



ESPEN BERG TRIO

Espen Berg - piano, compositions

Bárður Reinert Poulsen - double bass

Simon Albertsen - drums

Named JAZZ JAPAN's «biggest musical discovery in the first half of 2016», Espen Berg Trio (EBT) is releasing their second album, «Bølge», on the Japanese label Blue Gleam (Sept 2017) and the Norwegian label Odin (Feb 2018). Espen's melodic, yet rhythmically highly complex music both challenges, and gets challenged by the trio's dynamic, spontaneous and temperamental interplay. Their concert at Trondheim Jazz Festival in 2016 was declared a «triumph» by JAZZWISE (UK), also writing that «it's the kind of unrepeatably night jazz exists for».

EBT will do a release tour in Japan in November, joined by the widely recognized singer Silje Nergaard as their guest artist. The quartet will visit Tokyo, Chiba, Kanagawa, Nagano and Kyoto, playing both Espen's and Silje's music.

Espen Berg (b. 1983), from Hamar, Norway, lives in Trondheim where he attained a master's degree in 2008 at NTNU's highly acclaimed jazz department. Espen has been touring around the world with the trio Listen, and has worked with artists like Trondheim Jazzorkester, Marius Neset, Seamus Blake, Per Jørgensen, Ole Mathisen, Anders Jormin, Hildegunn Øiseth, Mathias Eick, Cantus, Tore Johansen, Eirik Hegdal, Mats Eilertsen, Susanne Lundeng, Arve Henriksen, Jovan Pavlovic, Maher Mahmoud, and many more. Espen was awarded Norway's biggest music prize «JazZtipendiatet» at Molde Int'l Jazz Festival 2016, and won the best soloist prize at Hoeilaart Int'l Jazz Contest 2007 in Belgium. He receives government grants from Arts Council Norway in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Bárður Reinert Poulsen was born in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands. He moved to Trondheim and earned his bachelor's degree in 2014 at NTNU. He now works as a freelance musician in Oslo playing in many pop and jazz groups, among them The Fjords, Fieldfare and Wako, as well as with the Faroese Symphony Orchestra and with his own sextet Swenofon. Bárður has played concerts in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Greenland, USA, Japan, China, Bulgaria, Poland, France, Germany and Kenya, as well as doing session work in Tórshavn, Trondheim and Oslo.

Simon Albertsen finished his bachelor's degree at the NTNU jazz department in Trondheim in 2014, and is now a freelancing drummer living in Copenhagen. He is active in the Norwegian, Swedish and Danish jazz scenes, and performs in a wide variety of genres in and outside of the jazz category. In 2015 he was appointed to NTNU Ambassador as a member of the Espen Berg Trio, after releasing their critically acclaimed record «Mønster» (Blue Gleam/Atterklang). In 2016 he was featured on records by Operasjon Hegge, Wako and Adeln - all groups that are now making an impression on the Scandinavian jazz scene. In 2017 he is releasing new music with Wako, Espen Berg Trio and Adeln, and touring Scandinavia, Japan and Central Europe. He is praised for his dynamic, sensitive and responsive musicality, always with contagious energy and presence on stage.