

Hommage á Coltrane

"My music is the spiritual extension of what I am – my faith, my knowledge, my being." /John Coltrane

Hommage á Coltrane is a collaborative project including composers Molly Kien, Andrea Tarrodi, Per Egland, Katarina Leyman and the Nordic Saxophone quartet premiered at the Stockholm Concert house 1st of December 2017.

The project premiered in 2017 (50 years since the death of John Coltrane) is our way of acknowledging composer and musician John Coltrane. We've done that by building this project around his musical legacy. The Coltrane legacy stretches all the way into the contemporary art music scene and everyone involved in this project had some relationship to Coltrane and his music.

The idea for the project quickly formed itself to be a concert program with new compositions for saxophone quartet inspired by Coltrane including notated as well as improvised elements.

All composers in the project has created new pieces where all or parts of these compositions relate to a specific piece of music/improvisation by Coltrane.

The program with all its pieces is formed as a concert of 60 minutes.

This program works both on the traditional classical concert stage as well as in a jazz club or a concert venue more devoted to jazz music

The encountering of the worlds of art music and jazz is exiting and the borders between free form jazz and contemporary art music is sometimes almost invisible. From this point of view it would be amazing to bring this music to an audience who's not the regular visitor to the art music scene.

An extended idea with this project is to have a local jazz musician to react to our compositions and add shorter improvised comments during our show (this will extend the length of the program to more than 60 minutes) The concert can also be in several sets starting with our program with contemporary music inspired by Coltrane followed by a jazz group doing a set of jazz music.

Our ambition is not to make jazz music but to create music from our musical world of the contemporary art music and stretch the limits.

Some personal thoughts and links to web pages and audio clips.



Katarina Leyman: As a young piano student I was deeply inspired by McCoy Tyner (pianist with Coltrane) and my first trembling steps as a composer was in the style of him.

This led to Coltrane a musical powerhouse with no comparison! Lately contemporary classical music has been my main focus but now I feel ready to encounter my early influences of jazz. I want to explore the music of Coltrane using my own techniques, bring in different elements and see how far I can take them and still be true to my own sound and expression. Finding my way between the two worlds, or rather find and define my place in both worlds. Explore the contrasts as well as the common expressions. This will be done in close collaboration with the musicians who are to perform the music. Writing for saxophone quartet in this case feels obvious and natural and was the starting point of the whole project.

www.katarinaleyman.com

<https://soundcloud.com/katle/sets/katarina-leyman-mixed-music/s-ZFQLO>

Per Eglund: *I've always been fascinated by John Coltrane who possessed an incredibly strong identity as a musician and composer. Musically he travelled between the jazz and some other highly remarkable musical world. Sometimes I get the feeling that Coltrane and Alexander Scriabin had a special bond, at least they should have had that – in another highly remarkable world.*

<http://www.peregland.se>

<https://soundcloud.com/per-egland-composer/sets/per-egland-composer>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVXzfi9kAu8>



Andrea Tarrodi: *In my piece I've used the famous Coltrane album Ballads, a recording that was played a lot during my childhood and I remember my parents listening to it at nights when I've gone to bed.*

Two years ago when my brain was going high speed and I had a thousand ideas almost impossible to get my head around then I found my way back to this recording and this was a pure physical experience to see how I directly relaxed and found a state of mental calmness again. Such a great feeling! This is the kind of feeling that I'll examine and hopefully catch in this piece.

