

KRISTIAN JØRGENSEN QUARTET LOVE LETTERS

For decades Svend Asmussen has been Denmark's internationally famous Grand Old Man of jazz violin. However young Kristian Jørgensen - at 41, he is more than half a century younger than Asmussen - deserves to be mentioned in the same breath. The question now is how to get the rest of the world to recognize his obvious and huge talent. Hopefully that will be no problem, once people listen to his new CD. Kristian Jørgensen is an outstanding jazz violinist, and when he plays up to his best, as is the case on LOVE LETTERS, he is second to none. This lovely CD features Jørgensen with his regular touring band in an extraordinary repertoire of originals, Latin tunes and standards - all given a special, swinging treatment and that Jørgensen twist. His amazing instrumental agility adds something special to the ballads. The listening pleasure is only enhanced by the ease and playful humor, which is one of Kristian Jørgensen's and this quartet's finest trademarks. And long-time pal on stage, the equally impressive guitarist Jacob Fischer, is allotted plenty of space.

A newspaper once called Jørgensen and Fischer "jazz veterans" - an interesting description of musicians, who have only just passed 40. But jazz knows no age barriers and after all, the two players have been performing for more than 25 years. Both are highly respected as virtuosos with enormous swing prowess as well as for their telepathic interplay. The other half of the

quartet is made up of bassist Thomas Fonnesbæk and drummer Karsten Bagge, which is as grooving and rock-steady a rhythm section, as you would hope to find anywhere.

Jørgensen began playing violin at the age of nine. When he was twelve, he formed the local jazz band Gadevang Swing Central. The group of child prodigies caused a bit of a stir resulting in several radio and television appearances. In 1983, at the ripe age of 16, he received the jazz award Sørens Penge, and the same year he recorded with pianist Duke Jordan. Since then, he has worked with most people on the Danish jazz scene. He graduated from the Rhythmic Conservatory in Copenhagen in 1991, and has been an on-and-off instructor there for 17 years. His open mind and technical skills make it natural for him to work in the borderline of jazz, and consequently he is a founding member of the Tango Orchestra, with whom he has recorded numerous CDs, and the gypsy group Donau Swing. He also works regularly with guitarist Paul Banks. He has received Denmark's two most prestigious jazz awards, The Ben Webster Award and the IASA Award.

His CD releases include four in his own name for Stunt Records, KRISTIAN JØRGENSEN QUARTET (1993), SECRET LOVE (trio, 1997), MEETING MONTY (quartet featuring pianist Monty Alexander) and LOVE LETTERS (2009).

That Old Soccer Boy / Laura / Love Letters / You Can't Get a Man with a Gun / Escualo / Intervals / But Not for Me / Recreation Ballad / Belle de Boskoop / The H Chord Blue

Kristian Jørgensen (violin), Jacob Fischer (guitar), Thomas Fonnesbæk (bass), Karsten Bagge (drums)



