



## Magic Moments 5 "In the Spirit of Jazz"

Youn Sun Nah, Nils Landgren,  
Viktoria Tolstoy, Leszek Możdżer,  
Wolfgang Haffner, Michael Wollny  
and others

ACT 9560-2

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In the Spirit of Jazz  
Magic Moments 5

ACT



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**Modern society is changing** – away from “either/or” to “both/and”. Ideological, economic and cultural hostilities are increasingly being overcome. Diversity, instead of conformity, is moving more into the foreground, with the emphasis on togetherness instead of that which separates. This also applies to music, especially jazz.

**For ACT and its founder Siggi Loch**, jazz was right from the start more than simply a narrowly defined style, determined by fixed categories and only one style of sound. He and his team are of the same opinion as the great, recently deceased Abbey Lincoln who once said, when asked to describe the essence of jazz, said, “Jazz is a spirit.”

**Music must have spirit and soul** – this stance of jazz, its search for the previously unheard, for the power of emotion and its unrivalled inner as well as outer freedom, is the inspiration and leitmotif of ACT. Perhaps this philosophy is also the reason that ACT has twice been voted “Label of the Year” at the ECHO Jazz Awards, not by a jury or by the industry but by the public. This motto also most certainly describes the work of the ACT artists, which is also why it has been chosen as title for the fifth edition of the popular ACT compilations: “Magic Moments 5 is “In the Spirit of Jazz”.

**Those who want to know where they are going must know where they are coming from**, which is why the opening track of this presentation of great ACT moments is a retrospective. Discovered in archives of the NDR, “Visa från Utanmyra” by pianist Jan Johansson, who sadly died far too early and would have been 80 this year, is a great example of his incredible skill of being able to overcome boundaries and transposing traditional Swedish music to jazz. Just as Johansson was one of the founding fathers of Scandinavian jazz, his Swedish pianist colleague, Esbjörn Svensson, who also died prematurely, is one of the most important architects of European jazz of the past decade (“Prelude in D-Minor”). While his partners from e.s.t. (Magnus Öström and Dan Berglund with “Piano Break Song” and “Le Var”), are expanding the repertoire in their projects with old rock passions, it is impossible to overlook the genetic code of Svensson’s innovation – a brilliant mix of the melodic and the dynamic which inspires jazz musicians worldwide.

**The UK’s Guardian newspaper says that ACT** “is presenting Europe’s up and coming pianists to the world” - players like Leszek Możdżer, whose tribute to the unforgettable Krzysztof Komeda (“Svante”) removes all boundaries between classical, pop and jazz, and even topped the pop charts in his homeland of Poland – ahead of Sting and Beyoncé! Iiro Rantala’s very personal and haunting tribute to “Lost Heroes” has also won the annual award of the German Record Critics as “Best Jazz Album” - with “One More Waltz For Michel Petrucciani”, he honours the exceptional French pianist. And we must not forget the new international figurehead of German jazz, Michael Wollny, who features on the sampler as a congenial accompanist of trombonist Nils Landgren (“Fragile”).

**The singers of the house of ACT** also exhibit no fears of contact between the genres and a desire for crossing boundaries. Viktoria Tolstoy, for example, when dedicating herself to her idol Herbie Hancock (“Come On, Come Over”); Caecilie Norby, when reformulating classic material (“No Air”) or the recently awarded “Best International Jazz Singer” (Echo Jazz 2011) Youn Sun Nah who, alongside guitarist virtuoso Nguyễn Lê, dusts the cobwebs off the Beatles’ “Eleanor Rigby” and transposes it into the global village of the modern day.

**Magic Moments 5 “In the Spirit of Jazz” is great evidence that “Young German Jazz”** once again has the courage to try something new: the Wasserfuhr brothers, for example, interpret classic jazz styles in an unashamedly modern way, as “Midnight Walk” shows. The outstanding Three Fall trio makes the Californian rock of the Red Hot Chili Peppers sound almost avant garde, whilst Mo’ Blow reinterprets funk and jazz rock. All this always has its own pulse as drumming veteran and Nu-jazz composer Wolfgang Haffner shows with “Heartbeat”.



