

Christina Dahl – Heartbeats

Heartbeats, the latest release from Danish saxophonist Christina Dahl, marks an exiting departure from the course set on her first two albums. A previous exponent of traditional classic quintet jazz, *Heartbeats* shows Christina Dahl in a funky, direct style with unmistakable soul/jazz, R&B and blues inspiration. This is swinging and catchy music with deep grooves that make it perfect for any disco.

The tunes were written over an eight month period in collaboration with Christina's husband Carsten Dahl, who plays drum and beat tracks as well as piano and keyboards. Using the beats as a starting point for the compositions, the goal was to reach a maximum of emotional expression: "Although there are no real blues tunes on the album", Christina explains, "in many ways, that was the feeling we were looking for. Because blues music is about baring your soul, indeed almost crying through your instrument. There is no middle of the road – you have to give 100 %. What we have tried to do, is to take that blues feeling and put it into something more jazzy and modern."

There was a good atmosphere in the studio from the very start. On the first day of the session, Danish resident Ed Thigpen showed up with his tap-shoes, and with the mikes on he tap-danced and talked about that strange thing "called jazz". It's all on the CD, and it seems as though Thigpen inspired the project and the other musicians with a certain spiritual presence. Aside from Christina and Carsten Dahl, the list of musicians includes bassist Anders Christensen, trumpeter Jesper Riis, trombonist Mads Hyhne, and producer and keyboard player Kæv Gliemann.

Heartbeats appeals to body and soul; the sound is enticing and rich, but Christina and her musicians ensure a deeper expression than that, and the album is still rewarding after many returns.

Kæv Gliemann's production features many subtle details and wild inspirations, but he never loses touch with the material. *Heartbeats* is a varied and well-balanced album with all the multi-faceted details in place in a fascinating and intensely pulsating musical journey.

Heartbeats proves that Christina Dahl - as in the title of one of tracks, *Funky Fætter* – indeed is a 'funky guy'!

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