

ACT Family Band

The Jubilee Concerts

ACT



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ACT 9860-2

- 01** Nils Landgren & Michael Wollny
Send In The Clowns
- 02** Landgren / Wollny / Danielsson / Wakenius / Haffner
Walk Tall
- 03** Dieter Ilg & Lars Danielsson
Savannah Samurai
- 04** Lê / Rantala / Landgren / Danielsson / Ilg
Suffering
- 05** Joachim Kühn & Emile Parisien
Missing A Page
- 06** Bałdych / Kühn / Ilg / Schaefer
Quo Vadis
- 07** Parisien / Peirani / Schaerer / Wollny
B&H
- 08** Tears For Esbjörn feat. Ruben & Noa Svensson
Dodge The Dodo
- 09** ACT Family Band feat. Ida Sand
We Are Family

Recorded live at Konzerthaus Berlin

**An ACT concert production in cooperation with Konzerthaus Berlin
Curated by Siggı Loch**





What an evening it was and what a fantastic job Klaus Scheuermann has done recording and mixing it. He has not only captured the excitement of the moment, he has made it even better than any of us would imagine. Such a joy to listen to all these fabulous friends and musicians performing on a level beyond imagination. Each and everyone is delivering and delivering and delivering ... I am totally blown away listening to the tracks. All of them!

Noa and Ruben nailing “Dodge The Dodo” was a blast! And then Ida comes in and just blows everybody away with her version of “We Are Family”.

I am so grateful for the invitation to be a part of this unforgettable evening, both as musician, moderator and friend.

We ARE family. Not just any family. We are the ACT family!

Nils Landgren

01 Send In The Clowns (Stephen Sondheim) 5:12

Nils Landgren, trombone & vocals / Michael Wollny, piano

02 Walk Tall (Esther Marrow, James Rein & Joe Zawinul) 5:44

Nils Landgren, trombone / Michael Wollny, piano / Ulf Wakenius, guitar / Lars Danielsson, bass / Wolfgang Haffner, drums

03 Savannah Samurai (Dieter Ilg) 6:25

Dieter Ilg & Lars Danielsson, bass

04 Suffering (Lars Danielsson) 9:25

Nguyễn Lê, guitar / Iiro Rantala, piano / Nils Landgren, trombone / Lars Danielsson, cello / Dieter Ilg, bass

05 Missing A Page (Joachim Kühn) 6:43

Joachim Kühn, piano / Emile Parisien, saxophone

06 Quo Vadis (Zbigniew Seifert) 10:18

Adam Bałdych, violin / Joachim Kühn, piano / Dieter Ilg, bass / Eric Schaefer, drums

07 B&H (Vincent Peirani) 12:15

Andreas Schaerer, voice / Emile Parisien, saxophone / Vincent Peirani, accordion / Michael Wollny, piano

08 Dodge The Dodo (Esbjörn Svensson, Magnus Öström & Dan Berglund) 7:25

Iiro Rantala, piano / Adam Bałdych, violin / Magnus Lindgren, flute & arranger / Nils Landgren, trombone / Lars Danielsson, bass / Ulf Wakenius, guitar

Ruben Svensson, guitar (& solo) / Noa Svensson, drums

09 We Are Family (Bernard Edwards & Nile Rodgers) 5:34

Ida Sand (lead), Cæcilie Norby, Viktoria Tolstoy & Andreas Schaerer, vocals / Nils Landgren, trombone / Magnus Lindgren & Emile Parisien, saxophones

Adam Bałdych, violin / Michael Wollny & Jan Lundgren, piano / Joachim Kühn, fender rhodes / Vincent Peirani, accordion / Ulf Wakenius & Nguyễn Lê, guitars

Lars Danielsson & Dieter Ilg, bass / Wolfgang Haffner & Morten Lund, drums

Curated by Siggi Loch

Recorded by Klaus Scheuermann live at Konzerthaus Berlin, April 2, 2017 / Mixed and mastered by Klaus Scheuermann

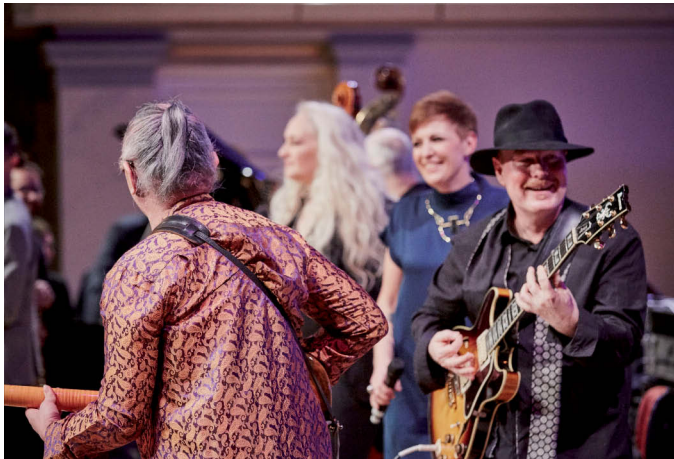
An ACT Music concert production in cooperation with Konzerthaus Berlin / Concert production: Andreas Brandis, Marco Ostrowski & Astrid Rysavy

Press & communication: Michael Gottfried / Guest management & back office: Katja Weber, Oliver Mohr & Petra Deka

Photos by Gregor Hohenberg

Design by Peter Krüll

ACT would like to thank: All the incredible musicians taking part in the Jubilee Concerts, Prof. Dr. Sebastian Nordmann and the whole Konzerthaus staff, Jan Ugand, Klaus Scheuermann and Werner Audio, Peter Krüll & Jutta Stolte, Kulturkaufhaus Dussmann, and last but not least all the music lovers who have supported ACT during the last 25 years.



