

ACT

with e.s.t. Symphony, Nils Landgren,
Michael Wollny & Vincent Peirani,
Iiro Rantala, Viktoria Tolstoy uvm

Magic Moments 9 ACT 9820-2

German release date: 26.08.2016

Presenting the 9th edition of ACT's popular Magic Moments series.

This CD presents sixty-five minutes of the best of current jazz. Thoughtful moments sit alongside pure joy and entertainment. Coruscating energy is there, but serene contemplation too. With established ACT stars and promising newcomers, this is music for open ears, for the mind and soul. And for everyone who loves good music.

"Jazz is the freedom to play anything." At ACT, we let those words of Duke Ellington resonate through everything we do. Our releases do not adhere to a single musical canon or to a fixed sound aesthetic. Our motto is: "in the spirit of jazz." Jazz is at the centre of our vision, because we delight in its openness to so many strands and inspirations: classical music, music from other traditions, and pop and rock.

Magic Moments 9 opens with a homage straight from the heart to a person we all miss in the ACT family; the first track is a symphonic interpretation of the e.s.t. piece "From Gagarin's Point Of View," remembering pianist Esbjörn Svensson.

"ACT seems to be on a mission to introduce the world to Europe's rising new jazz-classical pianists", wrote John Fordham in The Guardian a couple of years ago. We have continued further along that path and Magic Moments 9 offers vivid reports from some places where that continuing journey has taken us. We take in Schloss Elmau in Bavaria, where the new duo CD by Michael Wollny and accordionist Vincent Peirani was recorded. From their album we hear "The Kiss." Plus we travel to Austria and then to Martinique: two piano players who are both making their hugely promising debuts on the label are David Helbock and Grégory Privat.

We also hear from two pianists of renown: the 'old master' Joachim Kühn is joined by his 'young lions' Eric Schaefer (drums) and Chris Jennings (bass) for a refreshing take on "Sleep on it," a reggae-dub number by the French band Stand High Patrol. Iiro Rantala is on fine form in the "super-trio" with Lars Danielsson and Peter Erskine. They play Kenny Barron's "Voyage" with a Finnish lightness of touch.

Magic Moments 9 in the spirit of jazz

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Der Tagesspiegel wrote of the "Jazz at the Berlin Philharmonic" concerts: "This is jazz history in the making". We have released recordings of two further completely memorable evenings in one of Europe's great halls: in "Tears for Esbjörn," a group consisting of stars of the ACT label unite to pay homage to Esbjörn Svensson. In "Celtic Roots" we set off into the swirling mists of the North, in search of the Celtic influences on jazz.

ACT is the place to hear European sounds. A good example is the new Mare Nostrum recording, seven years after the first. In the track "Kristallen den fina," Jan Lundgren und Paolo Fresu have combined the musical hues of Sweden and of Italy, and the results are magical. For more than 20 years, Nils Landgren has been setting the agenda for European jazz like no other musician. His project "Some Other Time" also draws its inspiration from the other side of the Atlantic. He pays tribute to the great Leonard Bernstein, deploying all of the rich textural possibilities offered by the Bochum Symphony Orchestra. Swedish pianist Jan Lundgren, with a classical string quartet honours one of the great pioneers of Swedish jazz, Jan Johansson. In "Lycklig resa" (meaning 'bon voyage').

The extraordinary encounter of the guitarists Gerardo Núñez from Spain and Ulf Wakenius from Sweden demonstrates what can happen when an intercultural musical exchange really delivers the goods. The interplay, the sense of flow generated by three Scandinavians Lars Danielsson (b), Marius Neset (sax) und Morten Lund (dr) in their album "sun blowing" is "a testament to the power of spontaneity and trust" (Irish Times) - evident in the track "Folksong."

The Finn Jukka Perkko and a new "strong and distinctively touching voice" (Jazz Magazine) from France Lou Tavano also make their mark, and contribute to the richness of the ACT label's offering of characterful European sounds.

