

Copenhagen Jazz Festival – below the surface

It's only natural that a jazz festival presents the biggest names of the genre – and that these artists get a lot of attention. But Copenhagen Jazz Festival is so much more than Giant Jazz and sold out concert halls. Most of the musicians are playing at small and crowded places or at open air venues, offering one amazing live experience after another. We can't write about all of the concerts in this program, so most of them are "hiding" in the section entitled Daily Program. Here are a couple of things below the surface that we would like to draw your attention to.

Henry Grimes: Master bassist Henry Grimes, missing from the music world since the late '60's, made an unprecedented comeback a few years ago. Between the mid-'50's and the mid-'60's, Grimes played brilliantly on some 50 albums with an enormous range of musicians, including Albert Ayler, Don Cherry, Benny Goodman, Coleman Hawkins, Roy Haynes, Lee Konitz, Steve Lacy, Charles Mingus (yes, Charles Mingus), Gerry Mulligan, Sunny Murray, Perry Robinson, Sonny Rollins, Roswell Rudd, Pharoah Sanders, Archie Shepp, Cecil Taylor, Charles Tyler, McCoy Tyner, Rev. Frank Wright, and many more. After moving from New York to San Francisco, he stopped playing after a while. Now, he's back and you can catch him live with Kresten Osgood and John Tchicai at Plan B (Huset) on the second Saturday of the festival.

Fred Frith: British-born guitarist Fred Frith, founder-member of mythic 70s progressive rock group Henry Cow, erstwhile collaborator of Brian Eno and Robert Wyatt, and major figure on the New York scene since the 1980s (Material, Massacre, Skeleton Crew, Naked City) will play a solo

concert on the first Saturday of the festival at the ship M/S Stubnitz.

Mike Stern & Chris Minh Doky: The American guitar legend who was with Miles Davis in the early 1980s, will be playing with his band at The Black Diamond (Den Sorte Diamant) on July 13. His bass player is our own local bass hero (and international jazz star) Chris Minh Doky, who on the very same evening will present his trio.

Mark Turner: One of the most well respected young tenors in North America, Mark Turner has impressed everyone in the jazz world with his thoughtful and passionate playing on both his solo albums and in his turns as a sideman (with Kurt Rosenwinkel, among others). On the second Saturday of the festival, he will appear at M/S Stubnitz playing with the Danish guitarist Mikkel Ploug.

Chris Cheek: We have invited US saxophonist Chris Cheek to become a part of the festival as a special guest. He will participate in several projects, appearing at different venues such as Nytorv, JazzCup, Gråbrødre Torv, Thorvaldsens Museum and Borups Højskole, playing with local musicians such as Nikolaj Hess, Jakob Bro, Christoffer Møller and Kresten Osgood.

These were just a few names – we could also have mentioned URBAN JAZZ VISITS at Zum Biergarten, Five Corners Quintet (Finland), Quarter Past (Norway), Christopher Hale Ensemble (Australia), Pamela Kurstin (New York), Tung Dong & Dan Bao (Vietnam), Ambitronix (France), but these are all described in the program. All you have to do is find them. Or you can use the search box at www.jazzfestival.dk... Happy hunting!