of doing something wrong. Of course, these situations make you stronger and inspire you to work harder," Artved reflects. "Other times, you meet musicians and there seems to be a common understanding and mutual respect for the music and each other."

The young guitarist seized the moment(s), and heads began to turn. Artved has already earned the respect of generations of players, having absorbed and expanded on the tradition through his dizzying talent and inspiring work ethic.

The young phenom grew up surrounded by classical music at home and his love for the genre has inspired this latest release, METAMORPHOSIS. On it, Jacob presents re-imagined music by Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Poulenc, Ravel, and Debussy, liberally incorporating his advanced knowledge and appreciation for Jazz.

For this ambitious and nuanced task, Jacob selected a group of instrumentalists whose backgrounds, sounds, and musical tools span the breadth of material being brought to life – bassist Felix Moseholm, drummer Cornelia Nilsson, pianist Ben Besiakov, percussionist Eliel Lazo, oboist Max Artved, and a classical string trio. Max Artved, the oboist on the album, is also Jacob's father and the Oboe and Woodwind Professor at the Royal Danish Conservatory of Music. The two share a special musical understanding, including and beyond that of Father-and-Son – a common love for music in all its diversity.

Some of the arrangements on this album closely resemble the original music with the addition of improvised sections, while others appear as truly *re-composed* works. With deep admiration and respect for the material, the bandleader and arranger has tastefully tweaked the music to be both familiar and fresh.



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METAMORPHOSIS begins with music by Tchaikovsky for *The Nutcracker*, which premiered in 1892 in St. Petersburg. Duke Ellington's legendary *Nutcracker Suite* is mandatory listening for Jazz and Classical musicians, and the Duke's interpretations inspired *Arabian Dance*, the first selection on the album.

Romeo and Juliet, the ballet with Prokofiev's absolutely brilliant music accompanying the dance, is a beloved performance piece on stages around the world. Prokofiev's use of harmonies and his distinctive tonal language has been tremendously influential. During the planning of METAMORPHOSIS, Jacob knew that music from *Romeo and Juliet* would be included in some form. Listeners are treated to a small suite from the ballet: the introductory music; the theme from the balcony scene, heard like a melody from a jazz standard with improvisations; and finally, the theme from the gripping final scene, where Romeo believes that Juliet is dead and takes his own life.

Debussy is represented with two piano pieces. *Doctor Gradus*, from 'Children's Corner,' is written for his daughter Claude Emma, also called "Chou-Chou," and is heard here in a fairly straight-ahead arrangement for the whole ensemble, written by bassist Felix Moseholm. The second piece, *Poisson D'or*, comes from his piano cycle 'Image' and sounds like a fresh Debussy-jazz-samba.

Ravel's music speaks to many jazz musicians, and here, Artved has chosen three movements from Ravel's music for 'Tombeau de Couperin' – *Prelude*, performed in a tightly arranged form of oboe and acoustic guitar; *Menuet* in an almost free-impressionist style; and *Forlane*, as a vision of modern Jazz.

Finally, we have French composer Francis Poulenc's *Sextuor*. The first movement is divided into three parts, and the theme from the slower part is approached not unlike a Jazz-standard here, with a slow introduction and presentation of the theme, followed by improvisation which morphs into a faster, walking-swing.

Arabian Dance / Balcony Ballad / Poisson D'or / Prelude / Menuet / Forlane / Francis' Theme / Doctor Gradus

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Jacob Artved – Guitar

Jacob Artved is developing into one of today's most exciting voices on jazz guitar, with three albums out in his own name. He is known for his sublime playing and intriguing compositions. Jacob has split his time between New York and Copenhagen since 2018, playing concerts in much of Europe and the United States. Artved has performed and recorded with international stars such as Louis Hayes, Billy Hart, Rodney Green, David Wong, and Jeb Patton.

Max Artved – Oboe

Max Artved studied in Paris and London and was the Oboe Soloist in the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra from 1990-2009. He was Artistic Director of the Diamond Ensemble, an ensemble-in-residence at The Black Diamond (The Royal Library) from 2004-2018. He has extensive solo performance credits to his name and is the recipient of several prestigious music awards. In 2009, Max was appointed Oboe and Woodwind Professor at the Royal Danish Academy of Music.

Ben Besiakov – Piano

A Dane and beloved self-taught jazz veteran, Ben Besiakov is known for his role in jazz and jazz-fusion ensembles starting in the early 1970s, including the groups Buki-Yamaz, Creme Fraiche, Engine, Soul Service, and Space Train. He led his own trio ensemble which recorded for Steeplechase Records and in 1990 was awarded the Ben Webster Prize. He also played in groups led by Bent Jædig and Jens Winther and performed and recorded with musicians such as Richard Boone, Al Foster, Joe Henderson, Doug Raney, and Jesper Thilo.

Felix Moseholm – Bass

Felix Moseholm is a Danish bassist from Copenhagen, Denmark, who is currently based in New York City. He's studied at Chetham's School of Music and the Julliard School of Music in NYC. From a young age, Felix has worked with a variety of international artists including Brad Mehldau, Alvin Queen, Rodney Green, and Jorge Rossy. He has performed at the major jazz clubs in New York and Copenhagen.

Cornelia Nilsson – Drums

Swedish drummer Cornelia Nilsson has already established a celebrated career at the age of 27, having graced the stage with icons such as American pianist Kenny Barron. In 2021, she received the Tivoli Jazz Award. As a drummer, she possesses a unique groove and has an incredible ability to keep the music interesting and moving from the first beat to the last.

Eliel Lazo – Percussion

Eliel Williams Lazo Linares, also known as Eliel Lazo or *God's Hands* (born in 1983 in Havana), is a Cuban percussionist, songwriter, composer, producer, and jazz, rock, Latin, and pop musician living in Denmark. Eliel is one of the most unique and influential percussionists alive today. In 2011, he received the Danish Music Award (DMA World) for his album EL CONGUERO (Stunt Records).

Kirstine Schneider – Violin

Kirstine Schneider graduated from the Royal Danish Academy of Music, having also studied at Chetham's School of Music and the Manhattan School of Music. She has been a soloist with various orchestras and the recipient of several music awards. Schneider works today as a sought-after freelance musician.

Stine Hasbirk Brandt – Viola

Stine Hasbirk Brandt is employed by the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra. In 1998, she won P2's Chamber Music Competition with the Cailin Quartet, and in 2000, she won the jury's special prize at the "Maurice Vieux" international viola competition in Paris. Brandt is an in-demand soloist and chamber musician.

Joel Laakso – Cello

Joel Laakso is a former cellist in the Finnish Radio Orchestra and former member of the renowned New Helsinki String Quartet. Today, Joel is a solo cellist in The Royal Theater Opera Orchestra. He is also the Artistic Director of the Riihimäki Summer Concert and a sought-after soloist and chamber musician.



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