



## SOLVEIG SLETTAHJELL

Solveig Slettaahjell (pronounced: *Sul-vay Shlet-I-Yell*) was born in Bærum near Oslo in 1971 and grew up in the small town of Orkanger near Trondheim. As her father was a pastor, she grew up in church. She sang in choirs from the age of 7 and began accompanying various youth and gospel choirs on the piano from the age of 13. She also sang and played her own versions of hymns, negro spirituals, Norwegian religious folksongs, as well as her own compositions.

### **Studies.**

Solveig studied classical piano and singing at a secondary school for music in Trondheim, before going on to jazz studies at the Norwegian Academy of Music in 1992. Here she met Sidsel Endresen, who was her teacher from 1993 and until Solveig finished her master's degree in 2000. Her final exam consisted of a thesis on the rhythmic aspects of phrasing and a concert, which was the beginning of the Slow motion concept.

### **Musical projects.**

At the Academy Solveig met the pianist Håkon Hartberg. Together they formed the Slettaahjell/Hartberg Duo. The duo's repertoire consisted of their versions of country songs, jazz standards, Norwegian folksongs, children songs, music by Prince, Tom Waits and others. The Slettaahjell/Hartberg Duo was Solveig's most important musical project until 1996.

In 1995 Solveig joined a band called Squid, which worked with their own original material based on soul, acid-jazz, and funk music. They did many concerts until the group disbanded in 1999. Squid recorded one album, "Super", in 1998.

In 1997 she joined the Norwegian experimental vocal quartet Kvitretten. The group consisted of the female jazz singers Eldbjørg Raknes, Kristin Asbjørnsen, Tone Aase and Solveig. Their repertoire was mostly music written for Kvitretten by the group members and by various Norwegian contemporary jazz composers. The quartet toured Finland, Germany and Sweden as well as Norway and collaborated with various musicians, vocal groups and poets until they separated in 2002.

Solveig recorded two albums with Kvitretten; "Everything turns" (1999) and "Kloden er en snurrebass som snurrer oss" (2002) with Norwegian poet Torgeir Rebbolledo Pedersen.

Vocal ensembles have played a big part in Solveig Slettaahjell's musical work. She worked in the trio vonDrei for three years. vonDrei focused on classical contemporary music and the crossover to improvised music. She also worked with a larger vocal ensemble called Trondheim Voices with, among others, Eldbjørg Raknes and Live Maria Roggen (from Come Shine).

In 2002 Solveig was part of Sidsel Endresen's project Living Rooms, written for the Norwegian jazz festival Nattjazz. In December 2005 she will work with Sidsel Endresen again on her vocal work for four singers written for the "Norwegian Voices" concert in London.

Solveig Slettahjell has also contributed to various recordings, such as Jon Balke's "Batagraf" (ECM 2005) and Friko, "Burglar Ballads" (C+C Records 2003) with trumpet player Sjur Miljeteig (Slow motion quintet) and drummer Peder Kjellsby (who wrote six of the songs on Pixiedust).

#### **Awards.**

Solveig Slettahjell's Slow motion quintet received the Norwegian Grammy, Spellemannsprisen, for their album Silver, in February 2005. In July 2005 she received the "Vital-price" at Kongsberg jazz festival and Radka Toneff's memory award at Molde international jazz festival one week later.

#### **Teaching.**

Solveig Slettahjell has been a teacher of jazz singing for ten years. She has been in charge of the jazz singing lessons at Agder University College since 1997 and she has taught jazz singing at the Norwegian Academy of Music since 2000.

### **DISCOGRAPHY SOLVEIG SLETTAHJELL**

#### **Solveig Slettahjell Slow motion quintet:**

**NEW:** *Pixiedust*, ACT 9708-2, 2006.

*Silver*, Curling legs 2004.

*Slow motion orchestra*, Curling legs 2001.

#### **Squid:**

*Super*, FWD records 1998.

#### **Kvitretten:**

*Kloden er en snurrebass som snurrer oss* ( with poet Torgeir Rebbolledo Pedersen ), Curling legs 2002.

*Everything turns*, Curling legs 1999.

#### **As a guest:**

Jon Balke, *Batagraf*, ECM 2005.

Ophelia Orchestra, *Sound and smoke*, 2004.

Friko, *Burglar Ballads*, C+C Records 2003.

Rob Waring Trio, *Synchronize your watches*, 2001.

# Solveig Slettahjell's SLOW MOTION QUINTET

## **SJUR MILJETEIG – trumpet**

Besides being a performer on trumpet, Sjur's main work is as composer and producer in the studio he co-runs with Peder Kjellsby, "isitArt" in Sweden. Sjur Miljeteig has worked with a wide variety of artists: Jaga Jazzist, Bugge Wesseltoft, Anneli Drecker and Bertine Zetlitz. His main band besides Slow Motion Quintet is "Friko".

## **MORTEN QVENILD - piano**

Morten has studied with Misha Alperin (Moscow art trio) at the Norwegian academy of music. He has been engaged as keyboard player in the Norwegian cult band "Jaga Jazzist", and with Nils Petter Molvaer band "Khmer". He is now part of duo "Susanna and the magical orchestra", and he has got his own piano trio called "in the country". These projects travel the world, and receive wonderful words from the music press.

## **MATS EILERTSEN - bass**

Mats Eilertsen is one of the finest and most distinct bass players on the Norwegian jazz scene of today. His skills and musical maturity make him the perfect ensemble member. He has a special warm and lyrical way of treating the bass, being steady and experimental at the same time, bringing it all together and yet showing openness, willingness, and constantly searching for new sounds. Mats is a highly attractive musician and plays in a number of different bands and constellations in Norway and internationally, such as Parish, with Fredrik Ljungkvist (S), Bobo Stenson (S) and Norwegian drummer Thomas Stroenen, the Source with Trygve Seim, as well as his own TURANGA ensemble.

## **PER ODDVAR JOHANSEN - drums**

Per Oddvar Johansen has since 1990 participated on a number of tours and recordings. He has already received three Norwegian Grammys as a sideman. He has also received the "Preis der Deutsche Schallplattenkritik" as part of Trygve Seim's band on "Different Rivers" (2001). He's established as one of the most in demand jazz drummers in Norway and can be heard touring with among others: Trygve Seim Ensemble, Christian Wallumrød Ensemble, The Source, Close Erase, Håvard Wiik Trio.

## **THE ACT COMPANY**

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