

OPEN OPUS

SØREN KJÆRGAARD
BEN STREET
ANDREW CYRILLE



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Søren Kjærgaard – piano
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Andrew Cyrille – drums

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Kjærgaard – Street – Cyrille *Open Opus*

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"*Open Opus*" is the second release by this intercontinental trio, consisting of pianist and composer Søren Kjærgaard, versatile bassist Ben Street and legendary drummer Andrew Cyrille. In 2008 Kjærgaard-Street-Cyrille released the album "*Optics*", which caught the attention of music critics around the world, calling it: "...minimalistic bliss!" (Jazz Times, U.S.), "...a beautiful and fascinating recording..." (All About Jazz, New York), "...terse & ruminative music..." (New York Times), "...iconoclastic sonorities..." (Jazzman, France), "...masterpiece of epic dimensions." (Geiger, Denmark).

As with "*Optics*", "*Open Opus*" was recorded at the renowned Sear Sound studios in New York City under the auspices of sound engineer James Farber. With only one year between the two sessions, the albums are in many ways interrelated, sonically and aesthetically. As the album title suggests, a ground element of "*Open Opus*" is openness: not only to exploring new sonic fields but also to the interweaving of the generations and traditions. (Cyrille, of Montclair, New Jersey, is 70; Street, of Brooklyn, New York, is 45; Kjærgaard, of Copenhagen, Denmark, is 32.)

The compositions, which except for two group improvisations were written by Kjærgaard, create an atmosphere, a musical state of being, with room for each individual voice to unfold. Accordingly, and preserving a kind of freshness and spontaneity in the music, most of "*Open Opus*" was done in first takes. Throughout "*Open Opus*" are textures of transparency and density, of airiness and water-like buoyancy – a meeting of three musicians in vibrant interplay, sharing a deep involvement with the expanse of sound.

To mark the release, Kjærgaard-Street-Cyrille will embark on a short tour in Denmark in October, followed by more appearances in 2011.

Søren Kjærgaard (born March 5, 1978) is one of the leading voices of his generation from the vibrant Danish jazz scene. As part of the Copenhagen based record label, ILK he has released eight albums as a leader, and working both collectively with – and as a featured sideman on releases by his Danish contemporary, guitarist Jakob Bro. SK has toured extensively in Europe, US, Canada, South Korea and China, and he has performed and recorded with artists such as Tim Berne, Geroge Garzone, Herb Robertson, Michael Blake, Wayne Horvitz, Thomas Morgan, Jim Black and Thomas Strønen. His work also embodies two recent releases with the remarkable tennis player, painter, poet, artist and filmmaker, Torben Ulrich (born 1928).

Ben Street (born July 7th, 1965) is one of the most sought after bassists on today's international jazz scene. He studied at The New England Conservatory of Music in Boston with Miroslav Vitous and Dave Holland, and moved to New York City in 1991. BS is present on a wide range of recordings from the past decade, and he has performed and toured with artist Danilo Perez, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Roswell Rudd, Paul Motian, Lee Konitz, John Scofield, James Moody, Mark Turner, Clark Terry, Junior Cook, Charles Davis, Sam Rivers, Clifford Jordan, Billy Harper, Buddy Montgomery, Ethan Iverson and Jimmy Scott.

Andrew Cyrille was born in Brooklyn, NY, on November 10, 1939. He has performed with artists ranging from Coleman Hawkins, Illinois Jacquet and Mary Lou Williams to Kenny Dorham, Muhal Richard Abrams, Horace Tapscott, Mal Waldron and David Murray. In 1964 he formed an association with pianist Cecil Taylor that would last for 11 years. In 1999, he received a Guggenheim Fellowship for composition. Within the past several years, he has been collaborating and working with musicians such as Archie Shepp, Oliver Lake, Roswell Rudd, Henry Grimes, William Parker, Dave Burrell and Marilyn Crispell.