

Mikkel Nordsø Band

NINE

Stunt Records

The dynamic new album from the Mikkel Nordsø Band features guest artists including Al Agami, Caroline Franceska, and harmonica wizard Matthias Heise. The bandleader shares some insights into recording during a pandemic and reflects on 36 years with the same steady core of musicians.

"... 'Scuse me while I kiss the sky!"

The famous line, delivered by Jimi Hendrix in Purple Haze, could just as well be from the life and lips of Mikkel Nordsø. His sound and speedy dexterity is legendary, and his talent has had the Copenhagen guitarist up in the atmosphere – *kissing the sky* – for decades now.

The cover art for the new album (entitled NINE) was created by Mikkel's son, Benjamin Nordsø, and is a celebration of the iconic Fender Stratocaster guitar, offering a fittingly wild visual pairing with the arsenal of electric guitars and pedals that are sonically weaponized on the recording.

The now 65-year-old Mikkel Nordsø was first fully launched into Danish stardom when he co-created Buki-Yamaz along with his brothers and some friends from the Bernadotte School. His next major moment in the spotlight came when he joined forces with Sanne Salomonsen and Jacob Andersen in Sneakers – a band with a sound built both on the sophistication and true rock'n'roll attack flooding from his instrument.



STUCD 21052

When the members of Sneakers went their separate ways, it was a natural next step to form the Mikkel Nordsø Band, and since then the group has maintained its iconic status as a launch pad for guitar playing of a special and singular standard.

Throughout the years, the Mikkel Nordsø Band has been the best Latin-rock band in Northern Europe and famous for its world-class percussionists, among other things. On NINE, the percussion section credits go to timbales phenomenon (and the recently, tragically, and unexpectedly departed) Jacob Andersen (1960-2021), as well Cuban conga master, Eliel Lazo, aka *Hands of God*. Ole Theill returns behind the drums and Peter Danstrup fans the flames with his dense, funky electric bass playing. Finally, there's Ben Besiakov on keyboards and Mikkel Nordsø, the bandleader himself, captaining the whole ship.

In their studio in Copenhagen, Mikkel Nordsø and his crew are perpetually active, constantly creating music in all conceivable forms – and the next generation is already well established. Frederik Nordsø (Mikkel's son, known from The William Blakes and the Speed of Sound label) assisted with the mixing of the album, and Caroline Frances-



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ka (the daughter of Jacob Andersen and known to many for her work under the alias Shaque Lilli) is featured on *What About Some Love* – a jewel of a song that shines even brighter with the presence of harmonica prodigy Mathias Heise, who treats us to nothing less than the full tonal range of Stevie Wonder's playfulness. Finally, accomplished rapper Al Agami takes listeners for a ride down to the crossroads with the devil himself on *Now Time*.

The music was all created during the 2020 lockdown, with the exception of a single track that dates back to 2019.

Mikkel Nordsø takes us inside the production process during a pandemic:

"When things were semi-open in the summer of 2020, I managed to get some of the musicians in the studio... but otherwise, Jacob and Eliel sent me percussion recordings they made at home. As a band, we've been playing together for so many years that *it just works*. I produced the whole album, and mixed and mastered it together with Frederik. I needed some help (laughs) so my son came and helped clean up the recordings. He's been great and it's so important to have another set of ears."

Nordsø continues: "I've worked with Al Agami for a long time, and Caroline Franciska was also on the previous Nordsø Band album. We used to use Caroline's voice as another instrument, but this time there's a *real song* for her, and I'm super happy about that. I was thinking of this band specifically while I composed the music. It's about making room for all the musicians and personalities. This is a celebration of the band and the long journey we've been on together. And although we haven't been playing in the same room at the same time on all the songs, I sent ideas around to the others and when I got their recordings back, they had gone above and beyond what I wanted – regardless of lockdowns."

Even as a teenager, Mikkel Nordsø was taking audiences on supersonic journeys with his guitar, and today he still rockets us up and away, breaking sound barriers on every ride. But perhaps it's the well-travelled guitarist's ability to reflect while he still burns with the best of them from throughout the history of his instrument and genre. A wise man once said that "*less is more*," but you'll have to 'scuse Mikkel Nordsø while he kisses the sky on NINE!

Mikkel Nordsø (g, synths, beats), Ben Besiakov (p, org, Fender Rhodes), Peter Danstrup (b), Ole Theill (d), Eliel Lazo (perc), Jacob Andersen (perc) AND: Caroline Fransecka (voc), Al Agami (rap), Mathias Heise (harmonica), Jens Haack (sax).

BASS THING / WHAT ABOUT SOME LOVE / THREE FOR YOU / NOW TIME / THROUGH THE WORM HOLE / TEARS OF JOY / 3-6-9 / I COME FROM MY MOTHER

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