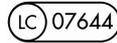




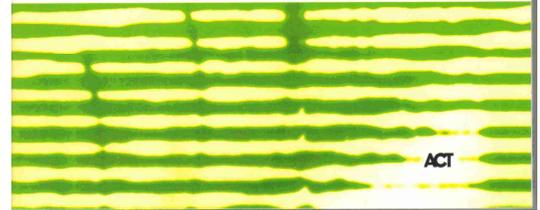
NILS LANDGREN LAYERS OF  
ESBJÖRN SVENSSON LIGHT

## NILS LANDGREN - ESBJÖRN SVENSSON

Layers of Light  
ACT 9281-2



Release date: 26.01.2001



**All music has its roots in folklore.** In some playing styles this is easy to recognize. In others hundreds of years of cultural development and change have effectively sublimated those roots. Stripped of ornamentation and structural artifice, however, the foundation remains the same. The melodies and structures that affect and influence people in their day to day lives remain the basis of musical knowledge and experience. They are the blueprints of the collective consciousness and a challenge to the creative spirit. Individuality along with innovation in its surprising, unconventional workings emerge as a contrast to those folk origins. So is the secret art by which the balance between memory and fantasy, between folklore, tradition, and improvisation is weighed.

**Nils Landgren** was born in 1956 and grew up with the music of his father, a jazz cornetist, and the church music of his grandfather, a pastor. He never lost his strong affinity for his own musical heritage.

**Esbjörn Svensson**, born in 1964, didn't want to play folk music at first. At home with the music of Chopin, Ellington, or disco-pop groups such as The Sweet, the pianist had first found his place in the competitive music scene in Sweden. His trio was a success, and in his homeland he was voted jazz musician of the year in 1995 and 1996. The first sprinkling of jobs became a steady flow. Svensson proved himself in the bands of his friend Nils Landgren. The music was about funk and soul, occasionally pop, and in the main, classic jazz. But not folklore.

**It was through the influence** of Landgren and Svensson's former teacher Bengt-Arne Wallin, who recorded the landmark album "Old Folklore In Swedish Modern" back in 1962 (ACT 9254-2), that Svensson and Landgren were inspired to make a duo album centered around folk songs. In August 1997 both went into the studio and with only trombone and piano recorded Swedish Folk Modern (ACT 9257-2). Their improvised treatments of the classic songs of the folk culture not only impressed the public; it brought praise from the press. Svensson and Landgren had created more than just a few impressions in duo. Discarding any sort of large conceptual superstructure, they had continued what Jan Johansson's Jazz på Svenska and Bengt-Arne Wallin had begun in the early sixties and what has since become a major force within the inner workings of European jazz.

**The time after Swedish Folk Modern** was hectic and exciting. Nils Landgren's Funk Unit advanced to the position of a celebrated festival act. Svensson's own trio, EST expanded beyond Scandinavia's borders, where the band's fortunes skyrocketed. Inundated with jobs, the musicians finally found the time to once again get together in December 1999 in Oslo's Rainbow Studio. It would be a meeting full of exceptional jazz energy. Even more than the first time, they would rely on the force of reduction. Moods would be suggested, left open. Melodies worked out in simple clarity. Delicate variations supplemented and amplified both the original and traditional motifs of the central musical impressions. Layers of Light is an affair of the hearts of two artists who went back to their roots. That makes their music truthful, direct, and authentic in a wondrous way.

**ACT****NILS LANDGREN - ESBJÖRN SVENSSON****The CD:**

Nils Landgren - Esbjörn Svensson - Layers of Light - ACT 9281-2 - LC 07644

**Line Up:**

Nils Landgren - Posaune / Esbjörn Svensson - Klavier

**Tracks:**

1. Song From The Valley (Vallåt från Hammerdal)
2. Calling The Goats (Get-Trall)
3. Kauk (Slatt-Kauk)
4. Kristallen (Kristallen den fina)
5. Mattmar (Vallåt från Mattmar)
6. Låkk (Låkk-Låt)
7. Höpsi ((Halling Efter Höpsi - Kerstin)
8. Calling The Cows (Vallåt 261)
9. Lullaby (Vagg-Visa)
10. Simple Song (Thuresson´s Visa)
11. Layers Of Light (Esbjörn Svensson)
12. Lonely At The Lakeside (Psalm)
13. Norwegian Fox Trot (Halling)
14. Nils Walksong (Gånglåt Efter Lapp Nils)
15. The Farewell (Bengt-Arne Wallin)

Traditional music arranged by Nils Landgren & Esbjörn Svensson  
 Except "Layers Of Light" and "The Farewell"

Produced by Siegfried Loch

Recorded at 2. und 3. Dezember 1999 by Jan-Erik Kongshaug at Rainbow Studio, Oslo.

Mastered by Jan-Erik Kongshaug.

**More music from Nils Landgren and Esbjörn Svensson on ACT:**

ACT 9257-2	Swedish Folk Modern	Nils Landgren & Esbjörn Svensson
ACT 9226-2	Gotland	Nils Landgren mit Tomasz Stanko
ACT 9223-2	Live in Stockholm	Nils Landgren Funk Unit mit Maceo Parker
ACT 9243-2	Paint it blue	Nils Landgren Funk Unit
ACT 9265-2	Live in Montreux	Nils Landgren Funk Unit
ACT 9268-2	Ballads	Nils Landgren
ACT 9271-2	5000 Miles	Nils Landgren Funk Unit
ACT 9005-2	From Gagarin´s Point of View	EST Esbjörn Svensson Trio
ACT 9007-2	Winter in Venice	EST Esbjörn Svensson Trio
ACT 9009-2	Good Morning Susie Soho	EST Esbjörn Svensson Trio
ACT 9010-2	EST plays Monk	EST Esbjörn Svensson Trio

**Distribution:** Night & Day (F), I.R.D.(I), Coast To Coast (NL), Proper Distribution (UK), Karonte (E), Dargil (P), Amigo (S), Musikklosen (N), A&N Records (GR), Equinox Music (TR), Distribution Fusion III (CAN), P&J Music (CZ), GIGI Distribution (PL), Jahipaun (EST), Universal Music K.K./IMS (J), C&L Records (ROK), MVZ (CH), LC Music (B), Jassics (ZA), NMC Music (IL), Jazz Fest Sarajevo (BIH)

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