

# MONA LARSEN

*Grains of Sand*



Stunt Records  
STUCD 09122



Denmark has many jazz singers, but very few divas. To be a diva, one must have authority and life experience, one must have endured hard days and nights on the road between gigs, and have the ability to fit into many musical settings without losing touch with ones self. One must have the raw power, and the experience to cut straight to the bone of a song, giving it a personal interpretation without betraying the original. One must have that extra something that allows the song to breathe, and the will-power to go on, because one has no other choice, but still have something to say. And finally, one must have that very special talent that touches us deeply, telling us something that we learn something from.

Mona Larsen is such a singer. She has always followed an inner urge, always delivered that special something, and always given her music personal texture. She is not one of the slick divas; she is raw, lucid and robust like Betty Carter or Carmen McRae, but with a current of translucent Danish lyricism below the seemingly brooding atmosphere. But most importantly: She is one of the few vocalist to pass the goose-pimple test. The hairs on your arms stand up whenever she begins to sing a tune.

Outside the world of jazz, she made her mark on the Danish pop scene with the Halberg/Larsen group, and at the opposite end of the scale, she has experimented in projects with composer Michael Mantler – one of them based on Italian poetry. She made her name as a jazz vocalist with the DR Big Band and the Radio Jazz Group, and later with the Emborg/Larsen Band.

Through her work with the Radio Jazz Group, she met pianist Thomas Clausen, and they still collaborate more than 30 years later. Thomas Clausen's Trio appeared on Mona's last jazz album, NEVER LET ME GO, eight years ago. On GRAINS OF SAND, her new recording, they are together again, and credit is due to Clausen for the wonderful, stylized and sensitive backdrop of sound behind Mona Larsen's vocal.

The repertoire consists of songs that we know from The Great American Songbook, including new interpretations of Bernstein's Something Coming from West Side Story, a tango-inspired Just One of Those Things, and the rarely heard verse in a lovely slow version of endurable All the Things You Are. We are also treated to four Mona Larsen originals.

A new Mona Larsen release is a major event in Danish music.

*Something's Coming / All the things you are / Very Early / Dindi / She's Young / Crepuscule With Nellie / Sonet XIX /  
Lazy Afternoon / Grains Of Sand / Just One Of Those Things / Hymn (there will be time)*

**Mona Larsen (voc), Thomas Clausen (p), Thomas Fønnesbæk (b), Karsten Bagge (d) + guests: Hans Ulrik (saxophones), Kristian Jørgensen (violin).**

Press photos can be downloaded in high resolution on [www.dennislynge.dk/clients/sundance/monalarsen](http://www.dennislynge.dk/clients/sundance/monalarsen)



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