

HUGH STEINMETZ SEXTET

The Copenhagen Jazz Festival of 2006 saw the rebirth of Hugh Steinmetz Sextet. The club arranging the concert had a theme, the 70 years celebration of the birth of the trumpet player Don Cherry, several new compositions were made, among them the two suites of Hugh Steinmetz "Cherry Blossom" and "Take Care of Business".

In the early sixties Cherry was playing with Ornette Coleman. And when Cherry arrived to Copenhagen in 1963 he met a group of musicians who had already started playing the themes of Coleman in the group The Contemporary Jazz Quartet, later Quintet where among others Steinmetz was a member. When Steinmetz in 1966 was acclaimed Jazz Musician of the Year he formed a sextet, which was, considering the horns, identical with the new sextet.

This new CD "The Cherry Blossom" released September 2009 relies on a 2007 broadcasting by the Danish Radio, it is produced by Ole Matthiessen, Lars Palsig and Hugh Steinmetz. In this new and energetic music we find references to classical jazz, the firm fundament also characteristic of the music of Don Cherry, but also excursions into the future and all the many different worlds of jazz today.

The musicians are:

KARSTEN VOGEL, born 1941, already 20 years old he was appointed "The Best Jazz Musician in Denmark" playing with his brother Henrik in "The Vogel Brothers Quartet". Later he played with Steinmetz in Cadentia Nova Danica with John Tchicai, and in the early seventies he formed the jazz-rock groups "Burning Red Ivanhoe" and "Secret Oyster" still existing.

HUGH STEINMETZ was born 1943. In the sixties he played in The Contemporary Jazz Quartet/Quintet and Cadentia Nova Danica and several European Jazz Avant-garde Orchestras. After a break he came back 1993 and recorded "City Music" with an octet. 1996 he released "Gate of Changes" and "Special Alloy" with his group Communio Musica (17 piece orchestra). 2002 came "Janus Head" on which Steinmetz played with American saxophone player Luther Thomas, Niels Davidsen on bass and Ole Rømer on drums.

KASPER TAGEL is educated on the conservatory on his native island Funen, he has been playing in The Orchestras organised by the composers organisation ToneArt and is a member of the Vogel-Steinmetz Quartet.

LARS JUUL plays drums and many forms of percussion in an adventurous way. He was born 1965 and 1991 he formed "The Sound of Choice Ensemble" with guitar player Hasse Poulsen and saxophone player Frederik Lundin. He has among others played with Marcus Stockhausen, Irene Schweitzer and Barry Guy.

NIELS HARRIT plays the saxophone; he played in the Contemporary Jazz Quintet (where he also played the saw) and he was a member of the rock group The Maxwells and the rock singer Peter Bellis soul group Seven

Sounds. As a versatile player he was a member of blues as well as salsa groups (Salsa Na Ma and Blast).

PER AAGE BRANDT is a professor in literature in Cleveland, USA; he is a writer of modern poems and a well-known translator. He also plays the piano on this CD, as he did in the sextet in 1966. His education on the instrument is classical, but Cecil Taylor and Thelonious Monk are inspirations.