

"Viridian" Morten Haxholm Quartet – Featuring Lage Lund, Morten Lund & William Larsson

Morten Haxholm – Doublebass
Lage Lund – Guitar
Morten Lund - Drums
William Larsson – Piano

About the album:

I heard Lage Lund for the first time in New York late March 2012. I was in New York to record my debut album (with Jonathan Kresiberg, Ari Hoenig & Frederick Menzies), and I heard Lage play a beautiful concert with his own quartet (and his own compositions) at the Jazz Gallery. His distinctive melodies and abundance of harmonic knowledge, impressed me in a big way, and afterwards I hungrily started listening to his back catalog. Our roads already met again in the summer of 2012, where I was lucky enough to get on his ensemble during Jazz Denmark's summer course for professional musicians: Summer Session at Vallekilde. Late in the autumn of 2013, I talked to Lage during a concert, and found out that he would come to Norway on family visits a few weeks of February 2014. On this occasion, I invited him a trip to Denmark and in the studio with my music .

I would like to give the album a more European sound (compared to the 2 previous albums), but still with a strong New Yorker inspiration, so it was natural for me to ask the Danish drummer Morten Lund and Swedish pianist William Larsson if they would play on the record. **Morten Lund** is a very experienced sideman, who mainly has played jazz from the US and Nordic / European school. One of his most recent albums, is a ECM album with Stefano Bollani trio featuring Bill Frisell and Mark Turner. With his dark and airy cymbal, organic and precise interaction and a dynamic profit, he is a pleasure to play with! **William Larsson** - is part of the younger generation that have made a prominent marks on the Danish jazz scene - with both established and upcoming names. William has previously won a Danish Grammy for this best new name of the year with his band Orpheus. He is very rhythmic in his play, which also can be heard on his number CNTDWN, based on the advanced 5 over 4 rhythm.

For those who may not be familiar with **Lage Lund**, a short presentation: Lage is originally from Skien in Norway, but have lived in New York for the last 15 years. He received his formal jazz education at Berkeley and the renowned elite school Juilliard. In 2005 he won the prestigious international Monk Competition, which opened the jazz world's eyes to his talent. He has since released several albums in his own name, and is an active sideman with names like Ingrid Jensen, Wynton Marsalis, Ron Carter, Maria Schneider, Mulgrew Miller, Eric Revis and Seamus Blake.

I am really happy about the album and despite the new band members it feels as a natural successor to the first 2 "Morten Haxholm Quartet" albums. A connection (or lineage) we also try to underline with the cover design .

About the songs on the album:

Eldritch

I wrote this song after a trip to New York in 2012, inspired by the city and especially by a Lage Lund concert. At the time when I finished this composition, I would never have dreamt that I would play and record it with the man himself! To me one of the highlights of this track is Lage's solo; the way he works with motifs and fragments of the theme, all the way throughout his solo. – I also really like how the outro turned out: William makes some beautiful music within the confines of the challenging "4 over 7/4" and "3 over 7/4" rhythm, and the pretty dense chords.

CNTDWN

As if Coltrane's tune "Countdown" wasn't hard enough, William decided to make a new arrangement, with a melody that is purely in the "5 over 4" rhythm and groupings within that.

Stella By Starlight

An all-time classic, loved by jazz aficionados and jazz musicians alike. I especially like this variation of the chords to the song – borrowing quite a few chords from the original film score.

Frantic

This hectic & frantic theme is inspired by the busyness of the big metropolises all over the world. And also named after that special kind of stress you feel when you are trying to be creative on a deadline. Cool drum solo by Morten on a tricky tripwire form: taking a beat out of the form on each repeat.

Birthday Waltz

Written on my birthday, this song basically wrote itself in 30 min. A musical present that came from out of nowhere. Again a crazy outro with super energy, and action-packed soloing by Lage.

Umber

Umber, and Viridian (the title of the album), is both names of colors. Having painted quite a lot when I was younger, the names of these colors bring back memories of being immersed into the relaxing and creative world of painting pictures. I guess that a great goal for a musician is to inspire some musical pictures - or stories - for the listener.

Gloria

Although Gloria could seem like a high-strung name, or churchly reference, it is actually named after a 50 year old beautiful bike that I inherited from my father.

Along Came Bety

While I love Lage's work on original tunes, I also greatly admire his abilities when playing standards. The motifs, interesting intervals, deep harmonic understanding and crazy chord voicings. All of it reasons for playing the 2 standards on this album, and to highlight the guitar especially, we play them as a trio.

Morten Haxholm, Copenhagen, May 2015

For more information, sheets & transcriptions: check out www.mortenchristian.dk

Contact at mortenhaxholm@gmail.com

Previous albums from Morten Haxholm:

"Equilibrium" – Morten Haxholm Quartet featuring Jonathan Kreisberg, Ari Hoenig & Frederick Menzies (Storyville 2013)

"Quintessence of Dust" – Morten Haxholm Quartet featuring Jonathan Kreisberg, Ari Hoenig & Nikolaj Hess (LongLife Records 2014)

"Moras" – Haxholm Schmidt Moras (Gateway 2015)

"Viridian" – Morten Haxholm Quartet featuring Lage Lund, Morten Lund & William Larsson (Gateway 2015)