

Snorre Kirk Quartet  
with Stephen Riley

# TANGERINE RHAPSODY

CD + LP + Digital (high and low def.)

Stunt Records

Snorre Kirk – the composer, bandleader, and drummer – has long since made his mark on listeners in Scandinavia and further south. He was 16 when he came from Norway to Helsingør in Denmark, before that having attended music school in Ålesund (north of Bergen), where he played his first gig as a 10-year-old. Instead of military service, he punched tickets at the Copenhagen JazzHouse venue in the evenings, while spending his days studying at Rytmekons (The Rhythmic Music Conservatory) where he had some amazing lessons with Ed Thigpen. It was as close to the source – Jo Jones – as one could get.

The relocated Norwegian, an exquisitely flexible musician with a keen eye for tradition, is known as a loyal drummer and sits behind the kit on stage with some of the finest musicians on the Scandinavian jazz scene as well as prominent international names. In the jazz world, there's an urban legend that drummers are unsuccessful bandleaders – that they don't have the constitution to maintain focus on everything happening on the stage from behind the drums. If there was ever even a hint of truth to this, it has now been effectively debunked. Snorre and his band are voraciously sought-after in Denmark and loved by multiple generations of jazz listeners.

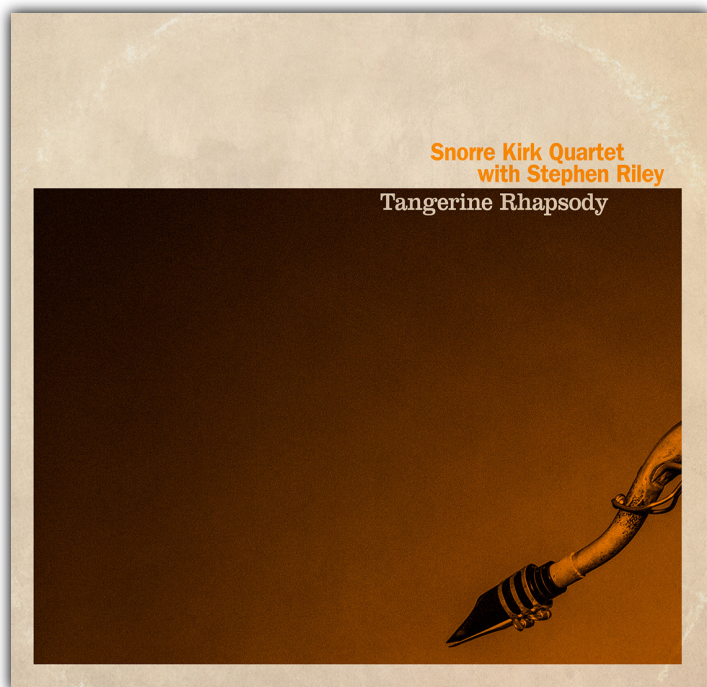
In recent years, we have also seen him flourish as a full-fledged composer. How does a drummer compose such melodic songs, songs that in a silent echo can remind you of something you've heard before and forgotten? "When I get an idea, I hum it on my phone, play it on the piano, and write it down. Other times, the tune suddenly appears and is finished," says Snorre. "When you have listened to so much, you discover things... You can borrow, but not steal." Snorre strives to get better in the form he has chosen, and throughout his development he has delivered five acclaimed albums in his own name.

As both a bandleader and composer, Snorre has found it imperative to become familiar with the musical DNA of the other participants in order to cater his writing specifically to the individual soloists, thereby creating a unique sound. At the same time, he himself is an exquisite instrumentalist.

*Stephen Riley (ts), Magnus Hjorth (p), Anders Fjeldsted (b), Snorre Kirk (d) + Jan Harbeck (ts, # 2 & 3).*

Unsentimental / Tangerine Rhapsody / Blues Jump / West Indian Flower / The Nightingale & The Lake / Uptown Swing Theme / Festival Grease / Nocturne

CD: STUCD 19112, LP: STULP 19111 Snorre Kirk Quartet : TANGERINE RHAPSODY - Stunt Records/Sundance Music ApS.



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STULP 19111



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The German jazz magazine *JazzThing* describes him as a "refined, elegant and mighty swinging drummer" – and the French music magazine *JazzMagazine*, simply: "Révélation!"

And so, we meet both the drummer and composer on TANGERINE RHAPSODIE in collaboration with American tenor saxophonist Stephen Riley and Snorre's regular team featuring pianist Magnus Hjort and bassist Anders Fjeldsted.

Riley has become a popular musician in this part of the world too, with an ever-growing audience. Here, you might have heard him with drummer Thomas Blackman and bassist Lennart Ginman or on one of his numerous, excellent SteepleChase releases. Riley has clearly made his mark after starting at age 17 with stints in both Ray Charles' and Harry Connick Jr.'s orchestras. Since then, he's worked with some of the biggest names and personalities in the Jazz world, from Wynton Marsalis to Norah Jones.

With his sublime tenor sound and unmatched musical prowess, Riley has been hailed by critics, musicians, and jazz connoisseurs as one of the great talents who goes his own way without forgetting the great voices throughout jazz history – Riley is cool, straight-up!

Fortunately, he is also enthusiastic about Snorre's compositions because, in Riley's own words, he has "continued to use jazz's key ingredients (a strong sense of blues and rhythms that actually swing). It is very refreshing to hear a young jazz composer who is not afraid to write and work within the framework of the very definition of jazz."

Riley joined Snorre Kirk on tours in 2012 and 2019. After the latest 16-concert series, two days in the studio were enough to get what they needed. Jan Harbeck, Kirk's regular tenor player and local legend on his home turf, also appears on two tracks. "It was fun with the two tenors," says the bandleader. "You know, no tenor 'battles,' but a little elegant duelling. Because we had integrated the material so well, we managed to avoid the classic situation of 'now we're hiring an American to go to the studio'. It has been very satisfying, if I do say so myself."



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