

Music for me, as pianist and composer, is a quest for depth and a quest to find a bridge between my emotions and the piano. When I begin I am uncertain about where the journey will take me and how it will end. It is important that compositions and improvisations constitute a natural whole. And classic songs like "God Only Knows" are *stories* and they must be told in a personal manner. Putting it all together in an album is exciting and rewarding.

Jan Gunnar Hoff solo piano *STORIES*

Recorded in DXD 24bit/352.8kHz

■ 5.1 DTS HD MA 24/192kHz ■ Dolby Atmos 48kHz

■ 2.0 LPCM 24/192kHz ■ 9.1 Auro-3D 96kHz

+ mShuttle MP3 and MQA



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dts
Master Audio

AURO 3D

DOLBY ATMOS

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Jan Gunnar Hoff

STORIES

Stories is Jan Gunnar Hoff's third solo piano album on the 2L label and is a sequel to his critically acclaimed album *Living* from 2013. On the new release Hoff stretches his creative abilities, presenting contrasting compositions and improvisations, in a distinctly personal mixture. Some of the pieces are meditative and expressive, while others have a strong rhythmic vibe. *Stories* also displays Hoff as an arranger, presenting versions of classics like "God Only Knows" and the traditional Swedish folk song "Värmlandsvisan".

Jan Gunnar Hoff started his career as a freelance musician in 1979 and has worked extensively as a bandleader and solo artist since 1992. Major band events include his highly acclaimed Vossa Jazz Festival debut in 1995, and performances at the London Jazz Festival and Molde International Jazz Festival in 1996, with TV broadcasts to twelve European countries. Another highlight was his successful collaboration with Pat Metheny in Molde in 2001 in a concert presenting Hoff compositions and Metheny classics in perfect union.

Jan Gunnar Hoff has released 15 recordings as a solo artist and co-leader. Albums in recent years include *Magma*, featuring Mike Stern and Maria João, *Barxeta*, where Hoff plays alongside Alex Acuña and Per Mathisen, and *Fly North* with Arve Henriksen, Anders Jormin and Marilyn Mazur, an album that was nominated for the Norwegian Grammy, Spellemannprisen. Hoff was the 2013 winner of the Buddy Award, the highest distinction in Norwegian jazz, and became an official Steinway & Sons Artist in 2014.

As a composer Hoff has written more than 200 works for different combinations of instruments. He received the prestigious Edvard (Grieg) Prize in 2005 for his choir piece *Meditatus* and the same year he wrote the main commissioned work *Free Flow Songs* for

the Vossa Jazz Festival. He was the arranger and ensemble leader of *Quiet Winter Night*; on this album, which was Grammy-nominated for Best Surround Sound in 2013, he successfully merges elements of jazz, folk and popular music.

In addition to his career as pianist and composer, Hoff teaches jazz piano and improvisation at the Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø and at the University of Agder in Kristiansand.

John Kelman, writing for the jazz network All About Jazz in 2011, describes Hoff's music in this way: "Hoff's writing and playing possesses an almost pop-like clarity and concision, but with a far richer vernacular."



Music for me, as pianist and composer, is a quest for depth and a quest to find a bridge between my emotions and the piano. I try to capture a moment, or immerse myself in a mood, and then use the resources I have to tell a story. I follow my own path instead of adhering to formal structures or accepting the constraints of a clearly defined genre. When I begin I am uncertain about where the journey will take me and how it will end. It is important that compositions and improvisations constitute a natural whole. And classic songs like "God only knows" are stories and they must be told in a personal manner. Putting it all together in an album is exciting and rewarding.

Jan Gunnar Hoff October, 2016



Stories er Jan Gunnar Hoff's tredje solo pianoalbum for 2L og en oppfølger til den kritiker-roste utgivelsen *Living* fra 2013. *Stories* er i likhet med *Living* influert av klassisk, jazz og populærmusikk og tar konseptet videre i en friere og mere innholdsrik musikalsk palette. *Stories* viser Hoff som pianolyriker og låtskriver men platen inneholder også kontrasterende rytmiske stykker og versjoner av klassikere som «Värmlandsvisan» og «God Only Knows».

