

New album out March 3
Christian Vuust: *Urban Hymn* (CD/LP)
A transatlantic jazz encounter

On March 3, 2014, Danish tenor saxophonist and composer Christian Vuust will release the jazz album *Urban Hymn* - a musical encounter between the Scandinavian and American jazz styles.

Urban Hymn was recorded in Manhattan in June 2013 and consists of nine new compositions by Christian Vuust. On the album he is joined by three American musicians, all of them world-renowned jazz artists. The line-up is:

Christian Vuust, tenor saxophone (see short bio on the next page)

Aaron Parks, piano (Joshua Redman et al.; has a new solo album out on ECM)

Ben Street, bass (John Scofield, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Billy Hart)

Jeff Ballard, drums (Brad Mehldau Trio, Ray Charles, Fly)

In the summer of 2013, Christian Vuust left his home in Denmark to settle down for a couple of months in the world's jazz capital, New York City. Here he practiced in the parks, gained inspiration from the city's thriving music scene, composed and performed. Before returning to Europe, he went into the studio to record together with three of his absolute favorite musicians. The result is *Urban Hymn*.

"The process of making this album has been like a dream come true for me: To live and work in New York for a longer period, and to let myself be inspired by the city's diverse and creative environment. And finally, to record my tunes together with incredible musicians. Therefore "Urban Hymn" is my musical tribute to New York City, which holds its grace and vitality against all odds.", says Christian Vuust.

Vuust's compositions have elements of traditional Scandinavian music, American jazz, classical music, and hymns etc. The music is characterized by the meeting between an extroverted American jazz approach and a more impressionistic Scandinavian jazz style.

Vuust continues, *"I feel strongly anchored in the Danish music tradition, with its psalms, traditional tunes, Carl Nielsen, children's songs etc. But I also have a great love for the American jazz tradition, with artists such as Billie Holiday, Lester Young, Miles Davis, Keith Jarrett and many others. With 'Urban Hymn' I have tried to unite these musical passions."*

Urban Hymn is recorded and mixed by *James Farber* (Pat Metheny, Michael Brecker, Charlie Haden, Brad Mehldau, Joe Lovano) and mastered by *Mark Wilder* (Bob Dylan, Herbie Hancock). The album is recorded at legendary *Sear Sound*, New York, which has also been frequented by artists such as Patti Smith, Steely Dan, Wynton Marsalis, Paul McCartney and Sonic Youth.

This release was made possible thanks to support from the City of Aarhus, Danish Arts Foundation, DJBFA, Danish Actors Association and Danish Musicians Union.

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(press photos, album cover, audio etc)

FACT SHEET

about Christian Vuust: *Urban Hymn*

Urban Hymn is released on Aero Music (AERO 008/009), on both CD og LP (180g Heavy Weight Vinyl). Distribution/sale: Pladekisten (www.pladekisten.dk). It is also available on iTunes and Spotify.

Christian Vuust (born 1964) is a jazz saxophonist and composer from Aarhus, Denmark. Associate Professor at the Royal Academy of Music, Aarhus. Has performed on the Scandinavian jazz scene for many years, with Alex Riel, Lars Jansson, Silje Neergaard, Audun Kleive, Hal Crook, Jakob Bro, poet Peter Laugesen and the bands Pauseland, Must and Den Danske Salmeduo. Christian Vuust has studied at Berklee College of Music with George Garzone, Herb Pomeroy, Joseph Viola et al.

***Urban Hymn* tracklist:**

1. Helgenæs
2. Lærke
3. Urban Hymn
4. Rubato NYC
5. Fjer
6. Wedding Song
7. Biking The Big Apple
8. Tompkins Square Park
9. Summer Bygone

All tunes are composed by Christian Vuust

Selected discography (Christian Vuust participates on more than 70 albums)

- Christian Vuust Dynamo feat. Peter Laugesen: *Strøm* (2009)
- Den Danske Salmeduo: *På stjernetopper lyseblå* (2011)
- Ramajam: *Søvnløs på Jupiter* (2009)
- Pauseland: *Palindrome* (2008)
- Must: *Solsort* (2008)
- Northern Voices: *Shaman* (2002)
- Northern Voices: *The Thule Spirit* (1997, Grammy nominee - jazz album of the year)
- Christian Vuust Group: *Aero* (1996)
- Christian Vuust Nordic Quartet: *Stories* (1993)

Press quotes about albums/concerts with Christian Vuust:

"Vuust's playing exudes an unobtrusive authority which, in concert with his smooth rhythmic sense, he creates an ideal balance between statements and expressions."

Boris, Rabinowitsch, Politiken (Danish national daily newspaper)

"Christian Vuust has an masterful tone – inspired!"

Ingmar Glanzelius, Dagens Nyheter (Swedish national daily newspaper)

"Shows the high quality of jazz in our neighboring country. Imaginative and original."

Helsingin Sanomat (Finnish national daily newspaper)