<http://www.andreatarrodi.com>

<http://www.andreatarrodi.com/albums/>

<http://www.andreatarrodi.com/videos/>

Molly Kien: *The music of John Coltrane — A visceral experience. My first experience of John Coltrane came when I was a child and my mother told me how his music took over her nerve system. She told me that it was neither an intellectual nor an emotional experience, rather that one feels the music throughout the body.*

This is something I've been thinking about a lot over the years, both when I listen to music but also when composing; to listen to music can actually be a physical, visceral experience. With a piece for saxophone quartet I'd like to examine what it is about Coltrane that has such an effect on the listener, while at the same time exploring the many possibilities with the saxophone.

www.mollykien.com

<http://www.mollykien.com/listen>





Kicking off their career with a highly successful debut tour in Norway in 2002, the **Nordic Saxophone Quartet (NSQ)** and its members continues their ambitious work in collaborating with composers and musicians from all over the world. The ensemble consists of four of the most prominent saxophonists of Scandinavia who continuously tours the world with recent performances in South Africa, South America, USA, Ukraine, the Baltic countries, Iran, France, Turkey and the Nordic countries.

Both press and audience have hailed the NSQ for its delicate and sensitive musicianship.

Since 2014 the Nordic Saxophone Quartet is collaborating with world-renowned saxophone maker Henri Selmer Paris as well as wind instrument retailer Jonas Näslund AB.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXbZrcNbKzE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoTCgRd4KEI>

JOHANNES THORELL – soprano saxophone - is one of Scandinavia's leading saxophonists. He made his soloist debut with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra in 2002 performing the hugely demanding saxophone concerto by Edison Denisov, a performance that was given a rousing reception by both press and audience.

Since then Thorell has received numeral prizes and grants, including a first prize in the Wolfgang Jacobi competition in Munich together with pianist Magnus Sköld and the Rosenborg/Gehrmans grant. He has received major grants from the Swedish Arts Grants Committee and was a prizewinner at the Biel/Bienne competition for contemporary music.

Johannes is artistic director for the Nordic Saxophone Festival.

Thorell frequently tours the world with different programs and ensembles and performs regularly with pianist Magnus Sköld, the Swedish Wind Ensemble and the Nordic Saxophone Quartet.

In 2011 Johannes released his debut CD *the forbidden saxophone* (dBCD138) together with pianist Magnus Sköld that in 2012 was followed by the CD *Far North* (dBCD150). Johannes is a Henri Selmer Paris performing artist.

MARTIN ERIKSSON – alto saxophone graduated from the Royal College of Music in Stockholm in 1990 and has been working with the Swedish wind ensemble ever since currently serving as principal saxophonist.

Martin is regularly hired by the top orchestras in Sweden and has performed with many prominent conductors like Valery Gergiev, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Daniel Harding, Sixten Ehrling, Jevgenij Svetlanov, Neeme Järvi a.o.

Since 2001 Martin is working at Ingesund School of music at Karlstad University teaching saxophone, saxophone methodology and chamber music. He is also highly in demand to give master classes in saxophone and chamber music.

Martin has performed in numerous recordings, TV-broadcasts, radio broadcasts and international tours.

MATIAS KARLSEN BJÖRNSTAD – tenor saxophone

Matias graduated from the Royal College of Music in Stockholm in (2011) with a master of fine arts and has also participated in master classes with saxophonists Vincent David, Claude Delangle och Arno Bornkamp. As freelance musician Matias performs with numerous orchestras in Sweden like the Royal Opera in Stockholm, Norrlandsoperan and Swedish Wind Ensemble. He is widely appreciated for his responsive and sensitive musicianship and is regularly invited to perform with ensembles like Curious Chamber players and the Stockholm Saxophone quartet. Matias has toured in Russian, the Ukraine, Turkey, Iran and the USA. Matias has received grants from the royal Swedish academy of music and the Swedish arts grants committee.

ARNULV STEINSVIK – baritone saxophone

Since graduating from the Royal College of Music in Stockholm Arnulv has devoted himself to coaching and conducting wind bands and to perform with chamber ensembles like Nordic fusion 6. He has performed with several of the Swedish and Norwegian symphony orchestras and has given master classes in saxophone and chamber music at the musical academies in Tromsø and Ingesund. Together with his wife he is artistic director of concert series Hadsel live.

More information and booking:

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