

GUNDE ON GARNER PLAYS BENT FABRIC



Stunt Records
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The extremely alive-and-kicking composer (and pianist, businessman and much more) Bent Fabricius-Bjerre will soon turn an unfathomable 85, and Gunde On Garner's new release GUNDE ON GARNER PLAYS BENT FABRIC, is a tribute to one of Denmark's finest popular composers.

In the late 1940's Pianist Erroll Garner (1921-1977) created his characteristic style with a swinging left hand and a highly original approach to the melodic content of the songs he played. It is said that he was unable to read music, and certainly he interpreted the tunes very freely. He stuck with his particular style till his death, and toured all over the world with his trio. His extroverted style made him enormously popular, and he was not concerned whether the songs he played were jazz standards, pop songs or Tin Pan Alley tunes, as long as he could make them swing.

Very few pianists have modeled themselves after Garner. They found his style too personal and his technique too awe-inspiring. However, we have heard that Bent Fabricius-Bjerre listened to him quite a lot in his younger days.

GUNDE ON GARNER, a many generation younger Danish trio, has studied the pianistic genius. They tour Denmark with a repertoire of "songs that could have been played by Garner – if he had only known them". Their CD from 2007, thus titled, has sold well, and large audiences have taken the trio to heart

for their versions of tunes, which Garner did not record. A wonderful concept.

Their concert repertoire includes quite a few Fabricius-Bjerre compositions, so for the composer's 85th birthday, it was natural to record a whole album exclusively featuring his tunes. We knew that Bent Fabric's Danish evergreens could swing, but GUNDE ON GARNER's uninhibited and deeply swinging versions surpass our wildest expectations.

GUNDE ON GARNER – alias pianist Henrik Gunde, bassist Nicolas Kock and drummer Steen Holm – have played together since 1995. With enthusiasm and virtuosity, they have maneuvered in a Garner-inspired universe. They have made his music their own, collecting a repertoire of tunes that easily could have been recorded by the grunting man with the hard-swinging, unpredictable left hand. This humorous trio has deliberately taken up where Garner let off: Playing good melodies regardless of where they come from. In Garner's spirit, they examine and revitalize and re-arrange Fabricius-Bjerre's music with astonishing results. "Songs that could have been played by Garner – if he had only known them." Hooray – what a party!

GUNDE ON GARNER PLAYS BENT FABRIC is not only a big celebration of the composer's birthday, it is also a tribute to Garner and all the great, ear-hanging tunes.

Blue Hour / Where Did The Swallows go? / KLoving you / In The Arms Of My Love / Norwegian Sunset / Stop / A Simple Song For You / Will You Be There? / Robins Are Flying / Early Morning In Copenhagen / Who Is Rich? / Matador / Old Fashioned Song.
BONUS TRACKS LIVE: Alley Cat / Don't Forget To Say Hello.

Henrik Gunde Pedersen (piano), Nicolas Kock (bass), Steen Holm Olesen (drums).

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