Magic Moments 9, packed with all kinds of excitement and emotion, not only captures an up-to-the-minute snapshot of European jazz in the many different forms it exists today, but also offers a glimpse into its future.

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- 01 From Gagarin's Point Of View*** (Esbjörn Svensson Trio) 3:19 Album: e.s.t. Symphony, ACT 9034-2
Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra conducted & arranged by Hans Ek / Iiro Rantala, piano
- 02 Sleep On It** (Stand High Patrol) 4:15 Album: Beauty & Truth, ACT 9816-2
Joachim Kühn, piano / Chris Jennings, bass / Eric Schaefer, drums
- 03 Folksong** (Lars Danielsson) 5:19 Album: Sun Blowing, ACT 9821-2
Marius Neset, tenor saxophone / Lars Danielsson, bass / Morten Lund, drums
- 04 Mirlo** (Ulf Wakenius) 3:34 Album: Logos, ACT 9822-2
Gerardo Núñez, flamenco guitar / Ulf Wakenius, acoustic nylon string guitar / Cepillo, percussion
- 05 Tears In Heaven** (Eric Clapton & Will Jennings) 3:04 Album: Invisible Man, ACT 9819-2
Jukka Perko, alto saxophone / Jarmo Saari, electric guitar / Teemu Viinikainen, acoustic guitar
- 06 The Call** (Arno de Casanove) 4:30 Album: For You, ACT 9733-2
Lou Tavano, voc / Alexey Asantcheeff, piano / Arno de Casanove, trp / Maxime Berton, b. clarinet / Alexandre Perrot, bass / Ariel Tessier, dr
- 07 The Soul** (David Helbock) 4:44 Album: Into The Mystic, ACT 9833-2
David Helbock, piano / Raphael Preuschl, bass ukulele / Reinhold Schmölzer, drums
- 08 Kristallen den fina** (traditional) 3:48 Album: Mare Nostrum II, ACT 9812-2
Paolo Fresu, fluegelhorn / Jan Lundgren, piano
- 09 Lycklig resa** (Jan Lundgren) 4:43 Album: The Ystad Concert. A Tribute to Jan Johansson, ACT 9814-2
Jan Lundgren, piano / Mattias Svensson, bass / Bonfiglioli Weber String Quartet
- 10 La Maga** (Grégory Privat) 4:31 Album: Family Tree, ACT 9834-2
Grégory Privat, piano / Linley Marthe, bass / Tilo Bertholo, drums
- 11 The Kiss** (Judee Sill) 4:34 Album: Tandem, ACT 9825-2
Michael Wollny, piano / Vincent Peirani, accordina
- 12 A Simple Song** (Leonard Bernstein) 5:43 Album: Some Other Time - A Tribute to Leonard Bernstein, ACT 9813-2
Nils Landgren, trombone / Jan Lundgren, p / Dieter Ilg, b / Wolfgang Haffner, dr / Bochumer Symphoniker arr. & cond. by Vince Mendoza
- 13 Waltz For The Lonely Ones** (Esbjörn Svensson / Lina Nyberg) 3:02 Album: Jazz at Berlin Philharmonic V: Tears For Esbjörn, ACT 9815-2
Viktoria Tolstoy, vocals / Iiro Rantala, piano / Ulf Wakenius, guitar / Lars Danielsson, bass / Morten Lund, drums
- 14 Voyage** (Kenny Barron) 4:18 Album: How Long Is Now?, ACT 9823-2
Iiro Rantala, piano / Lars Danielsson, bass / Peter Erskine, drums
- 15 St. James Infirmary** (traditional) 6:10 Album: Jazz at Berlin Philharmonic VI: Celtic Roots (rehearsal take), ACT 9836-2
Eric Bibb, vocals & guitar / Knut Reiersrud, guitar / Aly Bain, fiddle / Fraser Fifeild, Scottish border pipes / Ale Möller, mandola / Tuva Syvertsen, Hardanger fiddle / Olle Linder, percussion

*edited version

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