

Sam Rivers / Kresten Osgood / Ben Street + Bryan Carrot Purple Violets

After playing for 60 years with (to name but a few) Miles Davis, Cecil Taylor, Charlie Parker and, of course, for Blue Note Records, free jazz saxophonist and pioneer, now 81-year-old legend and innovator, Sam Rivers, has rediscovered the fountain of youth, joining our own local giant of the drums, Kresten Osgood (55 years his junior), on what must be one of this year's most important Danish jazz records.

Sam Rivers had already heard of the Danish drummer from pianist Jason Moran, so he could easily be persuaded when Kresten Osgood finally reached him by phone. After numerous calls between Copenhagen and Florida, where Sam Rivers now lives, everything fell into place. Kresten Osgood booked a studio in Bond Street in Soho, Manhattan; Rivers flew up from Florida; and bass player Ben Street drove in from Brooklyn. Everything was ready.

The tunes played are a surprising and powerful mixture of old and new, structure and freedom, crazy ideas, standards and new compositions by the musicians themselves. This is not a soloist with a rhythm section behind him; it's teamwork, where everyone plays for and with each other, with the mutual respect necessary for creating great jazz music.

Rivers, together with Kresten Osgood and bass giant Ben Street, recorded music for two Stunt cd's: PURPLE VIOLETS and VIOLET VIOLETS, the latter to be issued later this year. On several tracks the trio is joined by the amazing vibes player Bryan Carrot, whose dynamic, yet subtle, playing enriches the project.

Sam Rivers belongs to the small and exclusive elite made up of now living jazz saxophonists with artistic personality and an undisputable magic in the way they play. All facets of his playing can be heard on these vibrant recordings. He was part of the Blue Note era in the '60s, and during his long, always searching career he has played with such musicians as Miles Davis, Jaki Byard, Andrew Hill, Cecil Taylor, Dave Holland and, most recently, Jason Moran. He still tours with his own trio and works with a big band back home in Florida. It should also be mentioned that in 2004 Sam Rivers won a Danish Music Award for best reissue of the year - 'Fuchsia Swing Song', a '60s jazz classic.

Kresten Osgood himself is one of Europe's great drum talents. He is here, there and everywhere. He performs as a rapper, has his own bands and plays in any musical context with equal dedication and convincing musicality. He is in his element in any kind of style, always playing with an unusual swing feel and as a true team player. But it is no exaggeration to say that Kresten Osgood has never sounded better than in these surroundings.

It was a dream come true for Kresten Osgood when he succeeded in bringing off this project. And now he generously shares his dream with us - Purple Violets for Kresten, Sam and Ben.

Sam Rivers (ts, ss, fl), Ben Street (b), Kresten Osgood (dr) + Bryan Carrot (vib).

1)Solace 2)The Mooche 3)Captain America 4)Abalone 5)In Search Of Black Benny 6)Turbulence
7)Where To Go ?!? 8)Moderation 9)Space.

SAM RIVERS / KRESTEN OSGOOD / BEN STREET + BRYAN CARROT: PURPLE VIOLETS

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