

A SEXTET WITH ITS OWN WORLD

The Hugh Steinmetz Sextet had its debut with the LP "Nu!" ("Now!") forty years ago, today it is a collectors object with a unique packaging in form of a painting by the known Danish artist Per Arnoldi and its new, daring music, a special mixture of genres, forms and musicians with a palette of references.

In 2006 they reunited for a string of concerts resulting in this CD. And where are they, then today? Well, one is professor in literature in Cleveland, USA as well as a writer in his own right and with lifelong payment from the Danish state, his name is Per Aage Brandt, he plays the piano. Another is a musician with a wide production mostly in the form of jazz-rock and experimental rock music, he plays the saxophone, and his name is Karsten Vogel. The other saxophone player is Niels Harrit, he is teaching at the Copenhagen University as a biologist and besides he plays mostly soul music when needed. The last of the original group is Hugh Steinmetz; he plays the trumpet and has composed the new material. The last two members of the original sextet were the drummer Bo Thrige, who has passed away, and the bass player who nowadays plays baroque music. So two new musicians were required and were at hand, the upcoming, talented bass player Kasper Tagel and the very experienced drummer Lars Juul.

The year 2006 saw the sextet in its new form in connection with a celebration of the American trumpet player Don Cherry, who would have been 70 that year. It was time for remembering and looking back and thinking forward. Steinmetz composed two long stories in form of suites telling about influences, the old times and the time right now. Don Cherry lived in Copenhagen for some time in the sixties, where Steinmetz met him in Jazz House Montmartre and played with him. Cherry was born in Oklahoma but grew up in Los Angeles, he was - like the saxophone player Ornette Coleman, with whom he made several LPs - deeply rooted in American blues and folk music, a combination of straightforward, simple tunes and a daring exploitation of farfetched corners of music similar to the music you will find on this CD. Memories told in a nowadays way.

The critics have been kind. They have been fascinated, charmed and mesmerized by the compositions and the playing on this CD.