Dieter Ilg & Lars Danielsson
 Nguyễn Lê, Cæcilie Norby, Ida Sand & Ulf Wakenius

Michael Wollny
 Eric Schaefer & Wolfgang Haffner

Wer das Glück hatte, noch Karten für die große ACT Geburtstagsfeier im Berliner Konzerthaus zu ergattern, der wird den Abend nicht vergessen. Denn es ging ihm vermutlich nicht anders als den zahlreich anwesenden Medienvertretern, die zum 25. Labeljubiläum vor Ort waren: „Was für ein ACT!“ titelte zum Beispiel „Spiegel Online“ und befand, es seien „Konstellationen zustande gekommen, bei denen jedem, dem Jazz am Herzen liegt, nicht mehr bange um die Zukunft des Genres sein muss.“ Die FAZ schließlich stellte fest: „Die ACT Family Band war ein Allstar-Ensemble, wie es so bald kein zweites in der Jazzgeschichte geben wird“.

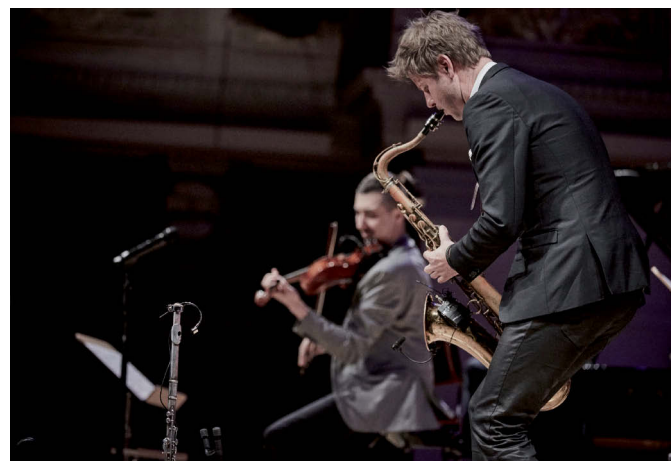
In der Tat dokumentiert der Livemitschnitt den für ACT-Künstler typischen „Spirit of Jazz“ und damit, wie das Label mit bislang gut 500 Alben ein Viertel der Jazzgeschichte begleitet und in Teilen mitgeprägt hat: Ist doch jeder der hier beteiligten Musiker ein Ausnahmetalent mit herausragenden solistischen Qualitäten und eigenen Projekten, zugleich aber aufgeschlossen für die Inspiration, die sich aus der Begegnung mit seinen Kollegen ergibt. Auf dieses Netzwerk der ACT-Künstlerfamilie legte Labelchef Siggı Loch von Anfang an großen Wert, und welchen Gewinn das einbringt, zeigt das Jubilee Concert.

Alles, was Nils Landgren, als integrales Zentralgestirn der europäischen Jazzszene so etwas wie der ACT-Mannschaftskapitän, als Moderator präsentierte, war außergewöhnlich. Ob nun Jung und Alt auf verblüffende Weise miteinander kommunizierten wie Joachim Kühn mit Emile Parisien; ob die Bassisten Dieter Ilg und Lars Danielsson im Duo miteinander spielten und jede Emotion freilegten, die man mit ihrem Instrument erregen kann; ob ein bestens eingespieltes Ensemble wie das Quintett mit Landgren, Danielsson, Michael Wollny, Ulf Wakenius und Wolfgang Haffner mit „Walk Tall“ gospeligen Groove zelebrierte; oder ob mit Wollny, Parisien, dem Akkordeonisten Vincent Peirani und dem Stimmakrobaten Andreas Schaerer vier der herausragenden „jungen Wilden“ Europas die überkommenen Stil- und Genre Grenzen über den Haufen warfen. Berührender Höhepunkt ist „Dodge The Dodo“, einer jener Standards des „Great European Songbooks“, die der unvergessene, viel zu früh gestorbene Esbjörn Svensson geschrieben hat: Brillieren bei dieser Hommage doch nicht nur Iiro Rantala am Flügel, der polnische Geiger Adam Bałdych und der jüngste ACT-Zuwachs Magnus Lindgren an der Flöte, sondern auch die beiden Söhne Svenssons, Noa am Schlagzeug und Ruben an der Gitarre.

