



SILHOUETTE

**CHRISTINA VON BÜLOW
& FREDRIK LUNDIN**

The great Swedish baritone saxophonist and composer Lars Gullin died over 30 years ago, but his highly personal music still lives on in his native country, and fortunately in Denmark as well. Over the years saxophonists Christina von Bülow and Fredrik Lundin have felt a great affinity for the fragile, often melancholic, lyrical qualities in Swedish jazz, and both have collaborated successfully with many Swedish musicians.

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Lundin explains that he grew up with Jan Johansson's interpretations of Swedish folk tunes, and later he discovered Bernt Rosengren, Nisse Sandström, Harry Bäcklund and Bobo Stenson via the radio. But Lars Gullin's baritone sax cut deepest, and when young Lundin heard Gullin's version of the wonderful tune "Darn That Dream", he became a life-long fan. Lundin considers Gullin the greatest baritone saxophonist in jazz: Harry Carney was a great baritone saxophonist, but no great soloist. Pepper Adams has energy, and he's a mesmerizing soloist, but his sound isn't very powerful. Serge Chaloff was close – big tone and a lot of intensity – but inconsistent. Mulligan was great for a few years before he gave in to his inner salon musician. Cecil Payne has a wonderful sound but rarely solos above average. But no one OWNS the baritone sax like Gullin: inimitable sound, perfect phrasing and beautiful lines. And Fredrik Lundin couldn't understand why no one – with the exception of Lars Gullin's son, Peter, who passed away much too early – had tried to play the instrument like Lars Gullin. Obviously, the large instrument must be treated with the utmost respect, but in return it sounds like no other instrument: something huge, powerful and dark combined with a wistful tenderness.

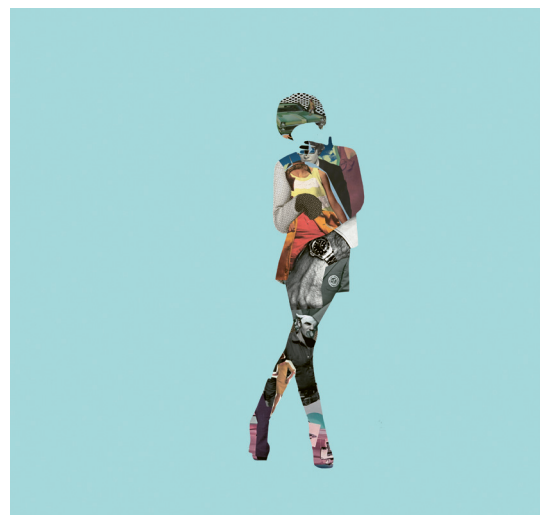
A few years ago, tenor saxophonist Fredrik Lundin finally got his baritone sax – and old silver Elkhart from 1928. Since then Lundin has tried his best to continue Gullin's legacy. Luckily, he found a soul-mate in alto saxophonist Christina von Bülow. Together they lead the band SILHOUETTE, which plays quite a few of Gullin's compositions mixed with their own originals.

A few years ago Fredrik and Christina both played at the same booking. Backstage, Fredrik was practicing Gullin's composition "Silhouette" on his recently acquired baritone sax, when an alto sax began to weave around the tune. Christina walked in, and the band SILHOUETTE was born.

SILHOUETTE offers the two saxophonists the opportunity to share their love for the Scandinavian lyrical melancholia. The band's debut in the fall of 2008 was the first time they performed together, although they have both been all over the Danish and European jazz scene for the past 20 years and despite their obvious musical kinship.

The band is made up of a mixture of seasoned performers – the two co-leaders and the fantastic guitarist Jacob Fischer (who was a member of Peter Gullin's trio some years ago) – and two new stars: Swedish (though a resident of Denmark) bassist Daniel Franck and drummer Jeppe Gram.

SILHOUETTE's debut album is full of Scandinavian melancholy. The band plays a selection of Gullin's heartbreakingly beautiful tunes as well as their own compositions, which update this characteristic Scandinavian blend of folk tone and cool jazz. Christina von Bülow (born 1962) is the daughter of guitarist



Fritz von Bülow. She graduated from the Rhythmic Conservatory in Copenhagen in 1990 and studied with Stan Getz at his home in Malibu a year before his death. Getz became a mentor for the young saxophonist, but the legendary alto player Lee Konitz has also been a huge influence on Christina's lyrical approach to music. Since the late 1980's, she has led her own groups, often made up of prominent musicians from the Danish jazz scene: guitarist Jacob Fischer, pianists Ben Besiakov, Horace Parlan and Søren Kristiansen and bassist Hugo Rasmussen. But she has also found many collaborators in Sweden: clarinetist Putte Wickman, guitarist Rune Gustafsson, bassist Georg Riedel – but especially trumpeter Jan Allan and tenor saxophonist Bernt Rosengren, with whom she has recorded and toured. She has recorded several albums in her own name and was nominated for a Danish Music Award for “West of the Moon” in 2001 and “A Prima Vez” in 2004. She was awarded the JASA Prize in 1994, the Ben Webster Prize in 2002 and the Palæ Prize in 2009.



Fredrik Lundin (born 1963) is one of Scandinavia's most important saxophonists, composers and bandleaders. He has co-lead bands with Peter Danemo and Joakim Milder, and worked with Trine-Lise Væring, but he is also a prolific composer for his own groups and for larger ensembles. He is been greatly influenced by the saxophonists of the '50s and '60s, while shaping his own personal sound. He is difficult to categorize, and one example of his unprejudiced approach to music is his 11-piece orchestra Overdrive, whose music is inspired by American blues and roots music. His Gullin interpretations are another. He has a long list of releases to his name. He received the JASA Prize in 1986 and the composers' organization DJBFA's Honorary Award in 1995, as well as the National Art Foundation's three-year scholarship.

A self-taught musician, Jacob Fischer (born 1967) quickly became one of the country's leading guitarists. He plays with all the top jazz players and has been awarded countless honors, including the JASA Prize (1992), the Ben Webster Prize (1996) and the Django d'Or Prize. He released his first recordings as a leader only a few years ago, but he has appeared on a long list of albums as a sideman.

Daniel Franck (born 1978 in Sweden) is the brother of renowned saxophonist Tomas Franck. A graduate on guitar from Copenhagen's Rhythmic Conservatory, he soon switched over to the double bass. His solid playing has made him a busy musician on the Copenhagen jazz scene, and he has lent his talents to quite a few recordings.

Jeppe Gram (born 1977) is also a graduate from the Rhythmic Conservatory. He is a versatile drummer, appearing in diverse array of bands including Beautiful Day, Doctor Structure, Gramski Beat and Grammofunch, but he has also backed the likes of Benny Golson, Stacey Kent, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Chris Cheek, Chris Speed and Danish artists Sebastian, Bent Jædig, Palle Mikkelborg, Jakob Bro, Benny Andersen, Povl Dissing, Steffen Brandt and many others. He appears as a sideman on many recordings and has released three albums in his own name.

Primavera / Fine Together / Montmartre/ Nu har jag fått / Icarus / Between Romances / Dannys Dream / Leewise / A New Beginning / The Flight / Silhouette.

**Christina von Bülow (as), Fredrik Lundin (brts), Jacob Fischer (g),
Daniel Franck (b), Jeppe Gram (d).**

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