

MARTIN JACOBSEN

Saxophonist, Composer, Bandleader



Although Danish-born Martin Jacobsen considers Paris his home base, the busy saxophonist travels extensively throughout Europe and abroad, performing with such notable jazz performers as David Sanborn.

Born in Copenhagen, Denmark, he began playing the tenor saxophone at the relatively late age 19, driven by a strong urge for musical expression after listening to jazz for about a year, especially the Miles Davis group with John Coltrane of the 1950s. He received a few lessons from fellow tenorman Tomas Franck, but largely taught himself to play. "It isn't always the best way to learn because you can make mistakes, do things wrong and then you have to waste time correcting bad technique. But also, doing it the hard way, you can make discoveries. You definitely find out what is really important."

Through the 1990s, Martin worked with a host of talented young jazz players on the Copenhagen scene and was heard with the Bust'n Bloopers Big Band with **Bob Mintzer** and formed his quartet in 1993. In 1995, he took the advice of saxophonist Bob Rockwell who suggested he move to either New York or Paris. Martin plumped for "Paree" and has since been performing and recording with **David Sanborn, Doug Raney, Bobby Durham, Gene Lake, Gil Goldstein, Rick Hollander, James Genus, Jesse van Ruller, Sam Moore, Mark Taylor, Greg Burk** and many others.

He also works frequently in **Italy** and has performed in **Japan, China, England, Portugal, Germany, Canada, the Netherlands, South Korea, Indonesia, Singapore, Mozambique, Scotland, Luxembourg, Albania, Macedonia, Spain, Hungary, Lebanon, Switzerland** and of course **Denmark**.

In 1999, he formed a quartet with Doug Raney, Gilles Naturel and Rick Hollander. The quartet exited audiences wherever they performed during four years and as a critic wrote: "Martin Jacobsen and Doug Raney are two acclaimed musicians both evolving in an aesthetic of their own which are not necessarily similar. The result, performed with a quartet de luxe, has chances to surprise many a listener." With his impressive debut album on SteepleChase, "Current State", we all have chance to hear how one of the most current and brilliant jazz groups in the European continent sounds like. As a New York critic wrote: "By his astute choice of album titles Jacobsen seems well aware of what makes jazz a vital music. It's the constant sense of growth and discovery, taking the old and making it new. His own tunes, the hard swinging "Backwater" and the title track, show him to be a composer of promise."

In 2004, he recorded with Italian bassist Michel Rosciglione and his trio with pianist Massimo Faraò and legendary drummer Bobby Durham, well-known for his work with among others the Oscar Peterson trio.

He also did a record date with another former Oscar Peterson trio member, the late bass legend Niels-Henning Ørsted Pedersen, when recording with Danish singer Benni Chawes in 2005.

Apart from being involved in many projects as a sideman or leader, Martin Jacobsen can currently (2008-2009) also be heard with saxophone legend **David Sanborn** and his band. They have performed at many of Europe's major jazz festivals and venues (North Sea Jazz, Montreux Jazz Festival, Berliner Festspielhaus, New Morning in Paris, Barbican Hall in London...) playing the music from Sanborn's latest release for Decca Records, "Here & Gone".

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