

Smokers Lounge

SECRET

Release: 24. Februar 2023

on CD, LP and digital



In 2011, **Jens Haack**, **Mikkel Nordsø**, and **Ben Besiakov** released *SMOKER'S LOUNGE* - an album in collaboration with the DR/Danish National Chamber Orchestra. Environmentally, a bold choice of name, but also a fitting moniker for the deliciously cool, laid-back music which pairs perfectly with a quiet moment in a leather armchair, sipping cognac in front of a crackling fireplace. Now, in 2022, the three old friends have reconvened for the second album as *Smoker's Lounge*, entitled *SECRET*.

They first met at a Music and Youth summer program at a high school in 1970, and In 1973, Mikkel Nordsø co-founded the group *Buki Yamaz*, a group whose debut album was released in 1975 - a recording both Ben and Jens also appear on. Since then, the three have played together in countless contexts, including *Moonjam*, *The Cigars*, *Mikkel Nordsø Band*, and more.

On their first album, *Smoker's Lounge* presented interpretations of several well-known ballads from the great American songbook. On their new release, they focus exclusively on original material, backed up in the studio by percussionists **Eliel Lazo** and **Federico Nelson**, with drum beats and grooves contributed by **Frederik Tao Nordsø**, **David Besiakov**, and **DJ Mashti**. It's soul, it's jazz, it's beat music - but most of all, it's a lush, refined, and delectable blend of electric guitar, keyboards, and saxophone in groovy arrangements that gently caress the ears of listeners. It's 24-carat chill music, equally enjoyable to smokers and non-smokers, perfect with a cup of herbal tea, a café latte, or hot chocolate with whipped cream. It's ear candy that gently thrives as luxury lounge music or supports a quiet moment of solitude as a soundtrack.

For decades, saxophonist **Jens Haack** (1955) has had a reputation as a musician's musician in the jazz community. In the 1980s and 90s, he was one of the most active Danish studio musicians who appears on countless recordings with the biggest pop and rock names of the era, including *Buki Yamaz*, *Bifrost*, *Sebastian*, *Sneakers*, *Dance Orchestra*, *Sanne Salomonsen*, *Laid Back*, and many more. Haack is also a co-founder of *Moonjam*, a band he played saxophone in for nearly 15 years.

Ben Besiakov (1956) is one of Denmark's most important pianists, organists, and keyboard players. He played his first professional job in the legendary *Jazzhus Montmartre* at the age of 15, going on to perform and record with countless Danish and international names. He became close with *Ben Webster* during the tenor titan's time in Copenhagen, and his talent was honored with the *Ben Webster Award* in 1990.

At the age of 17, guitarist **Mikkel Nordsø** (1955) was already making a name for himself as one of the great musical talents in rock, jazz, and Latin music, shining as a member of *Palle Mikkelborg's V8 band* at the 1973 *Roskilde Festival*. In the early 1980s, he and a young singer by the name of *Sanne Salomonsen* formed the hugely popular rock band *Sneakers*; he's led his own groups, including *Acoustic Guitars*, *Bombay Hotel*, and the *Mikkel Nordsø Band*, which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary; and he's played and recorded with names like *Stanley Clarke*, *George Duke*, *John Abercrombie*, *Gary Burton*, *David Sanborn*, *Randi Brecker*, *NØHP*, *Palle Mikkelborg*, and many more.

SMOKEY / SECOND MOVE / COOL / VERY BARRY / HEATWAVE / SLOW BOAT / EYES OF LOVE / SMOKERS DELIGHT

Jens Haack (ts, as, tp), Ben Besiakov (keys, b), Mikkel Nordsø (g, b, synth, perc, drum prg) og: Eliel Lazo, Federico Nelson (perc), Frederik Nordsø (comp d), DJ Mashti (d beat)

CD: STUCD 22082, LP: STULP 22081 *Smokers Lounge, Secret*, Stunt Records, Sundance Music ApS