

ACT

Nils Landgren Funk Unit

LICENCE TO FUNK**ACT 9455-2**

LC 07644

**German Release Date: August 31, 2007**

A true musical cosmopolitan, he has long acquired his licence in jazz and pretty much any other music performing alongside stars like Fred Wesley, Maceo Parker, Thad Jones, Herbie Hancock or Roy Hargrove. He may have been born in Detroit, Michigan or in Degerfors in the Swedish province of Värmland, as is the case with Nils Landgren; an artist of such stature that he needs no one's permission for anything and certainly not to *funk*. Mr. Red Horn, a name that stuck to Landgren because of his eye-catching red Yamaha trombone, has been a constant source of inspiration on the European jazz scene as an inexhaustible performer, highly original composer and charismatic teacher.

Landgren's presence and power made a strong impression on ACT founder Siggie Loch, when he heard the Swede play at the 1994 JazzBaltica festival in Salza. Such an impression, that Loch was sure he had made one of his most important discoveries in the course of his long career in the record business. His to date 15 albums and one DVD as a leader, as well as his collaboration on numerous other releases have firmly established the 51 year-old as one of the driving forces in the label's artist roster. The Swede is a hard working and immensely versatile musician, who feels equally at home in a small or a large line-up, in the swinging straight ahead jazz tradition as well as in the modern European styles. One style of music has always held a particular attraction for Landgren though: the type of funk that developed through sixties and seventies R&B and soul-jazz.

The focus of the new album *Licence To Funk* is on the communicating quality of funk. It is no surprise that a red-blooded musician like Nils Landgren would never let his indubitable jazz sensibility and fearsome virtuosity get the better of this endeavour, and turn it into an academic exercise. No way, José! This is an album for those who like to party, or as Nils states tongue-in-cheek: an album "to move my old Swedish body to the beat".

As we could rightly expect, Nils Landgren has found a universal and very contemporary vibe for this groove-based idiom. This may be due to subtle changes to the fabric of his winning Funk Unit team of Magnum Coltrane Price and German top drummer Wolfgang Haffner. New additions are keyboarder/singer Ida Sand, a new discovery from Sweden who just released her ACT debut *Meet Me Around Midnight* (ACT 9716-2) and flutist/saxophonist Magnus Lindgren (among other endeavours, he wrote the music for the 2003 Nobel Prize ceremony!).

Landgren was able to snag one of Detroit funk's true legends for his new project: guitarist Ray Parker Jr. The composer of the million selling "Ghostbusters" had collaborated with Landgren on the Swede's *Creole Love Call* album (ACT 9707-2) with Joe Sample. All the musicians are featured as composers on *Licence To Funk*.

Fred Wesley's "House Party", the ecstatic opener sets the pace for what follows: A celebration of funk as a collective experience. Each of the twelve tracks shows up a different aspect of the genre: The relaxed elegance of Landgren's own "Capetown Shuffle" contrasts with the exhilarating verve of the Ashford/Simpson classic "Stuff Like That". Lush gospel harmonies characterize the vocal sections of Magnum Coltrane Price's brisk "freak U". Soulful solos by the two horn players crown Wolfgang Haffner's laid-back "Slowfoot", vocalist Ida Sand charges her composition "Secret" with lascivious blues feeling, while Landgren's understated vocals bring a cool lounge vibe to "24Hours". The explosive riffs on "SampleRayT" conjure up the spirit of the Crusaders' heyday as does the power play of the whole band on "Brazos River Breakdown" an original by Crusaders-saxophonist Wilton Felder.

***Licence To Funk* opens a new chapter** in one of the most impressive success stories of the European jazz of the last years.

ACT**Nils Landgren Funk Unit****The CD:**

Licence To Funk – Nils Landgren Funk Unit – ACT 9455-2 – LC 07644

Line Up:

Nils Landgren – trombone, vocals
Ray Parker Jr. – guitar, vocals
Magnum Coltrane Price – bass, vocals
Ida Sand – keyboards, vocals
Magnus Lindgren – sax, flute, vocals
Wolfgang Haffner – drums, vocals

Tracks:

01 House Party (Fred Wesley) 5:05 02 freak U (Magnum Coltrane Price) 4:35
03 24Hours (Nils Landgren) 4:30 04 Stuff Like That (Quincy Jones, Nick Ashford, Valerie Simpson) 5:39
05 Slowfoot (Wolfgang Haffner) 5:49 06 Capetown Shuffle (Nils Landgren) 5:52
07 At Home (Wolfgang Haffner, Magnum Coltrane Price) 5:22 08 Secret (Ida Sandlund) 4:40
09 SampleRayT (Ray Parker Jr.) 5:41 10 For Those Who Like To Party (Ray Parker Jr.) 4:25
11 Brazos River Breakdown (Wilton Felder) 5:10 12 Tomomis Tune (Magnum Coltrane Price) 6:57

Recorded by Ranne Hansson, Altantis Studios, Stockholm, April 10-13, 2007 and by Stefan Boman, April 14, 2007
Mixed by Magnum Coltrane Price, The Beatbox, Stockholm
Analog Mastering by Björn Almstedt, Cuttingroom, Stockholm
Produced by Magnum Coltrane Price and Nils Landgren. Co-Produced by Ray Parker Jr.
Executive Producer: Siegfried Loch

Distributors:

edel Contraire (DE), edel Musica (AT), Musikvertrieb (CH), Harmonia Mundi (FR), Harmonia Mundi (UK), Karonte (ES), Dargil (PT), Egea (I), Musikklosen (NO), Amigo (Scan), Sundance (DK), A&N Music (GR), Equinox Music (TR), Challenge Records International (Benelux), Distribution Fusion III (CAN), GIGI Distribution (PL), Jazzworld (HK), AS Jahpaun (EST), C&L Records (KR), Gramofon (BIH), Dukyan Meloman (BG), INTEK (SI+HR), Southbound Records (NZ), Divyd (SK), Jassics (ZA), JSC "Bomba" (LT), 2HP (CZ), CD Bar (HU), Planet MGM Distribution (AU), Disk Union (JP), Andante Music (RO), Apostrophe (RU), DC Comp (UA), Allegro-Nail Distribution (US)

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