

ACT

VIKTORIA TOLSTOY

MY SWEDISH HEART

with Jacob Karlzon,
Lars Danielsson,
Ulf Walkenius,
Ale Möller,
Nils Landgren a.o.

ACT 9705-2

LC 07644

Release Date: 28. March 2005



Viktoria Tolstoy achieved both a national and international breakthrough with her ACT debut album "Shining On You". While she had already shown on her Blue Note Album "White Russian" with E.S.T. (1997), that she belonged to the first rank of young Swedish female jazz musicians, she was virtually unknown outside her homeland.

While the music for the first ACT album by the great-great-granddaughter of Leo Tolstoy was all specially composed by Esbjörn Svensson, this "beautiful singer with classiness coursing in her blood" (Tonart) has dedicated her latest totally to her home country. MY SWEDISH HEART is an expression of love and a tribute to the great Swedish jazz composers from Lars Gullin to her contemporaries.

Sweden developed a particularly active jazz scene before all other European countries, helped by the fact that many American greats didn't just tour in Sweden but also made their homes there. The list is long and impressive: Stan Getz, Art Farmer, Dexter Gordon, Sahib Shihab, Ben Webster, Idrees Sulieman, Bill Evans, Quincy Jones, to name but a few. The musical exchange of these great talents with the local scene resulted in a long list of exceptional local jazz musicians: Lars Gullin, Arne Domnerus, Ake Persson, Rune Gustafsson and Bengt-Arne Wallin. All were accepted as equals by their American friends and peers, even in the 1950s. The album releases from that time bear witness to the high level of musicianship.

But the true beginning of what today is regarded as self-sustaining "Jazz Made in Sweden" lies in the early 1960s. Jan Johansson was the first musician who brought Swedish folk music into jazz. Unfortunately he was killed in a car accident in 1968, but his few albums have been treated for over 40 years as an important cultural legacy in Sweden and can be found in almost every home. His idea of reassessing Sweden's traditional musical roots are still clearly heard in today's Swedish jazz. A further milestone in this development was the 1962 production "Old Folklore In Swedish Modern" by Bengt Arne Wallin, who took the concept to an orchestral level.

As well as the many composers and instrumentalists there were also an incredible number of good female jazz singers in Sweden. Monica Zetterlund was the first to be celebrated as a "Swedish Sensation" in the USA as early as 1958. Her album "Waltz for Debby" with the Bill Evans Trio can be regarded as one of the best vocal jazz albums of all time. Other Swedish singers such as Alice Babs, Bibi Jones and Anita Lindblom made careers in Germany as easy listening pop singers. Only Monika Zetterlund didn't compromise herself.

For her new album Viktoria Tolstoy has immersed herself deeply in Swedish jazz culture and selected a special homage from the large choice available.

"My Swedish Heart" begins with "Grandma's Song", a nod to Jan Johansson. He recorded the folk song "Visa Fran Järna" almost exactly 40 years ago just for piano and bass duo and had his first successful recording with it. The new lyrics are by Viktoria Tolstoy's husband Per Holknekt, who is responsible for the English lyrics for most of the tracks on the new CD. In "Grandma's Song" you can feel the influence of Swedish folklore on American Country & Western.

The original orchestral arrangement of 1962's "Den Första Gang" has been newly updated by Bengt-Arne Wallin for Viktoria Tolstoy and the Bohuslän Big Band. The master remains sprightly and active even in his mid 70ies! Other highlights are the new arrangements of "I Hope it's Spring for you" by Lars Gullin, with lyrics by Chan Parker, Charlie Parker's wife, as well as "Dennys Dreaming". "Jag Yet En Dejlilg Rosa" is dedicated to Viktoria Tolstoy's great role model Monika Zetterlund, who recorded this song in Swedish with Bill Evans in 1964.

ACT**Viktoria Tolstoy**

Five of the 11 compositions are by friends and colleagues of the young singer. They can all be regarded as today's most important exponents of "Jazz Made in Sweden": Anders Jormin, Jacob Karlzon, Lars Danielsson und Esbjörn Svensson. And of course, not forgetting the producer of "My Swedish Heart" - Mr. 'Red Horn' Nils Landgren.

The CD:

My Swedish Heart – Viktoria Tolstoy - ACT 9705-2 – LC 07644

Line Up:

Viktoria Tolstoy – vocals / Jacob Karlzon - grand piano / Lars Danielsson - acoustic bass, cello
Peter Danemo – drums, percussion / Ulf Wakenius - acoustic guitar / Nils Landgren - trombone

Special guests:

Ale Möller – mandola, flute / Christian Spering - acoustic bass / Wolfgang Haffner – drums
Bohuslän Bigband

Tracks:

01 Grandmas Song 02 Mind if I 03 From Above 04 Dialogue 05 You Gave Me The Flow
06 Den Första Gång 07 Dannys Dreaming 08 The Morning Of You 09 Mayday
10 I Hope It's Spring For You 11 Jag Yet En Dejlilig Rosa

Produced by Nils Landgren & Siegfried Loch

Recorded, mixed and mastered by Lars Nilsson at Nilento Studio, Gothenburg, Sweden, between 6th and 12th of December 2004

Viktoria Tolstoy on ACT:

ACT 9701-2 SHINING ON YOU – Viktoria Tolstoy sings the music of Esbjörn Svensson

As guest on:

ACT 9430-2 FUNKY ABBA – Nils Landgren Funk Unit
ACT 9409-2 SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY – Nils Landgren
ACT 9271-2 5000 MILES – Nils Landgren Funk Unit

Distributor:

edel Contraire (D), edel Records (A), Musikvertrieb (CH), Night & Day (F), Proper Music (UK), Karonte (E), Dargil (P), Musikklosen (N), Amigo (Scan), A&N Records (GR), Equinox Music (TR), Pink Records (Benelux), Jazzworld (HK), GIGI Distribution (PL), AS Jahipaun (EST), C&L Records (ROK), P&J Music (CZ), Distribution Fusion III (CAN), CD Bar (H), HighNote / Ryko (USA)

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