

A really good review from Stacia Islandia's editor, Marcin Kozicki

Rósa Baldursdóttir - Icelandic singer that her musical education at the classical singing (and education) completed not only in Iceland, but also continued in London and Salzburg. Her solo work is mainly based on folk music, classical and musical. In 1990, she founded the quartet "Tjarnarkvartettinn." This vocal group founded to popularize the traditional folk music in Iceland, and the rest of Europe. The Group prepares its own interpretations of traditional songs and performs them, of course, in Icelandic.

In addition Rósa is valued vocal teacher at the Department of Theatre at the University Mozarteum in Salzburg, as well as a professor of Education and Vocal Choir in Pädagogische Hochschule.

Peter Arnesen - pianist, composer and arranger. Early in his career, he became famous as a session musician. This took place in London in the 70s and early 80s. He played with such legends as Mick Ronson guitar, Ian Hunter, lead singer of "Mott the Hoople", Petula Clark, Dana Gillespie, Simon Phillips, Tony Scott. The artist was active in groups such as IF, The Hollies, The Rubettes, Silverbird (Leo Sayer) and Daddy Longlegs. Besides, as a composer and lyricist taught courses and lectures at the University Mozarteum On improvisation in jazz, jazz bands, the history of jazz and popular music. He was a founder and member of the JAZZ piano Popular Music Studies Program.

Einar Sigurdsson - bassist, who was educated in Reykjavik and Vienna. He has performed with the Symphony Orchestra of Barcelona, Iceland Symphony Orchestra and the Icelandic Opera. In recent years, he played in bands such as Sviðin Jordan and South River Band.

Bene Halus-Woll - bassist born in Salzburg, which his double bass lessons at the age of 6 years. Since 2001, he played in several bands. However, in the period from 2007 to 2012. he studied jazz at the double bass and composition at the University of Anton Bruckner in Linz, where he studied alongside Peter Herbert and Christoph Cech. Currently, he works as a freelance musician and composer. Since 2010 he has been a member of the Jazz Ensemble Úngút.

Band Jazz Ensemble Úngút released two albums so far. The debut album entitled "Songs of Iceland / Ensemble Úngút" was released in 2007. Its re-edition took place in 2013.

In 2013, the market also appeared in the second album of jazz group called "Blástjarnan / Blue Star" released by Klanglogo. Recorded by Michael Wacht in Tonstudio Mozarteum. Mixed by Michael Wacht and Peter Arnesen. Mastering done Michele Gaggia DNS Studios. His production dealt with Peter Arnesen.

Creativity Jazz Ensemble Úngút can be regarded as a tribute to jazz music in the direction of traditional Icelandic folk music and talk about it as a folk-jazz. Musicians open up new paths music listener woven of mysterious and archaic-sounding folk vocal and instrumental sounds of contemporary jazz. Intimacy is intertwined here with the rough but exciting nature of the island.

On the "Blástjarnan / Blue Star" we can admire not only the skills of implementing singers and instrumentalists (although they are at the highest level), but also their artistry and songwriting ability. It involves, in particular, on the skilful and sophisticated compilation together two different styles, so as to form a coherent whole and unity. Thanks to jazz and folklore Icelandic coalesce on the album and is completed in a natural way.

The album can be heard many beautiful traditions influences of jazz and folk. In the game, the musicians can feel incredible sensitivity and feeling for the subject. Their play gives the impression as if striving to extract on top of the deepest layers of lyrical tradition of Icelandic songs. Instrumentalists properly use themes and melodies that appear in the layer of vocal and give them an interesting drama. Their jazz narrative is usually unhurried, but thorough, deep and intense.

The result is a dignified and inspired album. One time with a touch of melancholy, sometimes with a gentle glow serene climate. Everything is also beautifully sung. The singer clearly identified with their Icelandic roots. With the Jazz Ensemble Úngút we get a chance to commune with Icelandic folklore in uncommon form.

### Jazz Ensemble Úngút :: Blástjarnan / Blue Star

1. Einsetumaður (A hermit)
2. Veröld Flaa sýnir sig (Deceitful world shows itself)
3. Blástjarnan (Blue Star)

4. Sumarið þegar Setur Blitta (When the gentle summer)
5. Blitta er undir björkunum (It is gentle under the birches)
6. Ur Lilju (Almighty God of all men)
7. Fagurt er í Fjörðum (It is beautiful in the fjords)
8. Stóðum TVO í Tuni (two Stood in a meadow)
9. Móðir Min and KVI KVI (Mother mine in a sheep-pen)
10. Hættu að grata Hring (Stop crying girl)
11. Nú vil ég í enn nafni þínu (Evening Prayer)
12. Vöggukvæði (Cradle Song)

Jazz Ensemble Úngút: website // facebook // soundcloud

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