

NICOLAI MUNCH-HANSEN

ÆTER



Stunt Records
STUCD 12182
Distribution DC'Norden



Nicolai Munch Hansen is well known and equally at home in jazz and rock scenes. He is oblivious to irritating labels in music, and his ability to fusion the best from both worlds is legendary. He has played with Denmark's leading pop and jazz names including John Tchcai and a close association with vocalist Kira Skov, to whose latest success, MEMORIES OF DAYS GONE BY, he contributed greatly. Nicolai Munch Hansen's second release CHRONICLES was nominated for two Danish Music Awards – Best Jazz Release and Best Composer - and in 2012 he was nominated for a Steppeulv (the Danish music critics independent award) as Best Musician. And so he is that rare bird: the darling of jazz and rock critics alike.

We feel certain that ÆTER - this prominent bassist's and composer's third album in his own name will cause an equal stir. ÆTER is a modern instrumental album. It is complex and simple. Lyricism and expressionism intertwine in a beautiful and distinct production recorded at Copenhagen's Sun Studio. Munch Hansen's compositions simultaneously pay tribute and challenge jazz tradition in a progressive and symbiotic mixture. Nicolai explains that he was looking for a more energetic and sparkling

sound than the darker CHRONICLES – without losing sight of his personality as a composer and musician: something crisper. And although the lines may not be easy to sing along with, the distinct melodies and moods tie the music together.

The combination of freedom and strict form is demanding of musicians, and this is no session band, but a tight unit and a flexible organism with plenty of space for each individual soloist and a rare and attentive interplay. The band features many of the brightest young talents on the Danish and American jazz scenes. The American tenor saxophonist Ned Ferm has developed into a distinct and original instrumentalist, embracing Denmark as his second home. Mads Hyhne is Denmark's busiest trombonist. A master of many genres, this group brings out the very best in his colorful, intense playing. The pianist is the sensitive and original Søren Kjærgaard, and the drummer is the phenomenal RJ Miller from NYC. The musicality, nuances and dynamics in his drumming have never been more apparent than here.

Years of making music together enable Nicolai to write especially for their individual sounds and powerful personalities.

*Mela / Island Revisited / Rocking Sunday / Levon / Land Of Look Behind / The Receiver
Kondignogen / The Perceive / Myte / St. Elmo's Fire*

Nicolai Munch-Hansen (b), Mads Hyhne (tb), Ned Ferm (ts), Søren Kjærgaard (p), RJ Miller (d)

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