

LOUISE BØTTERN

"Kick Off Your Shoes"

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The vocal release "KICK OFF YOUR SHOES" sets off in the jazz of the 1960's – a time when popular music is jazz and for everyone, a time before jazz became a niche genre.

"This is the kind of imaginative recording that's needed today. Just so we won't forget that jazz vocalists are a different breed, not an after thought of a commercial vocalist that decide they can sing jazz too. This is a compilation of classic jazz wrapped in a cool, urban New York style."... "Ms. Bøttern handles the well thought out interpretations with flowing ease."

– Deborah Brown, jazz vokalist

With the emphasis on 'new' american vocal jazz, Louise Bøttern consciously avoids the most heard american standards and offers her own modern interpretation of agreeable and melodious jazz songs with both strong lyrics and demanding melodies.

'Autumn Nocturne' is accompanied solely by bassist Kaspar Vadsholt (DR Big Band), solidly supporting Louise Bøttern's text interpretation and gives the singer an open tone space for letting the beautiful melody lines flow. The voice is mature, true to the style and has a wide range with a full, almost insisting tone.

The titel song is from the romantic movie 'The Art Of Love' from 1965. Louise Bøttern says about the arrangement: "I've long wanted to do a 'jazzed up' version of this tune. The inspiration came from Dave Brubeck; playing around with a constant change in rhythm between straight and waltz – so I used this idea for a modern arrangement of 'Kick off your shoes'."

Louise Bøttern pulls the strings on her debut album; with own arrangements and choosing the repertoire and sound herself. She produced and financed the album on her own, with help of crowdfunding for the pressing of cd's. "I'm really pleased that I took my time in the creative process of making this music, which matured the ideas with me. I put a lot of thought into the cloosing

Louise Bøttern (vocals), Catrine Frølund (piano), Kaspar Vadsholt (bass), Mikkel Find (drums), Jan Harbeck (tenorsax, clarinet)

The Man I Love/ Kick Off Your Shoes/ Long Daddy Green/ Just When We're Falling In Love (Robbins Nest)/ Autumn Nocturne/ An Occasional Man/ It's Over Now (Well, You Needn't)/ You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To/ You/ The Ballad Of Thelonious Monk

of songs, the style I love singing and the overall sound of the album. I've long been in love with the jazz singer/ songwriter tradition which composers such as Dave Frishberg and Blossom Dearie ('Long Daddy Green') are a part of with their quirky and dry wit."

The album dwells on a vocal style of singers/ lyricists adding lyrics to existing instrumental pieces. One of the great contributors is Jon Hendricks (Lambert, Hendricks & Ross) who wrote the lyrics for Thelonious Monk's 'Ask me now' ('How I wish'). 'Just when we're falling in love' is an early bigband hit – again with lyrics added later, and here the vocalist along with tenor player Jan Harbeck performs the demanding original live solo from 1961 by Eddie 'Lockjaw' Davis.

Louise Bøttern grew up in a musical family close to Randers and knew early on that she wanted to sing. Out of the thrill for the blues grew the fascination for the jazz vocalists, enticing with the freedom in vocal interpretation. Among the inspirations are Carmen McRae, Sarah Vaughan, Shirley Horn and Peggy Lee. This interest lead her to The Royal Conservatory in The Hague (NL), studying in the jazz department – where great attention is put on musical skills and knowledge of the jazz tradition. She graduated in 2004 and is currently living in Copenhagen.

"Catrine Frølund has been my pianist ever since the day we met by chance at a yoga class for musicians and started talking. It was soon clear to me that she was the right 'wing woman' for my blooming project. We react intuitively to each others musical ideas and I love the 'ping-pong playing' happening between us. The other musicians have been chosen especially for this project. "I think Mikkel Find's classic playing complements Kaspar Vadsholt's full sound and strong attack really well. Jan Harbeck's solo playing adds character and charm to the songs. The group has been amazing at creating atmosphere and adding ideas to the music. Now we're very much looking forward to getting the music out and meeting the audience."

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