

**ACT**

# LARS DANIELSSON

## MÉLANGE BLEU

feat.  
Bugge Wesseltoft  
Nils Petter Molvaer

ACT 9604-2

German Release Date: September 1, 2006

LC 07644



### The gentle attraction of beauty

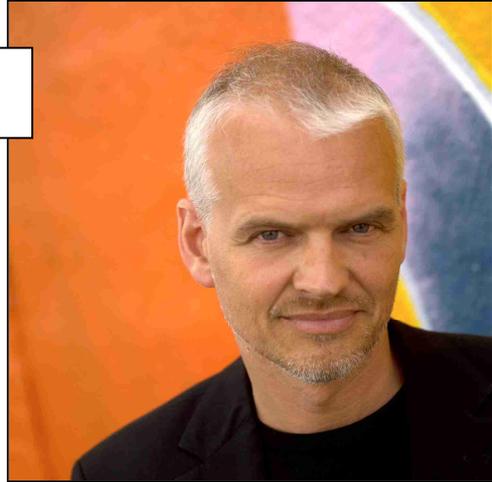
**“Mélange Bleu” by bass player, cellist and composer Lars Danielsson - the art of subtly blended colours**

Lars Danielsson ACT-debut “Liberate me” (ACTSACD 9800-2) left no doubts about his creative versatility. And yet: the bass player, cellist and composer continues to surprise. His latest ACT-release “Mélange Bleu” (ACT 9604-2) shows up a completely new dimension to this musician with enormous potential. Danielsson has surrounded himself with partners like pianist Bugge Wesseltoft, trumpeter Nils Petter Molvaer und guitarist Eivind Aarset, all of them specialists for mood music that often develops in before a backdrop of ambient inspired sounds, samples and programmed beats. Danielsson takes the same route on this recording, but adds a very personal touch, blending the electronic parts subtly with acoustic instruments and orchestral arrangements. Each musical ingredient is quietly and subtly integrated into a thoughtful and carefully crafted composition, Danielsson’s “Mélange Bleu” develops a gentle attraction through its lyrical beauty and finely honed details.

**Lars Danielsson has mastered the art of carefully developing** even the finest nuances into a coherent whole. Born in 1958 and trained in classical cello at the conservatory of his hometown Gothenburg before he turned to the bass and jazz music, Danielsson is a musician who has developed a new quality of beauty in sound. He has cultivated an uncommonly tangible, mellow and soft tone that is at once round and gentle. No matter which of the little solo parts (Tracks 5,7,8 or 10 on “Mélange Bleu”, just to mention some of the more prominent ones) we listen to: seldom have we heard a bass or cello in jazz played with such subtle strength and roundness. As a composer, Danielsson has a great feel for elegant, soaring melodies. He uses his great versatility almost casually: Alongside the cello and the double bass, he plays fender bass, piano and fender rhodes, yet he never loses his overview, and he contributes meaningful and charmingly understated parts on all these instruments.

**The ten tracks on this CD form an organic whole.** Simple and accessible motivic fragments serve as hooks, but convey a fleeting and airy quality, especially on track 4, “Ironside”. The introverted trumpet and cello melancholia of the almost twenty-minute “Judas Bolero” develops into a delicate orchestral opulence, which condenses more and more as the piece progresses, and hints at the Miles Davis/Gil Evans classic “Sketches Of Spain”. But this is less of a cross reference, than a multi-dimensional continuation. Danielsson creates a tonal universe in which romanticism, ambient echoes and an intense, dramatic, harmonically complex contemporary jazz combine in an excitingly matter-of-fact way.

**Danielsson’s soundscapes are at once succinct and enthralling**, at times leaning towards the dark and mysterious (track 6, “Minor People”), toward the light and rhythmic (track 7, “Sketches Of Twelve”), at times angular with lyrical resolutions (track 8, “Naive”) or with an almost mechanical, driving energy (track 9, “Bacchanalia”). And yet the album never feels like a patchwork, because Danielsson’s lyrical strength and his quiet but glorious competence as a soloist draw the tracks together into a coherent and convincing whole. The leader has a commanding presence, and yet he leaves ample room for his all-star cast to shine. Bugge Wesseltoft and Nils Petter Molvaer contribute wonderful solos. Drummer Jon Christensen’s quiet art makes him constantly recognizable as an essential creative partner in this project. This is a CD that takes us on new and astounding musical journeys. And more so, the more we listen. “Mélange Bleu”: an imaginative work of art, subtly blending a myriad of tonal colours.

**ACT****LARS DANIELSSON****The CD:**

Lars Danielsson feat. Bugge Wesseltoft & Nils Petter Molvaer – Mélange Bleu – ACT 9604-2 – LC 07644

**Line Up:**

Lars Danielsson - cello, acoustic bass, Fender bass, piano, Fender Rhodes  
 Bugge Wesseltoft - piano  
 Nils Petter Molvaer – trumpet  
 Eivind Aarset - guitar  
 Jon Christensen - drums, percussion  
 Jan Bang - samples, livesampling  
 Anders Engen - drums  
 Pål "Strangefruit" Nyhus - vinyl channeling  
 Vytas & Mario Basanov - beats & samples  
 Caecilie Norby - voices  
 Gustaf Ljunggren - steel guitar, synthesizer  
 Xavier Desandre Navarre - percussion  
 Copenhagen Concert Orchestra directed by Henrik Vagn Christensen

**Tracks:**

01 Mélange Bleu 3:59    02 Makro 5.29    03 Les Coulisses 4.47    04 Ironside 7.39    05 Judas Bolero 19.49  
 06 Minor People 3.52    07 Sketches of Twelve 10.33    08 Naive 05.28    09 Bacchanalia 4.07  
 10 After Zero 4.17  
 Total time: 70:26

Produced by Lars Danielsson  
 Executive Producer: Siegfried Loch

Recorded at Rainbow Studio, Oslo by Jan Erik Kongshaug

Additional recording at:

Nilento Studios Göteborg by Lars Nilsson & Bo Savik, Tia Dia Studios Mölnlycke by Lars Danielsson,  
 Danish Radio, Copenhagen by Lars Bruun, Pantin Plage studio by Suzanne Desandre Navarre,  
 7Etag Oslo by Reidar Skår

**Lars Danielsson on ACT:**

ACT 9800-2    Libera Me    Lars Danielsson mit David Liebman, Jon Christensen a.o.  
 ACT 9445-2    Salza Music On The Water    Lars Danielsson / Christopher Dell / Nils Landgren

**Distributor:**

Edel Contraire (D), edel Musica (A), Musikvertrieb (CH), Harmonia Mundi (F), Proper Music (UK), Karonte (E),  
 Dargil (P), Egea (I), Musikklosen (N), Amigo (Scan excl. DK), Sundance (DK), A&N Records (GR), Equinox Music (TR),  
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 Records (ROK), Gramofon (BIH), Dukyan Meloman (BG), INTEK (SLO+HR), Southbound Records (NZ), Divyd (SK),  
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