## Magic Moments 5 "In the Spirit of Jazz"

When Finnish trumpeter Verner Pohjola plays the closing fanfare, "At The End Of This Album", it becomes clear - with the ACT family of musicians, a truly international group has united in one spirit to create, with every track, a magical musical moment "in the Spirit of Jazz".

**The CD:** Magic Moments 5 "In the Spirit of Jazz" – Various Artists – ACT 9560-2 - LC 07644

**VISA FRÅN UTANMYRA** (traditional) Album: "In Hamburg" ACT 9510-2

Jan Johansson, piano / Georg Riedel, bass

**SVANTETIC** (Komeda) Album: "Komeda" ACT 9516-2

Leszek Możdżer, piano

**ELEANOR RIGBY\*** (Lennon / McCartney) Album: "Songs of Freedom" ACT 9506-2

Nguyễn Lê, git / Youn Sun Nah, voc / Linley Marthe, b / Stéphane Galland, dr / a.o.

**LASCIATEMI MORIRE** (Monteverdi) Album: "Opera" ACT 9508-2

Daniilo Rea, piano / Flavio Boltro, trumpet

**MIDNIGHT WALK\*** (J. & R. Wasserfuhr) Album: "Gravity" ACT 9507-2

Julian Wasserfuhr, tp / Roman Wasserfuhr, p / Lars Danielsson, b & cello / Wolfgang Haffner, dr

**COME ON, COME OVER** (Pastorius / Herzog) Album: "Letters to Herbie" ACT 9519-2

Viktoria Tolstoy, voc / Jacob Karlzon, keys / Krister Jonsson, git / Mattias Svensson, b / Rasmus Kihlberg, dr

**HEARTBEAT\*** (Haffner) Album: "Signature Edition" ACT 6007-2

Wolfgang Haffner, dr / Sebastian Studnitzky, tp / Hubert Nuss, p / Lars Danielsson, b / Christian Diener, e-bass / a.o.

**FRAGILE** (Sumner) Album: "Magic Moments @ Schloss Elmau" ACT 9480-2

Nils Landgren, voc & tb / Michael Wollny, piano

**PRELUDE IN D-MINOR** (Svensson) Album: "Piano Works: Romantic Freedom" ACT 9749-2

Esbjörn Svensson, piano

**LOVE IS REAL** (e.s.t. / Haden) previously not released

Ida Sand, voc & p / Lars Danielsson, b / Rasmus Kihlberg, dr / Nils Landgren, tb

**PIANO BREAK SONG\*** (Öström) Album: "Thread of Life" ACT 9025-2

Andreas Hourdakis, git / Gustaf Karlöf, keys / Thobias Gabrielsson, bass / Magnus Öström, dr

**LE VAR\*** (Lindström) Album: "Dig it to the end" ACT 9026-2

Tonbruket: Dan Berglund, b / Johan Lindström, git / Martin Hederos, keys / Andreas Werliin, dr

**SHELLEY** (Schaefer) Album: "[em] live at JazzBaltica" ACT 9668-2

Michael Wollny, piano / Eva Kruse, bass / Eric Schaefer, drums

**ELEVEN FEELS LIKE HEAVEN** (Klein) Album: "For those about to Funk" ACT 9658-2

Felix Falk, sax / Matti Klein, rhodes / Tobias Fleischer, b / André Seidel, dr

**UNDER THE BRIDGE** (Red Hot Chili Peppers) Album: "On a Walkabout" ACT 9665-2

Lutz Streun, sax / Til Schneider, tb / Sebastian Winne, dr

**NO AIR** (Satie / Norby) Album: "Arabesque" ACT 9723-2

Cæcilie Norby, voc / Katrine Gislinge, piano / Lars Danielsson, cello & git

**ONE MORE WALTZ FOR MICHEL PETRUCCIANI** (Rantala) Album: "Lost Heroes" ACT 9504-2

Iiro Rantala, piano

**AT THE END OF THIS ALBUM** (Pohjola) Album: "Aurora" ACT 9027-2

Verner Pohjola, tp / Ilmari Pohjola, tb / Pekka Pohjola, b / Aki Rissanen, keys / a.o.

**ACT – The Art in Music:** Cover Art by Carsten Höller

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