

Snorre Kirk

BEAT

CD, LP and digital

Stunt Records



Stunt Records CD

STULP 18141



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There are very few younger musicians who have bridged jazz genres as well as the Norwegian-born drummer, composer, and bandleader Snorre Kirk has. On his fourth release, listeners are presented with a repertoire and lineup that clearly shows it is in every way a so-called “working band” (even a hard-working band!), with personal and distinctive soloists in every role.

As a bandleader and composer, Snorre found it essential to become familiar with the musical DNA of his bandmates in order to tailor his works specifically to individual soloists, creating a unique sound carried by the compositions - gifted and fresh - and with the flair of the composer’s desire to investigate and master many of the different elements and directions of jazz history.

It is on the road, at the band’s many concerts at home and abroad, that there is space and the opportunity to test, adapt, and refine the material so that a very personal group sound can be developed – not unlike the path of Duke Ellington and his Orchestra – integral to the growth of such a unique and independent, living entity of an ensemble.

BEAT contains eight of Snorre’s own tracks, as well as an anomaly in the form of a piece by bassist Juan Tizol (of Duke Ellington’s Orchestra) - the seldom heard and even more rarely performed piece, Zanzibar. “It’s certainly not a coincidence that the number is included,” Snorre explains.

“I’ve been working on some of jazz’s more exotic pieces, so crossing paths with Tizol was inevitable. His ‘Caravan’ from 1936 created a school in itself, and his ability as one of the first to create music inspired by, for example – Latin music – is unparalleled.” Zanzibar had fallen by the wayside for incomprehensible reasons, but is, like Snorre’s own music, pure joy. Glowing with colorful elements, Zanzibar is a gem of a composition, and Snorre has felt a responsibility to keep it alive, while also using it as inspiration.

The remarkably flexible musical talent sits behind the drums in bands with some of the finest names of the Scandinavian jazz scene, and is also often heard with prominent international names such as Diane Schuur, Eric Reed, and Stephen Riley. For this session, Snorre Kirk has gathered a team of some of the toughest Scandinavian musicians, whom he has brought together to honor and pay tribute to their unique voices.



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His debut CD, *BLUES MODERNISM*, arrived in 2012 - a conceptual album with Blues explored from modern angles. Released to critical acclaim, the album ran away with both *Jazz Special* magazine's award for the Best Release of the Year and two Danish Jazz Award nominations. With its successor, *EUROPA*, a pioneering international breakthrough was born, leading to performances at some of the world's leading jazz festivals, including the North Sea Jazz Festival, the Art of Swing Festival in Kansas City and the Pori Jazz Festival in Finland.

With both feet planted firmly in the jazz tradition and an eye towards the future, Snorre Kirk presents new compositions that embrace drums as a solid rhythmic focal point far and wide, from gospel to Latin American inspiration to spherical ballads - and solid swing. From exotic daydreaming to unprecedented and terrestrial blues, Snorre Kirk has a solid and sure direction, regardless of whether or not he looks in the rearview mirror or ahead to the horizon. The music has soul, swing, and is quintessentially cool.

*Tobias Wiklund (corn), Jan Harbeck (ts), Klas Lindquist (as, cl), Magnus Hjorth (p),
Lasse Mørck (b), Snorre Kirk (d).*

Exotica / 18th & Vine / Monaco / Blues Arabesque / Portrait / Blues Overture
/ BEAT / Zanzibar / Bells, Bells, Bells

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