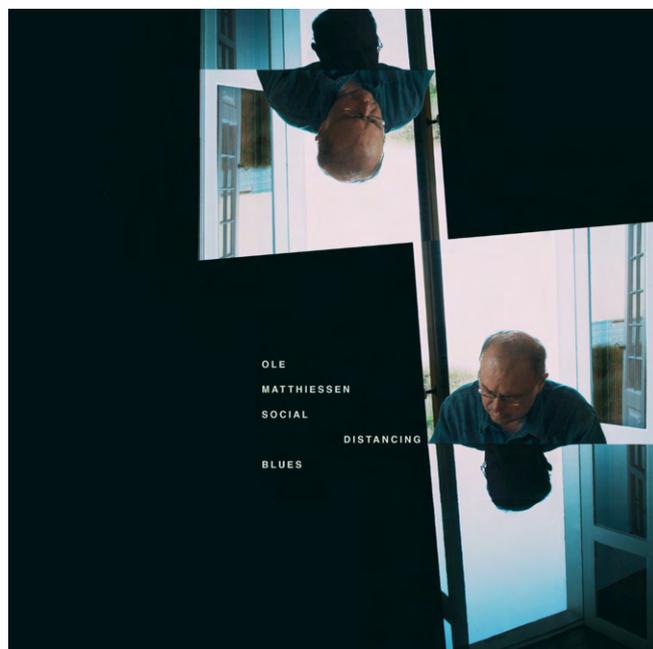


# OLE MATTHIESSEN

## SOCIAL DISTANCING BLUES

Released on CD and digital distribution



Stunt Records

CD: STUCD 21152

SOCIAL DISTANCING BLUES, the new release from Danish pianist and composer Ole Matthiessen, highlights the seminal Jazzman's own compositions which came together during a period marked by conditions determined by the prevailing pandemic.

Ole Matthiessen is a living legend in Danish jazz. The now-75-year-old producer and full-time employee at the iconic DR (Denmark's Radio) Jazz Department has influenced generations of musicians and listeners with his significant and multifaceted contributions to the genre. Through the years, he has overseen the creation of an abundance of recordings with both Danish and foreign musicians, he's authored several books, hosted and produced radio programs, taught and lectured at the revered Rhythmic Music Conservatory... and his endless insight and infectious affinity for Jazz still benefits the readers of *Jazz Special* magazine. Curious minds can even find him on Tuesdays at *Jazzcup* in Copenhagen – Denmark's only jazz specialty store – where he shares his expansive knowledge with anyone who wants or needs advice when thumbing through LPs, CDs, and books.

Ole Matthiessen's incredible resumé is the product of his deep, unwavering love of Jazz. He began playing piano in 1963, and in the years since, he has become known for his musical contributions, accompanying top Danish and international artists. Today, Matthiessen still enjoys a career as an active instrumentalist on stages around Denmark and abroad. As a producer, he has overseen countless recordings with Danish musicians and the DR Big Band, but also with icons throughout the history of Jazz, including Duke Ellington, Ben Webster, Sun Ra, and Miles Davis.

Throughout his storied career, he developed his own relatively straight-ahead voice on piano, unwavering in its appreciation for the tradition and unbridled in its musical curiosity – both in his bands and as an accompanist. This can be heard on his four celebrated, previously-released albums on Stunt Records.

The songs on SOCIAL DISTANCING BLUES were composed, arranged, and recorded during (and on-the-way-out-of) a global pandemic, with eyes and ears firmly focused on the future after a ra-



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ther lengthy 2+ year-long period during which musical life had largely laid dormant. This music is rooted in the legacies of traditional Danish songs and Jazz, interpreted by leading instrumentalists. A variety of singable melodies on steadfast harmonic structures make way for creation in the present moment – the very essence of jazz. Some of the material was composed over the last year or so: *Social Distancing Blues*, *Surivanoroc*, *Morning Mist*, and *Another Me*. *Nothing Yet* was written for DR's Amateur Jazz Competition back in 1967. *Careena*, *Summer Breeze*, *Autumn Song*, and *White and Blue* were not written or intended as a suite, but correspond to four Danish seasonal moods. Listeners are also treated to several musical dedications: *Brother Yusef*, the sound of the great Yusef Lateef in Montmartre; and *Simple Things*, with warmest regards to Eddie Harris. *South African Sunrise* is inspired by both Dollar Brand's music and the live television moment watched by millions around the world in February of 1990 – when Nelson Mandela was freed after 27 years in prison. *Happy Ending* is a simple melody that winds through nine keys.

In the timeless nature of Ole Matthiesen and his generous spirit as an educator and historian, this album contains a gift to those who find inspiration in the songs: PDF files that anyone can download and print from the CD, to create arrangements and read along with the melodies as part of their own musical journeys.

Music unfolds over time. Soprano saxophonist Steve Lacy once said: "As a composer, I have all the time I need to create 15 seconds of music, as a soloist I have 15 seconds. A jazz composition, with the dialogue between improvisation and composition, encompasses both aspects." Ole Matthiesen has done both, and infinitely more: composed the tunes, improvised the solos, produced the albums, written the books, led the interviews, educated the students, introduced the listeners to the artists... and then played, recommended, and sold the albums... There Is No Greater Love than Ole Matthiesen has for Jazz!

Henrik Bolberg (tp, flh), Jan zum Vohrde (as), Bob Rockwell (ts), Lis Wessberg (tb), Ole Matthiessen (p),

Rune Fog-Nielsen (b), Ole Streenberg (d), Eliel Lazo (perc)

*Social Distancing Blues / Another Me / Surivanoroc / Summer Breeze / Careena / Ikke noget endnu / Morning Mist /*

*Brother Yusef / Autumn Song / Simple Things / White and Blue /*

*Happy Ending / Southafrican Sunrise*

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