

Avant-garde to and fro.

The trumpet player Hugh Steinmetz is faithful to his music and his musicians - without looking back.

All the way back in 1966 the trumpet player Hugh Steinmetz was elected Danish Jazz Musician Of The Year, and by that occasion he recorded with his sextet the LP with the title "Nu!" ("Now!"). At that time Hugh Steinmetz was among the foremost representatives of the so-called avant-garde jazz, and a re-hear with "Nu!" is certainly at the same time a nostalgic, fascinating and scaring experience. And then some decades has passed, and the now 66 years old Hugh Steinmetz has been well around the music and is still on the racing track - and thanks for that.

During the latest years he has by occasion re-united his sextet, which in 2007 (and not 2002 - as stated on the cover) recorded for Denmark's Radio, and the result can be found on the present CD. And apart from the bass player Kasper Tagel and the drummer Lars Juul, who form a distinguished rhythm team, it is the old line up, which - apart from Hugh Steinmetz - consists of the alto sax player Karsten Vogel, the tenor sax player Niels Harrit and the piano player Per Aage Brandt.

They are all people, who in the interim time have worked in many different spheres, and the last mentioned, who in the 1960ties was Danish jazz' ultimate avant-garde piano player, and who since then primarily has worked as a professor in languages, states, that the skill is intact. And the same goes for the others. And more than that. For it is not only about reconstructing achievements of the past. There has been added more colours to the palettes, and in contradiction to 1966-"Nu!" the actual music swings completely fascinating.

Hugh Steinmetz has written the two suites, "The Cherry Blossom" and "Take Care of Business", where long and often rather inventive compositional passages are setting the stage for the solo excursions. And the musical roots goes far deeper than the avant-garde music, also Duke Ellington jokes in a humorous way. There is broadness at the saxophone players and edge at the piano player, and Hugh Steinmetz just plays so elegant and so mesmerizing.

Kjeld Frandsen in Berlingske Tidende 2009-09-09.