

BIOGRAPHY JAN GUNNAR HOFF, NORWAY

Jan Gunnar Hoff is a pianist and composer born in Bodø, Northern Norway 1958. His background includes classical piano, progressive rock, pop and jazz. His career as a jazz musician started in 1976 with piano trio and continued as a backing musician for Jon Christensen, Jon Ebersson and other jazz artists at local clubs. Hoff became a professional musician in 1979 and toured with Arild Andersen and Nils Petter Molvær in 1982. In 1987 he contributed on Jan Garbarek's commission work for Federation of Norwegian jazz musicians (FNJ). 1986-1989 he was educated at Jazzdep (Jazzlinja), NTNU Trondheim. Hoff studied composition and arranging at NMH Oslo 2000/2001.

In 1992 Hoff made his debut concert as a solo artist, presenting and performing a suite in 4 movements at the Arts Festival of North Norway (Harstad). Since 1993 he has worked with his own band, the Jan Gunnar Hoff Group. Major band events include Vossajazz in 1995, Molde Int. Jazzfestival and Oris London Jazzfestival 1996. Concerts in Paris november 2000, Molde 2001 (with Pat Metheny).

Hoff has played and collaborated with Alex Acuña, Mike Stern, Pat Metheny, Maria Joao, Kenwood Dennard, Audun Kleive, Bjørn Kjellemyr, Mathias Eick, Tore Brunborg, Lars Danielsson, Cécilie Norby, Fathy Salama, Martin France, Chick Corea, Anders Jormin, Marilyn Mazur, Arve Henriksen and many others.

As a composer and solo artist Hoff has released a number of recordings and composed 200 works for different settings. In 2005 Hoff received the prestigious Edvard (Grieg)- prize as a composer for his jazz mass *Meditatus*. He wrote the commission work "Free flow songs" for Vossajazz in 2005.

Hoff's CD *Magma* (2008) has an international line up with Mike Stern, Mathias Eick, Maria Joao, Eivind Aarset. Highly acclaimed are also *Barxeta* feat. Alex Acuña (2012) and the US Grammy - nominated *Quiet winter night* (2L-087). Hoff's latest releases include his solo piano album *Living* (2L-092) and *Fly North* (Musikklosen 2014).

January 2014 Hoff received a Buddy, the highest distinction in Norwegian jazz. He also works part time as a professor at the Universities of Tromsø and Kristiansand and he is the festival head of Bodø Jazz Open: www.bodojazzopen.no



Press quotes:

Allaboutjazz Jan 2014: "Together these four master musicians travel deep into a land of beauty. Fly North! is an enchanting musical journey in first class all the way through"

John Kelman, Allaboutjazz March 2013 (BARXETA):

"Hoff's Belarus blends a simple, haunting melody with an ascending and descending three-chord pattern before opening up into a pedal tone, driven frenetically by Acuña and Mathisen without losing its delicacy, leading to a piano solo redolent of keyboardist Lyle Mays' best work with Pat Metheny"

Progressive Rock Central.com 2012 (BARXETA):

"First class fusion with a blend of passionate, high energy and gracefully elegant music performed by three world class musicians...Jan Gunnar Hoff combines the melodic sensibility and dexterity of Lyle Mays with the edginess of Chick Corea"

Allaboutjazz February 2010 (MAGMA):

"Throughout, Hoff's writing and playing possesses an almost pop-like clarity and concision, but with a far richer vernacular".

Allaboutjazz November 2009:

"The thoroughly exciting Jungle City. From the higher velocity of Mathisen's title track and frenetically swinging "Jangala," to Hoff's abstract, synth-laden "Visions" and more upbeat, equally Zawinul-esque "Tribute," Jungle City clearly reveals an unmistakable reference point for these two fine Norwegian players, on one of Acuña's best co-led sessions to date"

Richard Palmer, Jazz Journal November 1998:

"Hoff emerges as a keyboardist of considerable versatility and flair. Clearly a player and musical mind to watch. An intriguing and often rewarding album that is well worth checking out "

Jazz Stage, Sweden 1998:

"Hoff has with his CD *CROSSLANDS* established himself as one of the important artists within Nordic jazz. He shows his own distinct language in both his pianoplaying and in his fine compositions"

Jazz Special, Denmark 1995:

"The CD *MOVING* with Norwegian keyboardist Jan Gunnar Hoff has more substance. The CD and Hoff's music is simply on top"

Jazznytt, Norway 1995

"With this CD (*Moving*) Jan Gunnar Hoff definitely takes a step into the Premier League of jazz. He is about to establish himself as one of the most important musicians on the Norwegian Jazz Scene in the late Nineties"

Boris Rabinowitch, Politiken (Copenhagen) 1993 Syklus:

"An excellent album"

<http://jangunnarhoff.no>