

HÅKON KORNSTAD TRIO

Håkon Kornstad had already enjoyed quite an extensive international career as a jazz saxophonist—solo and with groups. He had released multiple Norwegian Grammy nominated albums with international acclaim, and he was praised by various international jazz magazines for his pioneering saxophone techniques, and for his warm sound. Then he started to sing opera.

Ten years later, he is about to become one of Norway's most sought after classical tenors, with several operatic roles in his repertoire, and with an ongoing collaborations with orchestras and conductors. Yet it is his own project (often dubbed "Tenor Battle" after the 2015 album) that takes the music one step further.

In Kornstad Trio, Håkon is joined by two of the finest and most versatile improvisers on the European music scene today; Frode Haltli on accordion and Mats Eilertsen on double bass. The trio recorded "Im Treibhaus" in 2018, a studio album released on the Norwegian label Grappa.

Kornstad Trio's repertoire consists of classical songs and opera arias infused with improvisation and strong interplay. However, this trio has a transparency and presence that makes it stand out from the rest of his projects. The music is in constant motion, and the outpouring of ideas and *calls and responses* in an almost *avantgarde jazz* fashion, makes for a highly different concert, each and every night.

But beware: This is not *modern jazz* in the old fashioned way. Rather, every concert takes on a different journey, full of freedom and warmth—and always together with the audience: Jazz fans, opera lovers, and all those who simply want music to be (a)live. File under: music.

"A musical world sensation" - Dagens Næringsliv (Norwegian Financial Times)

"Coleman Hawkins would have nodded approvingly to the arrangement on Verdi's "Di tu se fedele", and the title track "Im Treibhaus" is straight out magical" - Dag & Tid

"Grippingly beautiful" – Dagsavisen

"Once again, the link between romantic classical songs and Scandinavian jazz is surprisingly explored" - Johnny's Garden (NL)

The Norwegian saxophonist and singer turned what could have been a circus act into a musical tour de force - The Guardian (UK)