

**ACT**

THE UNFORGETTABLE NHØP TRIO LIVE

Niels-Henning Ørsted Pedersen  
Ulf Wakenius  
Jonas Johansen

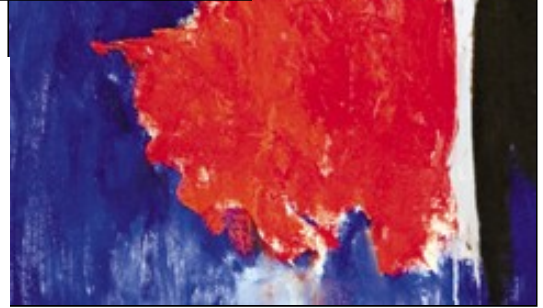
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**NIELS-HENNING ØRSTED PEDERSEN**

THE UNFORGETTABLE NHØP TRIO LIVE

ACT 9464-2

LC 07644

**German Release Date: August 31, 2007****Niels-Henning Ørsted Pedersen**

was born on May 27<sup>th</sup> 1946 in Osted (Denmark) and died on April 19<sup>th</sup> 2005.

**In Lennie Tristano's view**, he was simply the greatest bass player in the world, a sentiment shared by many other musicians, who rank his contribution to the instrument way up there with that of bass-revolutionary and Bill Evans-collaborator Scott LaFaro.

**The son of a church organist**, Ørsted Pedersen - or NHØP, as he was quickly christened by his fellow musicians - initially studied piano before switching to bass at the age of 13. He had his debut at Copenhagen's Montmartre Jazzhus on New Year's Eve 1961, aged 15.

**He turned down an offer from the Count Basie band**, feeling, at age 17, that he needed to continue his studies. As a member of the Montmartre's house band, he performed with saxophone legends Sonny Rollins, Dexter Gordon, Johnny Griffin, Rahsaan Roland Kirk and Stan Getz, as well as bebop-genius Bud Powell, Kenny Drew, and Bill Evans, whom he accompanied on a tour of Europe in 1965.

**Besides touring regularly with the Oscar Peterson Trio** from 1974-1987, and accompanying nearly every big name in jazz, his playing can be heard on some 400 albums from the mid-1960s to the mid-1980s.

**NHØP combined a fearsome technique**, utilizing the right hand in his own unique way, with a rich sound and a melodic inventiveness that, along with his rhythmic drive, made him one of the most in-demand accompanists ever. He formed creative collaborations with trumpeters Palle Mikkelborg and Allan Botschinsky, guitarists Philip Catherine and Ulf Wakenius, with singer Maria João and pianists Michel Petrucciani and Kenneth Knudsen. He was also a teacher at the Rytmiske Musikonservatorium in Copenhagen.

**However, Niels-Henning Ørsted Pedersen was also both a prolific leader** and a soloist in his own right. In 1993, the Danish Radio Big Band recorded "Ambiance", a showcase album for Pedersen, himself a long-time member of the band. His own working band of the last ten years, the NHØP-TRIO (featuring Ulf Wakenius on guitar and Jonas Johansen on drums) also had a prolific output. All the more wonderful that the ACT-label has managed to acquire the rights to two live recordings of this band, which also feature guitarist Ulf Wakenius in top form, and which will be released as one album. The first half of the release is a 1999 Danish Radio recording from the Aalborg Kunstmuseum, the second half is a NDR radio recording of a concert on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2005 in the Rolf-Liebermann-Studio in Hamburg. This is Niels-Henning Ørsted Pedersen's last live recording and a fitting memorial to this unforgettable artist.

**The Unforgettable NHØP**

*I had the honour and pleasure of playing with Niels Pedersen for 15 years, both in his trio and with Oscar Peterson's quartet. It was a fantastic musical journey.*

*He was known under many names, "NHØP", "The Viking", "The great Dane with the never-ending name" or simply his real name Niels-Henning Ørsted Pedersen. In my book, he was a bass genius. He was a member of a very exclusive club, "The musicians you recognize in one note". That club boasts members like Miles Davis and John Coltrane; and he belonged to that club! His career was like a fairytale. He played with Bud Powell when he was fifteen, got an offer to join Count Basie band when he was seventeen, toured with Sonny Rollins when he was eighteen and it went on and on like that. Later he joined Oscar Peterson, whom he played with for over 30 years. He was responsible for getting me into that legendary group. The list of musicians he played and recorded with is too long to mention, but it includes every important jazz musician on this planet.*

**ACT****NIELS-HENNING ØRSTED PEDERSEN**

Niels was also a very special human being with considerable intellect and wit. He was very proud of his Danish heritage and often played folksongs from Scandinavia. On this CD you will hear maybe the most famous, "I skovens dybe stille ro" ("In the silence of the woods"). The music includes Bach, jazz standards, originals and Danish folksongs, a blend that represented NHØP's musical universe.

This CD features his band of choice of the last ten years - the NHØP TRIO - performing all the selections. I think it is a good testament to how great NHØP could sound on a concert stage.

A great voice has left us. He will never be forgotten.

Ulf Wakenius, Gothenburg May 2007

**The CD:**

The Unforgettable NHØP Trio Live – Niels-Henning Ørsted Pedersen – ACT 9464-2 – LC 07644

**Line Up:**

Niels-Henning Ørsted Pedersen - bass

Ulf Wakenius - guitar

Jonas Johansen - drums

**Tracks:**

01 The Bach Piece (J.S Bach/arr. by NHØP) 1:27    02 Memories (NHØP) 1:40    03 The Song Is You (Kern/Hammerstein) 4:27    04 Lines (Ulf Wakenius) 6:55    05 A Nightingale Sang In Barkley Square (Sherwin/Maschwitz) 7:32    06 You And The Night And The Music (Dietz/Schwartz) 9:26  
 07 My Little Suede Shoes (Charlie Parker) 5:44    08 NHØP Presentation 0:34    09 I Skovens Dybe Stille Ro (Danish folk song/arr. by NHØP) 3:38    10 Jeg Gik Mig Ud En Sommerdag (Scandinavian folk song/arr. by NHØP) 9:08    11 (Our) Love Is Here To Stay (George Gershwin) 7:24

Track 1-5 recorded live by DR Nordjylland at Aalborg Kunstmuseum, Denmark, March 24, 1999

Produced by Poul Martin Poulsen

Track 6-11 recorded live at Rolf-Liebermann-Studio NDR, Hamburg, Germany, March 11, 2005

Produced by Axel Dürr & Stefan Gerdes

Mixed and mastered by Lars Nilsson & Mik Neumann at Nilento Studio, Källered, Sweden, January 24, 2007

**Distributors:**

edel Contraire (DE), edel Musica (AT), Musikvertrieb (CH), Harmonia Mundi (FR), Harmonia Mundi (UK), Karonte (ES), Dargil (PT), Egea (I), Musikklosen (NO), Amigo (Scan), Sundance (DK), A&N Music (GR), Equinox Music (TR), Challenge Records International (Benelux), Distribution Fusion III (CAN), GIGI Distribution (PL), Jazzworld (HK), AS Jahipaun (EST), C&L Records (KR), Gramofon (BIH), Dukyan Meloman (BG), INTEK (SI+HR), Southbound Records (NZ), Divyd (SK), Jassics (ZA), JSC "Bomba" (LT), 2HP (CZ), CD Bar (HU), Planet MGM Distribution (AU), Disk Union (JP), Andante Music (RO), Apostrophe (RU), DC Comp (UA), Allegro-Nail Distribution (US)

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