

Mp3 Niklas Winter Quartet - Piae Cantiones



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Melodic European jazzmusic 12 MP3 Songs CLASSICAL: Contemporary, JAZZ: Jazz Vocals Details: Piae Cantiones consists of modern arrangements of old psalms. The music on this acoustic album is a dialog between the jazz quartet and the 4piece vocal ensemble. The sound is a mixture of modern classical and jazz music. ...Music with enormous depth and beauty. (Mats Liljeroos/Hufvudstadsbladet 2003) Niklas Winter (b. 1969) commenced his musical odyssey at the Conservatory of Turku in 1985, but decided to undertake some studies abroad in the early 90's. To make this plan reality he travelled to the Berklee College of Music in Boston, USA. The budding guitarist's trip to the renowned music sanctuary was executed with mainly one goal in mind. He wanted to get serious about jazz composition. While enrolled at Berklee, Niklas hooked up with the Danish sax player Emil Hess. Together they began to jam with two other Danes: bassist Jesper Bodilsen and drummer Morten Lund. Finding solace in the instantly recognizable Nordic sound the foursome created, they decided to stick together. Without any further ado or fanfare, the Scandinavian Jazz Quartet was born in 1992. They went on to perform in various European countries and China and also released three albums: New Deal (Intermusic) in 1994 and A Night in Bilbao (Music Mecca) in 1997 and recently Silent Knowledge (Abovoice) in 2000. Aside from continuing onwards as the Scandinavian Jazz Quartet, Winter, Bodilsen and Lund form the core of Niklas' new team. Founded in 1998, the exciting tonal palette of Winter's Jazz Workshop is completed by the Finnish vibe supremacy of Severi Pyysalo and the Swedish sax stylings of Fredrik Nordström. On the convincing 1999 debut Hypnosis (Silence) the quintet interprets Winter's tunes with adventurous improvisatory prowess and playful instrumental mastery. The music is a direct interpretation of its creator's route from the West Coast of Finland to the American music foundry that is Berklee - and back again. It came as no surprise that the jazz critics paid especially close attention to the quintet's ability to

react spontaneously and innovatively to the stimulating themes of the compositions. This group's latest release in 2001 named *Saknad* shows a more melodic side of the constellation. Juho Laitinen was added to the group on cello. The new millennium began in Winter-land with quite an inspiring night at the Turku Cathedral. Premiered in March 2000, the novel project saw Niklas arranging a set of delicate 16th century hymns for an ensemble of voices, reeds, cello and guitar. The music originated from the psalm collection *Piae Cantiones*, and the event's funding was partly made possible by the "Artist of the Year" accolade, which was awarded to Niklas by the cultural committee of Western Finland in early 2000. This project led to the making of the record in 2002 named *Piae Cantiones*. (Abovoice-1011) The guitarist/composer has also appeared as a sideman in various settings. In this capacity his soulful neobop guitarism can best be witnessed on the excellent *Answer* by the Jan Simons Band. Released in 1999, the album is a collaboration between exciting young Finnish jazzers (most notably pianist Samuli Mikkonen and the leader, bassist Jan Simons) and legendary Canadian-British trumpet emperor Kenny Wheeler. Apart from playing guitar on the disc, Winter contributes the nocturnal rubato of *Black* into the proceedings. A poignant study à la Edward Vesala, the tune widens Niklas' compositional scope beyond his usual oeuvre. Winter made a significant contribution to Finnish jazz in 1999 through the founding of his label, Abovoice. Every release of this small, mobile and intelligent unit has displayed immaculate taste and superior love for music. One of the latest releases from this label won the Finnish grammy as best Finnish jazz record of the year 2002. (Andre Sumelius, *Kaira*, abovoice-1010) The new projects of Winter include the Finnish-Swedish collaboration *Nordström & Winter Quartet* with Filip Augustson on bass and Markku Ounaskari on drums. The focus of this quartet is mainly on modern, rhythmical jazz with spices from both Scandinavia and the US. The second is an allstar Finnish jazz-funk band called *Electromagnet*. With players like Jarmo Savolainen on Rhodes and Manuel Dunkel on tenor sax and Jan Simons on electric bass + drummer Mikko Kaakkuriniemi, the unit shows a serious tribute to Miles Davis and *Bitches Brew*. Winter, who originally began playing guitar at the tender age of six, has already become one of the most noteworthy players on the Nordic jazz scene. The city of Turku had noticed Winter's efforts and therefore he was granted the highly renowned Aboa price in 2001. A cosmopolitan by nature, the diligent guitarist is ever interested in multinational collaborations. Dividing his professional time in between directing his numerous projects and running Abovoice, Niklas Winter is steadily moving from the ranks of the up-and-coming cats to the section of the established artists. Petri Silas (originally published

in the FIMIC Jazz Composer Brochure Series, No. 2/200 Discography and picture of Niklas Winter on:
abovoice.com

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