

KAREN BACH TRIO

Melodic, mysterious, modern movements and more

Get ready for experiencing atmospheric soundpainting, free play and catchy melodies when young Danish pianist and composer Karen Bach takes the stage with her Danish/Swedish trio. The music circles around a Nordic sound and universe, as it unfolds in an authentic dialogue between piano, bass and drums. This is a trio that combines elements from jazz, classical music, pop and rock, opening up the traditional jazz format to make it more accessible to a broader audience, no matter age or cultural background.

The Trio:

The three members studied together at the Rhythmic Music Conservatory in Copenhagen, and established the trio with the release of their debut album "Conversation" ("Samtale") in 2005. Recording live at night in a church in Copenhagen led to experimenting with sound and acoustics. Ever since then, the trio continued to experiment with the traditional jazz format, aiming to reach a wider audience, as they gathered new inspiration in other genres from the world of rock and pop music. They have played concerts in Denmark, Sweden, Germany and New York, released their second album, "Flash Forward and Back" in 2007, and received grants from the Danish Arts Council and the Danish Jazz Union. Now they are ready with their third album: "Secret Rooms".

The music:

Adjectives that describe the music include: melodic, nordic, experimenting, genre-mixing, image-creating, fresh, atmospheric, and, last but not least, accessible. - It is purely instrumental, it is jazz, and much more. Reaching a wider audience with the mixing of genres has always been a high priority for the trio. Often after a concert, someone in the audience remarks: "wow, I never knew that jazz music could sound like that".

Karen Bach states: "I enjoy mixing the unpredictable with the predictable, for example, mixing the improvised and free parts with the composed and steady recognizable melodies. It makes the music vivid, like a journey. You hear a certain melody, then you travel around many strange and unfamiliar places, and all of a sudden you recognize the melody you heard before. I like it when melodies are remembered, like in any good pop tune ever written".

On the many things that have inspired the music, she mentions: "Reading the Icelandic Sagas, watching the TV series Twin Peaks, standing in the middle of New York City, walking by the sea in the north tip of Denmark, biking through a forest right after rain, the dark, never ending winter months and Mondays, the crisp sound of an apple, the rockband Radiohead, the tiny details of sunlight through a prism, and the mystery of what will happen next when playing live on stage. It's all little pieces and moments put together to express a whole, a certain feeling or an image."

The new album:

In the end of November 2009, the trio left Copenhagen to record their third album in Baltic Studios at the Danish Isle of Bornholm. And so, in the middle of nowhere, on a field near the roaring sea, the new album was made, supported by the high wooden ceilings, many cups of coffee, big chandeliers to keep the rooms lit up and warm during the day, a crystal sounding grand concert piano and talented Swedish engineer, August Wangren.

"During our time in the studio, we started experimenting with the sound of electric bass, adding little details from Fender Rhodes here and there to spice things up. Some of the tunes, like "Just before it gets dark", were created on the spot – we were ping-pong'ing back and forth, throwing things up in the air, turning them around and playing them again. The whole album has a sound of togetherness, as we improvise and react from each other's sudden ideas, creating a whole. Paired with the recognizable themes and melodies which are always present."



If you want to book: please contact info@karenbachtrio.dk or phone (in Denmark) +45 20 22 77 10
Read on to see what the reviewers have said about "Secret Rooms"

REVIEWS

OF THE NEW KAREN BACH TRIO ALBUM **SECRET ROOMS**

GAFFA Music Magazine (DK):

“As on their first two albums, this trio delivers a great, melodic package of impro-music, which clearly shows that the three as soloists are talented, and as fellow musicians somehow in telepathic contact with each other.”

ALL ABOUT JAZZ (US):

“Secret Rooms is a work of distinction from three talented musicians who have worked hard to achieve their own sound, and the album represents the refinement of an aesthetic that has been developing over a long time. It finds the trio at the apex of musical communication... A modern flavor, where the repetitive structures of post-rock open up the possibilities of improvisational surprises. Secret Rooms is a strong effort from a group which has found their own take on the Nordic sound.”

LIRA Music Magazine (SE):

“The music is strong in time and melody... You can almost hear Karen Bach’s fingers breathe. Quiet, calm, intense and faster. Every time I listen to this music, I hear something new. And the variety of it is so strong, that I think I will hear new things, no matter how many times I listen.”

JAZZNYTT Magazine (NO):

“This trio has come a long way with defining their own sound and strengths. Sound-wise, this is a very mature trio with solid interplay and great tunes.”

Geiger Magazine (DK):

“Secret Rooms” is an original, personal and modern addition to the wide variety of pianotrio jazz albums, where the dynamics of post-rock is united with the open fields of improvisation, and with a fragile beauty of inspiration from classical music. This album is the most personal, so far, from Karen Bach Trio.”

JAZZSPECIAL Magazine (DK):

“There is a certain suggestive, almost insisting sound in the music of Karen Bach. It contains a strange and fascinating ambiguity, balancing between gentle poetry and dark atmosphere. But it is also an ambiguity that, after several listenings, has continued to surprise me. And the fact that music can do that, is in my opinion a big quality. This is music that might move some boundaries and question what jazz really is...”