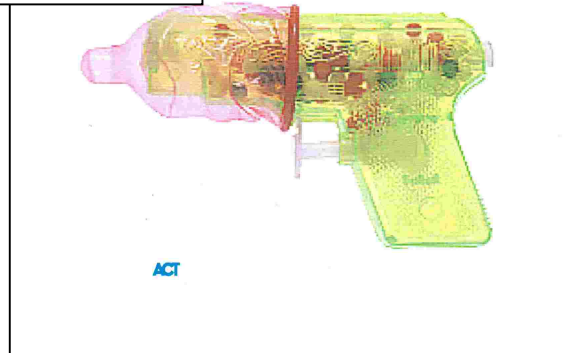


ACTFONK DA WORLD
NILS LANDGREN FUNK UNIT**NILS LANDGREN FUNK UNIT**

FONK DA WORLD

ACT 9299-2

LC 07644



Release Date: 24. September 2001

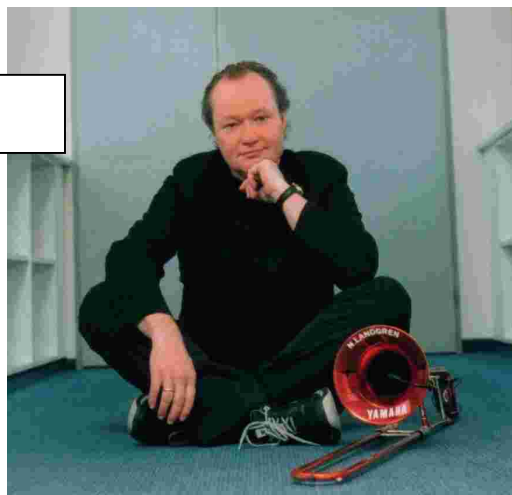
Hymn for Funk Heaven

Nils Landgren, the man with the metallic-red lacquered trombone and this year's head of the tradition-laden Berlin Jazz festival, calls his Funk Unit "the tightest band I've ever played with". Whoever has experienced a performance of the group knows what he means. The quintet's teamwork is extraordinary, and the group swings with an impressive, relentless rhythmic drive that pushes the music forward in a continuous powerful flow. In a word, they groove. In innumerable appearances from Stockholm to Montrieux through Beijing they have consistently left a jubilant crowd in their wake. The crowd is elevated not only by an elemental rhythmic force that makes them want to shake their booties: Landgren is a master jazz instrumentalist who, with his subtle stylistically ever-changing solos, again and again lifts the wild, cavorting dance music up and onto the level of the concert stage.

The Funk Unit has been together for ten years. They celebrate the occasion with a CD whose name was always in the band's basic program: "Fonk da World". Landgren's expressed wish was not to have a summit meeting of the illustrious stars who have worked with the Funk Unit over the years, players such as Maceo Parker, Fred Wesley, and the Brecker brothers to Till Brönner and Aírto Moreira. For Landgren the aforementioned desire meant that the Funk Unit itself is the summit, thus the anniversary celebration must belong to the group alone. The motto: Funk Unit Pure. The only exception: three pieces that include an old traveling companion - pianist-composer- producer Esbjörn Svensson, who with his trio, EST, has recently experienced a meteoric Europe-wide rise to stardom. Besides Svensson, EST drummer Magnus Öström and alto saxophonist Per Ruskträsk Johannsson are included in the small "Guest Unit".

There won't be any listeners posting missing band bulletins here. From the get-go the group achieves multi-hued richness and thrilling energetic presence that permeates all 13 tracks on this CD. With their mature, fantastically well-balanced sound, the group dazzles with funky stylistic cross-references. In an homage to the Doors, Morrison's dark trade-mark hymn "Riders On the Storm" is transported to another world by way of pulsating rhythms and a rap interlude. The Herbie Hancock piece "Rock It" is hoisted up in straight, angular fashion over a heavy beat, while "Freedom Jazz Dance", which was written by the multi-talented hit-writer and instrument-inventor, jazzman Eddie Harris, leaves the brassy sounds scurrying 'round the corner like so many frightened ghosts. In the Svensson piece "New Morning", a wailing blues guitar is played full-out in the best B.B. King style: blue tears off six strings. Naturally, a concert grand doesn't belong to this "hymn for funk heaven", rather the good old Fender-Rhodes piano and the tasty, satisfying purr of the Hammond B3 organ (Jesper Nordenström, Robert Östlund) take the stage.

The Funk Unit is an irrepressible play-loving machine, and the inner drive that propels it is infectious. Landgren and company's "ultimate goal" should be easy to achieve: **"Fonk da World"**.

ACT**NILS LANDGREN****The CD:**

Fonk Da World – Nils Landgren Funk Unit - ACT 9299-2 – LC 07644

Line Up:

Nils Landgren: trombone, fluegelhorn, vocals (lead on "Fonk da world")
 Magnum Coltrane Price: Fender bass, rap and vocals (lead vocals on "Booty Rock" and "Amtrak"), synthesizers
 Jesper Nordenström: Fender Rhodes piano, Hammond B3 organ, synthesizers
 Robert Östlund: guitars, Hammond B3 organ solo on "Calvados", synthesizers
 Niklas Gabrielsson: Drums, vocals, congas on "Fonk da world"

Guest Unit:

Magnus Öström: percussion
 Per Ruskträsk Johansson: alto saxophone
 Esbjörn Svensson: Fender Rhodes piano on "What's up what's up", "Booty Rock" and "New Morning"
 Oscar Traugott: Handclaps on "What's up what's up"

Tracks:

1 Booty Rock (Magnum Coltrane Price) 2 Riders On The Storm (The Doors)
 3 Mo Stuff (Svensson/Landgren) 4 Fonk Da World (Landgren/Price/Svensson)
 5 Anytime Anywhere (Svensson/Landgren) 6 Rock It (Hancock) 7 Amtrak (Price/Landgren)
 8 Freedom Jazz Dance (Eddie Harris) 9 Le Sunset (Jesper Nordenström)
 10 What's Up, What's Up (Niklas Gabrielsson) 11 From Stockholm to Beijing (Svensson/Landgren)
 12 New Morning (Esbjörn Svensson) 13 Calvados (Robert Östlund / Ulf Engström)

Produced by Esbjörn Svensson

Executive Producer: Siegfried Loch

Recorded and mixed by Jan Ugand at Nord Studio 3, Stockholm, Schweden in June 2001.

"Calvados" and "Riders On The Storm" recorded by Fredrik Andersson

Nils Landgren Funk Unit on ACT:

ACT 9223-2	Live in Stockholm	Nils Landgren Funk Unit with Maceo Parker 1994
ACT 9243-2	Paint it Blue	Nils Landgren Funk Unit with Brecker Brothers 1996
ACT 9265-2	Live in Montreux	Nils Landgren Funk Unit 1998
ACT 9271-2	5000 Miles	Nils Landgren Funk Unit with Fred Wesley a.o. 1999
ACT 9292-2	The First Unit	Nils Landgren

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THE ACT COMPANY

Ehrengutstrasse 28, 80469 München, Germany
 Phone +49 89 72 94 92 0, Fax +49 89 72 94 92 11
 e-mail: info@actmusic.com
 Visit our website at <http://www.actmusic.com>