

## BIOGRAPHY JAN GUNNAR HOFF, NORWAY

- Jan Gunnar Hoff is acknowledged as one of Norway's leading jazz/fusion pianists and keyboardists. Born in Bodø, Northern Norway 1958.
- Hoff's background includes classical piano, progressive rock, popular music and jazz.
- He has played and collaborated with artists like Alex Acuña, Mike Stern, Pat Metheny, Maria Joao, Kenwood Dennard, Mathias Eick, Tore Brunborg, Lars Danielsson, Cæcilie Norby, Fathy Salama, Martin France, Anders Jormin, Marilyn Mazur, Arve Henriksen, Jan Akkerman and many more.
- As a solo artist and co-leader Hoff has released 20 albums.
- He has composed 250 works for different settings.
- In 2005 he received the prestigious Edvard (Grieg)- prize for the jazz mass *Meditatus*. *Meditatus* has been performed by choirs in USA, Canada, Iceland, Latvia and Norway.
- In 2013 Jan Gunnar Hoff and his "Hoff Ensemble" was nominated for US Grammy Awards with their album *Quiet winter night*.
- Hoff's quartet album *Fly North* with Marilyn Mazur, Anders Jormin and Arve Henriksen was nominated for the Norwegian Grammy, Spellemannpris 2014.
- Jan Gunnar Hoff has performed in Los Angeles, New York, London, Zagreb, Milano, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kiev, Stockholm, Istanbul, Havana, Riga and other major cities.
- He works as a professor at the Arctic University of Tromsø and at UiA in Kristiansand.
- In January 2014 Hoff received the highest distinction in Norwegian Jazz, a Buddy-award.
- In May 2014 he was credited internationally as an official Steinway & Sons Artist.
- Hoff's recent albums include:
  - 1) *Stories* - solo piano 2L 2016
  - 2) *Terra Nova* w/mezzo soprano Marianne Beate Kielland, Lawo classics 2017
  - 3) *Polarity* with Audun Kleive, Anders Jormin, Morten Lindberg, 2L April 2018
  - 4) *Barxeta II* with Per Mathisen and Horacio Hernandez, Losen Records June 2018
  - 5) *Jan Gunnar Hoff Group feat. Mike Stern*, Losen Records November 2018

### International 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 feat. Alex Acuna):

"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"

*AUDIO (Germany)*: "The Norwegian jazzpianist succeeds with *Living* in making a gentle, almost seductive debut. Varied melodics and magical depths, soundwise this is an absolute reference production"

*Mono and Stereo, Slovenia*: "For me Jan Gunnar Hoff creates a certain emotional bond between a listener and performer, transcends the labelling of pop, jazz, classical and simply work on evoking of feelings while cutting straight through any perceptions..."

*Progressive Rock Central.com 2012* (Barxeta feat. Alex Acuna):

"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 feat. Mike Stern):*

“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 “

*Boris Rabinowitch, Politiken (Copenhagen) 1993 Syklus:* “An excellent album”



Photo: Tom Melby 2018