

ACT

Nils Landgren

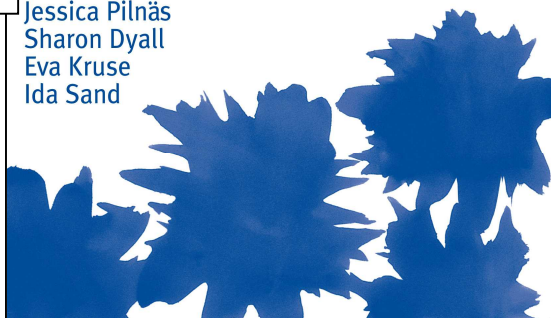
Nils Landgren

ACT

CHRISTMAS WITH MY FRIENDS IIJonas Knutsson
Johan Norberg
Jeanette Köhn
Jessica Pilnäs
Sharon Dyll
Eva Kruse
Ida Sand**CHRISTMAS WITH MY FRIENDS II**

ACT 9476-2

LC 07644

**German Release Date: October 31, 2008**

Friendship has often been the basis for great collaborations in music. It was also something very special for “Mr. Red Horn”, trombonist Nils Landgren, when two years ago he fulfilled a long-cherished wish by celebrating *Christmas With My Friends* (ACT 9454-2).

For many trombonists, Christmas music, which is often played by brass choirs, is delightful to play. In this case Landgren brought to the table not only all the Christmas songs he had come across during his 30 years of professional playing; he brought together all the experiences he has absorbed playing funk, jazzy pop, subtly fragile ballades, along with his work studying church music and Swedish folklore. Above all else he was able to celebrate a musical festival with many of his long-time friends and fellow musical travellers.

The critics celebrated the album as “the year’s most beautiful Christmas CD”, “a soulful heavenly journey”, and it went Gold in both Sweden and Germany. However, for Landgren it wasn’t the first CD’s overwhelming success that prompted him to bring out a new one: “‘Why another Christmas album?’ you may ask. I did ask myself the same question many times before it became clear to me that, with all the joy I experienced while making the first one and the warmth that embraced us while presenting it to our audiences on tour, it simply had to be a second one. I just felt that my journey through winter wonderland would not be complete without it.”

Five of the twelve friends who accompanied Nils Landgren two years ago are with him again on *Christmas With My Friends II* (ACT 9476-29): the classic singer Jeanette Köhn, the versatile vocalist Sharon Dyll, jazz singer and pianist Ida Sand, and The Norrland Duo of Sweden’s most talented acoustic guitarist Johan Norberg and Jonas Knutsson, a saxophonist especially known for his lyrical style. Knutsson’s decidedly stronger presence on the new album provides for a subtle change in the basic sound. New to the mix are the standout Berlin bassist Eva Kruse (from the trio [em]) and the young singer Jessica Pilnäs, a wonderful new power from Sweden’s seemingly inexhaustible treasure trove of female vocalists. Her impressive vocal duet with Nils Landgren on “A Child Is Born” displays a soul-drenched voice that simply melts the heart.

This unique journey is comprised of 15 songs as the participating musicians, brimming with enthusiasm and friendly give-and-take, travel across the many countries and centuries of an unexpectedly multi-faceted world of Christmas music. This world includes Swedish traditionals (“Jul, Jul, Strålande Jul”), Scandinavian versions of European carols (“Det Är En Ros Utsprungnen”), classic church music (“Psalm 130, Himmel”), instrumentals such as Johan Norberg’s composition “Kristallen”, on through to Christmas evergreens from the motherland of jazz (such as “Peace On Earth”). As if shining through a prism, the various personalities and souls of the musicians are reflected through the music; with this glowingly peaceful album they have conveyed the essence of the Christmas message, a message with meaning for all faiths and persuasions: Christmas as a musical festival of peace, love – and friendship.

ACT**Nils Landgren & Friends****The CD:**

Christmas With My Friends II – Nils Landgren – ACT 9476-2 – LC 07644

Line Up:

Nils Landgren – trombone, vocals

Jeanette Köhn – vocals

Jessica Pilnäs – vocals

Sharon Dyall – vocals

Ida Sand – piano, vocals

Jonas Knutsson – saxophone

Johan Norberg – guitar, kantele

Eva Kruse – bass

Tracks:

01 A Child Is Born (Thad Jones / Alec Wilder) 03:47

02 Maria Går I Törneshår (trad. arranged by Norberg / Knutsson / Landgren) 03:21

03 Ding Dong Merrily On High (trad. arranged by Ida Sandlund) 03:20

04 Jul Jul Strålande Jul (Edvard Evers / Gustaf Nordqvist) 04:22

05 Himmel [Psalm 130] (trad. arranged by Landgren / Norberg) 03:19

06 Det Är En Ros Utsprungnen [Es ist ein Ros entsprungnen] (trad. arranged by Johan Norberg) 03:17

07 Oh Little Town Of Bethlehem (Phillips Brooks) 03:47

08 Veni Veni Emanuel (trad. arranged by Köhn / Knutsson / Norberg / Kruse) 02:55

09 In Dulce Jubilo (trad. arranged by Norberg / Landgren / Knutsson) 03:45

10 This Christmans (Donny Hathaway) 04:40

11 Candlelight Carol (John Rutter) 04:20

12 Kristallen (Johan Norberg) 03:07

13 Christmas Hymn [Psalm 112] (trad. arranged by Landgren / Norberg) 04:16

14 Mariä Wiegenlied [Marias Vaggång] (trad. arranged by Sandlund / Köhn) 02:28

15 Peace On Earth (Rachelle Ferrell) 03:29

Recorded by Janne Hansson at Atlantis Studio and by Johan Norberg at Studio Krubaston, Stockholm, Sweden

Mixed by Johan Norberg

Mastered by Klaus Scheuermann

Produced by Johan Norberg

Executive Producer: Siegfried Loch

Christmas on ACT:

ACT 9454-2 Nils Landgren: Christmas With My Friends

ACTDVD 9901-9 Nils Landgren: Christmas With My Friends

ACT 9420-2 Christoph Lauer: Heaven

ACT 9260-2 Bugge Wesseltoft: It's Snowing On My Piano

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