

# MORTEN HAXHOLM ENGLISH BIO 2024

Morten Haxholm is an upcoming double bassist, but he has already made his mark on the Danish and the international jazz scene: Graduated in 2013 from the prestigious soloist training at Rytmisk Musikonservatorium i Copenhagen (RMC), and with 8 albums under his own name as well as several tours with his own band (and as a sideman) at home and abroad, he has shown himself to be a composer and double bassist to be reckoned with keep an eye on.

In 2013, Morten released his critically acclaimed debut CD "Equilibrium", where the original compositions were played together with jazz stars Ari Hoenig and Jonathan Kreisberg. They subsequently played successful tours in February 2013 and September 2014, when the second album ("Quintessence of Dust") with the band was released.

In May 2015, the third album under his own name was released: "Viridian", this time with the New Yorker guitarist Lage Lund in front. Likewise, the album "Moras" was released in the spring of 2015, where Morten Haxholm in collaboration with drummer Rasmus Schmidt presented their newly written modern jazz in great company with de American jazz stars: Seamus Blake and John Escreet.

In 2016, Morten Haxholm recorded the album "Tesseract" with his "Chordless Quartet", and with Melissa Aldana (US) as a guest star.

In 2017 Haxholm toured again with his quartet with Kreisberg, Hoenig and Hess and recorded material for new album as well as live concert videos, which were released in 2018 under the name: "Vestigium"

In 2020, "Avalon" was released with the Morten Haxholm KOAN Quintet, which shows a new direction as a composer in modern jazz, with a more minimalistic European jazz sound.

The Nordic and European sound is refined and further developed on the album "AETHER", which was released in 2023. The album was an exploration of Morten Haxholm's family's roots, geographically and spiritually, and can be briefly described as a musical meeting between a Danish folk tune and a modern New Yorker sound. The album was nominated for "Composer of the Year" at the Danish Music Awards 2023.

In addition, Morten Haxholm is engaged in countless Danish jazz, pop and rock projects as a sideman, has a actively work as a composer, and have played with countless Danish musicians such as: Michael Møller & Foreign Lands, Jesper Riis, Jesper Løvdal, Claus Waidtløw, Søren Møller, Nikolej Hess, Jan Harbeck, Bob Rockwell, Jakob Høyer, Mads LaCour, TipToe Bigband and others.

He has also recorded (and played several tours) with international names such as Lionel Loueke, Emma Rawicz, Melissa Aldana, Lage Lund, Gilad Hekselman, Seamus Blake, Dick Oats, John Escreet, Jonathan Kreisberg and Ari Hoenig.

[www.mortenhaxholm.com](http://www.mortenhaxholm.com)

## REVIEWS

### AETHER 2023:

**\*Nominated for best jazz composer of the year 2023\* (Danish Music Awards)**

### Ivan Rod (Gaffa m. fl.) [LINK](#)

listen to Aether once, and you will think that behind the artistic expression lies a virtuoso routine and a rare sense of interplay - in addition to, of course, some solid compositions.

Since Haxholm has at the same time put together a terrific team of musicians: Lubos Soukup on saxophone and clarinet, Rasmus Oppenhagen Krogh (and in a supplementary position, Steffen Nordenstam) on guitar, Nikolaj Hess (or Søren Gemmer on piano) and Jakob Høyer, it all ends in UG.

The music is rigorous, stylistically clear. It is spherical, minimalist and melodic. Yes, in long stretches poignant. For example, listen to a dynamic/organic track like Vesper, and you will (cf. the title of the track) feel transported to a sacred universe at dusk. There is at once something redeemingly beautiful and oppressively wistful about the track, indeed, about most of the tracks on the album.

Throughout, they are minimalistic, refined and beautiful. Just like the solo parts that are included. In moments, the music borders on neoclassical chamber music. In other moments up to the modern jazz, with the particularly Nordic melancholy. In any case - it's beautiful!

\*\*\*\* / *Zach's Music* / 46 min.

### Jazzspecial – November 17th, 2023 (nr 188) [LINK 1](#) [LINK 2](#)

"A beautiful release. Saturated with atmosphere through all eight original compositions, where they are played effortlessly, confidently and each with a contribution to the album's aesthetics.

It is an achievement to maintain such a clear mood and tone throughout an almost full hour. This applies both to the performances of the individual musicians but also to the mature production throughout the album.

In accordance with the genre, the music moves on the edge of an ambient approach, where the experience of the individual tracks flows over each other, and the music almost becomes a meditative state more than a distinct storytelling. It is a genre that, among others, German ECM has worked with for decades.

...Although there are references, the album has distinct integrity and many layers beneath the uniform surface. Small stories appear, change colors, solo performances appear and replace each other. The emotional register is kept in a subdued and slightly melancholic universe, which contributes to the meditative experience. You are firmly held in a loving and warm atmosphere.

...AETHER is a strong and convincing album with vivid and distinctive playing from all the musicians."

### VerhoovensJazz, (Juni 2023) [LINK](#)

...the music, it is contemplative - and comes as mostly restrained and flowing, pearling or swirling as with Henri Texier perhaps or as in the label assortment of **ECM** - intensity within reach.

..Morten Haxholm has designed and implemented a great piece of peace and quiet with *Aether*, that should get around...

### Nagamag (Juni 2023) [LINK](#)

"Deeper mood and melancholic atmosphere full of emotional soundscapes is something that this track is exploring so well.

### SALT PEANUTS (Oktober 2023) [LINK](#)

..«Hilda», som er tilegnet Haxholms bestemor, og som er en vakker og lyrisk sak, som nesten kunne vært en komposisjon av Carl Nielsen eller en av de andre, danske låskriverne som skapte den danske viseskatten..

..samlet sett låter dette som en varm ettermiddag ved en av de danske kystene, hvor både hav og himmel

går i blått..

## REVIEWS - PREVIOUS RELEASES:

Udover en flersidet artikel i Jazzspecial (April-Maj 2015) , og en flot portion airplay af 8 albums på P8 Jazz, har der været flere særdeles positive anmeldelser i den danske såvel som internationale presse:

"Contemporary, and with chops a la carte, the gentlemen delivers to a top grade." ...  
"One of the best rounded, timeless jazz albums, this reviewer have heard in a long time. Star Potential."  
Jazzspecial (DK) fall 2018 [LINK](#)

"..A great album: thinking man's jazz you can pat your foot to..." 5/5 STAR REVIEW  
ALL ABOUT JAZZ, 2018 [LINK](#)

"Det er new yorker jazz af den benhårde slags. Den slags jazz, hvor man næsten ikke tør trække vejret af skræk for, at gå glip af noget. ... Vestigum er jazz fra øverste hylde. "  
Jazznyt, Oct 11 2018 [LINK](#)

ALL ABOUT JAZZ 15 Juli 2015: "Haxholm as a thoughtful and intellectual player who is able to hold his own in the company of some excellent musicians"

POLITIKEN 09 April 2013:  
"...Absolut høreværdig nutidsjazz..."

"JAZZNYT.DK" 19 Februar 2013:  
"...Flere af kompositionerne - f.eks. Giacometti og Ezra - er ganske enkelt meget stærke og interessante. Haxholms basspil er myndigt. Han styrer slagets gang. Det er en imponerende debutplade. Han lægger ud med jazz, der lugter af New York - ikke kun i stil men også i talent og udstråling."

JAZZWISE: "tasteful combination of guile and swing"

JAZZWISE: i top 10 på "the Europe Jazz Media Chart" august + september 2013"

JAZZ WEEKLY: " A nice mix of spaciousness and assertive energy"