Jan Gunnar Hoff er født i Bodø i 1958 og fikk klassisk pianoundervisning fra 10 års-alderen. Han begynte tidlig å spille variasjoner over de klassiske stykkene og lage egne improvisasjoner. Hans første banderfaringer var i progrock-genren, inspirert av grupper som ELP, Focus og YES. Fra slutten av 70-tallet jobbet han som allsidig freelancemusiker på teater, i danseband og med artister som Halvdan Sivertsen, Arne Benoni og Jørn Hoel. Som 18-åring var han med i en lokal jazztrio som spilte med tilreisende gjestemusikere bl.a Jon Christensen og Jon Ebersson. Dermed ble jazzinteressen vekket og siden 1992 har han fokusert på solokarriere og hatt sitt eget band.

Hoff har gitt ut 15 album som utøver og komponist og spilt med internasjonale størrelser som Alex Acuña, Mike Stern, Pat Metheny og Maria João. Han ble tildelt Buddy-prisen for 2013, norsk jazz sin høyeste utmerkelse og fikk året etter status som Steinway & Sons Artist. Han har skrevet over 200 verk for ulike besetninger bl.a tingsingsverket *Free Flow Songs* til Vossajazz i 2005. Han fikk samme år Edvardprisen fra Tono for korverket *Meditatus*.

Hoff var arrangør og musikalsk leder for det Grammy-nominerte plateprosjektet *Quiet Winter Night* (2L/Universal 2012). Av plateutgivelser de senere år kan nevnes *Barxeta* (Losen records 2012) med Acuña/Hoff/Mathisen, to solo pianoalbum på 2L samt den Spellemann-nominerte *Fly North* (Losen 2014) med Mazur, Henriksen og Jormin. Jan Gunnar Hoff underviser også som professor i jazzpiano og improvisasjon ved Norges arktiske universitet i Tromsø og Universitetet i Agder.

«Hoff's writing and playing possesses an almost pop-like clarity and concision, but with a far richer vernacular» – John Kelman, AllAboutJazz.com

For meg som pianist og komponist er musikk en søken etter dybde og å finne en bro mellom følelser og instrument. Jeg prøver å fange et øyeblikk eller synke inn i en stemning og deretter bruke de virkemidlene jeg har for å formidle historien. Jeg velger å følge et personlig spor istedenfor å tilpasse meg et stilisert format eller låse meg i en klart definert genre. Dermed vet jeg ikke alltid hvor ferden går eller hvor vi ender til slutt. Det er noe av det som gjør det spennende å jobbe med musikk og med en utgivelse som Stories.

Jan Gunnar Hoff oktober 2016









2L (Lindberg Lyd) records in spacious acoustic venues; large concert halls, churches and cathedrals. This is actually where we can make the most intimate recordings. The qualities we seek in large rooms are not necessarily a big reverb, but openness due to the absence of close reflecting walls. Making an ambient and beautiful recording is the way of least resistance. Searching the fine edge between direct contact and openness; that's the real challenge! A really good recording should be able to bodily move the listener. This core quality of audio production is made by choosing the right venue for the repertoire, and balancing the image in the placement of microphones and musicians relative to each other in that venue. There is no method available today to reproduce the exact perception of attending a live performance. That leaves us with the art of illusion when it comes to recording music. As recording engineers and producers we need to do exactly the same as any good musician; interpret the music and the composer's intentions and adapt to the media where we perform.

Surround sound is a completely new conception of the musical experience. Recorded music is no longer a matter of a fixed two-dimensional setting, but rather a three-dimensional enveloping situation. Stereo can be described as a flat canvas, while surround sound is a sculpture that you can literally move around and relate to spatially; surrounded by music you can move about in the aural space and choose angles, vantage points and positions.

