

New album out Oct. 12
Christian Vuust (DK) & Aaron Parks (US):
"Storytelling" (CD incl. book)
Telling a story with music

October 12, 2015, is the release date of the jazz album '**Storytelling**', with Danish tenor saxophonist Christian Vuust and American pianist Aaron Parks. This duo album is unusual in the sense that it is a CD including a 44-page hardback book.

Storytelling is an album in the form of a CD. It is also a book. It is a jazz tribute to beautiful songs.

The CD consists of a collection of classic Danish, American and Cuban popular songs; interpreted by two highly acclaimed jazz musicians - Danish saxophonist Christian Vuust and American pianist Aaron Parks. They share the joy of playing a good song, of singing through their instruments - of telling a story with music.

The book is intended to expand the listening experience. It contains an essay and a poem by Danish poet and jazz lover Peter Laugesen, Vuust's presentation of each of the songs, all the songs' lyrics (including translations into English), as well as photos from the recording session.

Storytelling was made out of a wish to pass on the love of a good song and the story behind it.

[From the back cover of the album]

"I have increasingly learned to appreciate good musical storytellers. Musicians that know how to find and develop the story that lies hidden in every good song; that know how to make the story their own; and who invest themselves in the attempt to communicate the story to the listener.

When naming this album, it felt obvious to choose the title Storytelling, simply because the theme and main focus of the project for me has been to tell good stories with music. I have selected songs that I believe have compelling lyrical as well as musical qualities. But first and foremost they are songs that I feel emotionally connected to - songs that move me, in some way, so that I can make the story my own and interpret it in a credible way.

The album includes six Danish and four American songs. The selection reflects my musical roots, which naturally are here in my home country, Denmark; but to a great extent also in the American jazz tradition, which has played a big role in my life the past 30 years. I am also very inspired by the lightness and saudade (longing) which is a strong characteristic within Latin American music. For this reason there is also a Cuban song on the album.

With this book I wish to expand the experience for the listener. Knowing the songs' lyrics and historical background inspires me to explore the music. I hope that the listener will feel the same way."

[Excerpt from Christian Vuust's introduction to the album]

The duo **Christian Vuust & Aaron Parks** is the result of a fruitful transatlantic cooperation, that started in New York City in 2013. It resulted in the critically acclaimed album 'Urban Hymn' (with Ben Street and Jeff Ballard, as well as Vuust and Parks). *"Sophisticated and lush. That Vuust found New York City so inspiring is impressive; his music is even more so"* (DownBeat Magazine). Vuust and Parks share an open and undogmatic approach to playing jazz, inspired by folk music, popular music, church music, classical music and more.

FACTS about Christian Vuust & Aaron Parks: 'Storytelling'

Sales/distribution: 'Storytelling' is released on October 12, 2015, on Aero Music (AERO 010) and is distributed by Gateway Music. The album is a *CD including a book* (a 44-page hardback in A5 format). It is available in the web shop at www.christianvuust.com. The digital version is available for download in iTunes Store (sound files and a pdf book).

Link to web shop: http://www.gatewaymusicshop.dk/index.php?route=product/product&product_id=874

The recording was made by Thomas Vang at The Village, Copenhagen on August 13, 2014; and was mixed and mastered by August Wanngren in 2014-15.

The book contains an essay and a poem by Danish jazz poet *par excellence*, Peter Laugesen; photographs from the recording by Kristian Stangerup; graphic design by Lisbeth Neigaard; as well as the song lyrics (including translations into English), and Christian Vuust's presentation of each of the songs.

'Storytelling' tracklist

1. Månestrålen [Moonbeam] (Aage Stentoft & Børge Müller)
2. Sænk kun dit hoved, du blomst [Bow Down Your Head, You Flower] (Carl Nielsen & Johannes Jørgensen)
3. Foolin' Myself (Peter Tinturin & Jack Lawrence)
4. Eclipse (Margarita Lecuona)
5. The Man I Love (George & Ira Gershwin)
6. Man binder os på mund og hånd [Our Hands Are Tied, Our Lips Are Sealed] (Kai Normann Andersen & Poul Henningsen)
7. En yndig og frydefuld sommertid [A Joyous and Beautiful Summertime] (Danish traditional)
8. Vårvisse [Spring Ballad] (Sebastian)
9. Ghost of Yesterday (Irene Wilson & Arthur Herzog Jr.)
10. Sig nærmer tiden, da jeg må væk [The Time Is Near When I Must Depart] (Oluf Ring & Steen Steensen Blicher)
11. Gone with the Wind (Allie Wrubel & Herb Magidson)

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 (DK), Lars Jansson (S), Hal Crook (US), Jakob Bro (DK), Pablo Held (D), Helge Norbakken (N), Mats Eilertsen (N), poets Peter Laugesen (DK) and Einar Mar Gudmundsson (IS), and bands Pauseland, Must and Den Danske Salmeduo. Christian Vuust studied at Berklee College of Music with George Garzone, Herb Pomeroy, Joseph Viola et al.

Aaron Parks (New York City, USA). In spite of his young age (31 years), he is one of the most prominent and acclaimed jazz pianists these years. His albums have been released on leading labels such as Blue Note Records and ECM. He has performed with Joshua Redman, Gretchen Parlato, Kurt Rosenwinkel and others. In this five star review, he is described as having "world-class improvisational flair": www.marlbank.net/reviews/1085-tree-of-life

This project was supported by the City of Aarhus, Danish Actors' Association and Danish Musicians' Union.

Press material:

Download press photos, listen to music and read more at: www.christianvuust.com

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