Ein Symbol für die nächste Jazzgeneration und eine nicht zu übertreffende Einleitung für das große Finale, bei dem alle mitsangen und -spielten: Denn da stimmte Ida Sand jenen Nile Rodgers-Titel an, der den Kern des Abends wie der 25 Jahre, die es zu feiern galt, perfekt einfiel: „We Are Family“. Oder wie es Nils Landgren formuliert: „Wir sind eine Familie. Nicht einfach irgendeine Familie. Wir sind die ACT-Familie!“

Oliver Hochkeppel





Iiro Rantala
Noa Svensson, Ulf Wakenius & Ruben Svensson

Nils Landgren, Noa Svensson, Magnus Lindgren & Ulf Wakenius
Adam Bałdych & Magnus Lindgren

“We fly like birds of a feather,” runs the Sister Sledge lyric. And so the musicians did. They flocked to Berlin, thirty-four of them, from several European countries, and from several different generations – all for the ACT label’s 25th Anniversary concerts in the Konzerthaus on April 2nd 2017. All are artists who have found a nurturing home for their projects and their talents on the label. The date marked exactly twenty-five years – and one day – since ACT put out its very first release in 1992. Three things were rolled into one: a day of very fine concerts, a celebration of the passing of an important milestone, and a happy gathering for the label-as-family.

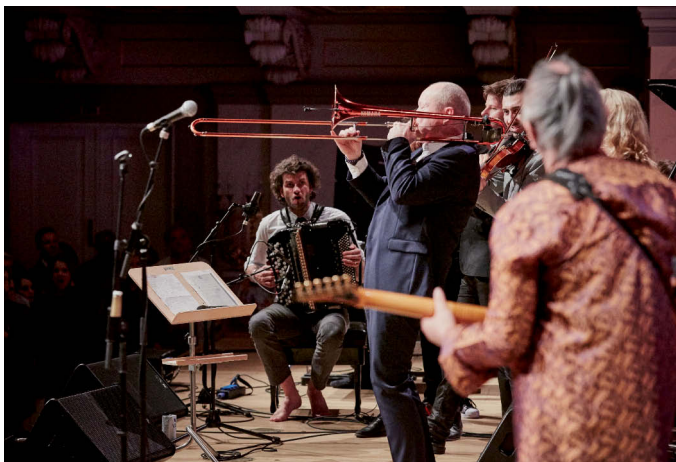
The album features three trans-national duos. French saxophonist Emile Parisien and German pianist Joachim Kühn brought high-voltage excitement, and were rewarded by a monster roar from the Berlin crowd. The two double basses of Lars Danielsson and Dieter Ilg channelled pure joy, good humour, bonhomie and mischief. The duo of Nils Landgren and Michael Wollny brought warmth, affection, and wistful poetry and beauty to Sondheim’s “Send In The Clowns,” which opens the album. Then there was a special one-off formation of Nils Landgren’s Funk Unit in “Walk Tall,” the band propelled by Wolfgang Haffner’s crisp, in-the-pocket drumming.

One of the features of the ACT label is that founder Siggı Loch is a natural connector and helps the formation of new bands. A quintet around Nguyễn Lê and a quartet led by Adam Bałdych were created especially for the evening. Lars Danielsson’s “Suffering” has as its first soloists two ACT cornerstone artists who have helped to define the many-sided identity of the label: Nguyễn Lê and Nils Landgren. Another more established quartet which ACT has helped into existence is the supergroup of Andreas Schaerer, Emile Parisien, Vincent Peirani, and Michael Wollny. “B&H” shows these four stars of European jazz, all similar age, keeping each other and the audience on their toes.

A celebration like this could understandably run the risk of drifting into memory and nostalgia. This one didn’t. One moment even found an inspired way to look to the future. The listener might wonder who the drummer and guitarist are, playing with such ease, flow and total assurance on “Dodge The Dodo.” They are Noa and Ruben Svensson, sons of the much-missed Esbjörn.

And then there is the finale. Having flown to Berlin “like birds of a feather,” the combined ensemble, led by Ida Sand, launched into “We Are Family.” As an expression of togetherness, and a shared joyous ethos it would be hard to beat. Mike Flynn of Jazzwise wrote in his review of the concert that the ACT label has “a smile on its face and a swagger in its step.” This album will bring both to the listener as well.

Sebastian Scotney



Vincent Peirani, Nils Landgren, Magnus Lindgren,
Adam Batdych & Nguyễn Lê
Michael Wollny, Emile Parisien, Andreas Schaerer & Vincent Peirani



Joachim Kühn & Emile Parisien



"Today ACT is considered one of the finest curators of progressive jazz and creative music. "

Downbeat, US

"All pointed to a label in its prime, embracing the new, while respecting the old, nurturing both emerging and established stars, ACT coming of age with a smile on its face and a swagger in its step."

Jazzwise, GB

"Jazz in all its forms."

Le Figaro, FR

"What an ACT!"

SPIEGEL Online, DE



Siggie Loch, Nils Landgren & The ACT Family Band

ACT team: Michael Gottfried, Katja Weber, Marco Ostrowski, Oliver Mohr, Petra Deka, Siggie Loch & Andreas Brandis