Morten Lindberg balance engineer and recording producer

Blu-ray is the first domestic format in history that unites theatre movies and music sound in equally high quality. The musical advantage is the high resolution for audio, and the convenience for the audience as one single player will handle music, films, DVD-collection and your old library of traditional CD.

Developed by Munich's msm-studios in co-operation with Lindberg Lyd, the Pure Audio Blu-ray combines the Blu-ray format's vast storage capacity and bandwidth necessary for high resolution sound (up to 192 kHz/24Bit) in surround and stereo with the easy and straight-forward handling of a CD. Pure Audio Blu-ray can be operated in two ways: by on-screen menu navigation or by remote control without a TV screen. Remote control operation is as easy as with a CD: besides the standard transport controls the numeric keys directly access the corresponding track number and the desired audio stream can be selected by the coloured keys on the remote control. For example, press the red button for 5.1 DTS HD Master or yellow for 2.0 LPCM. Pure Audio Blu-ray plays back on every Blu-ray player.

 5.1 DTS HD MA 24/192kHz  Dolby Atmos 48kHz
 2.0 LPCM 24/192kHz  9.1 Auro-3D 96kHz

This **Pure Audio Blu-ray** is equipped with **mShuttle** technology – the key to enjoying your music even when away from your Blu-ray player. Connecting your BD player to your home network will enable you to access portable copies of the songs residing on the disc: you may burn your own copy in CD quality or transfer MP3s of your favourite tracks to your mobile player. mShuttle provides a versatile listening experience of Pure Audio Blu-ray: in studio quality FLAC on your home entertainment system, in CD quality in car & kitchen, or as MP3 wherever you are.

1. Make sure that your BD player is connected to your computer network.
2. Insert the Pure Audio Blu-ray Disc into your BD player and press the mShuttle button after the disc is loaded.
3. Open the Internet browser of your computer and type in the IP address of your BD player. You will find this address in the setup menu of your Blu-ray Disc player.
4. Select booklet and audio files to download from the Blu-ray to your computer.



Blu-ray authoring, DTS and Dolby encoding **msm studio group**
Auro-3D encoding **Galaxy Studios** • screen design **Hermann Enkemeier** • authoring **Martin Seer**
Blu-ray producers **Morten Lindberg** and **Stefan Bock**

Recorded in Sofienberg Church, Norway
August 2016 by Lindberg Lyd AS

Recording Producer and Balance Engineer MORTEN LINDBERG
Recording Technician BEATRICE JOHANNESSEN
Piano Technician JAN HAGHUS Steinway D-model

Editing MORTEN LINDBERG and JAN GUNNAR HOFF
Mix and Mastering MORTEN LINDBERG

Photo and Graphic Design MORTEN LINDBERG
Liner Notes JAN GUNNAR HOFF Translation RICHARD HUGH PEEL



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This recording was made by Lindberg Lyd AS with DPA microphones and HORUS converters to a PYRAMIX workstation on Ravenna AoIP. Complete system on JMF power line conditioner. Digital eXtreme Definition is a professional audio format that brings analogue qualities in 24 bit at 352.8 kHz sampling rate.

Note on Low Frequency Effect channel: For SACD and FLAC audio files, all six channels (including the Lfe channel) are calibrated for equal playback levels. However, in the audio streams for the Blu-ray the Lfe channel is lowered by -10dB in the mastering process, anticipating a +10dB elevation in cinema-style home theatre playback.

- 1 Värmlandsvisan 4:39
- 2 The Elder 4:48
- 3 Playground 3:33
- 4 God Only Knows 3:56
- 5 Absence 3:46
- 6 Figment I 2:48
- 7 Good Things 3:19
- 8 Answer Me 4:22
- 9 Figment II 2:50
- 10 Within 4:35
- 11 Stranger 2:52
- 12 Blossom 5:03
- 13 Figment III 2:01
- 14 Journey Home 3:47
- 15 Reminiscence 4:38

All compositions by Jan Gunnar Hoff
except 1 (Swedish trad.), 4 (Brian Wilson) and 8 (Gerhard Winkler).