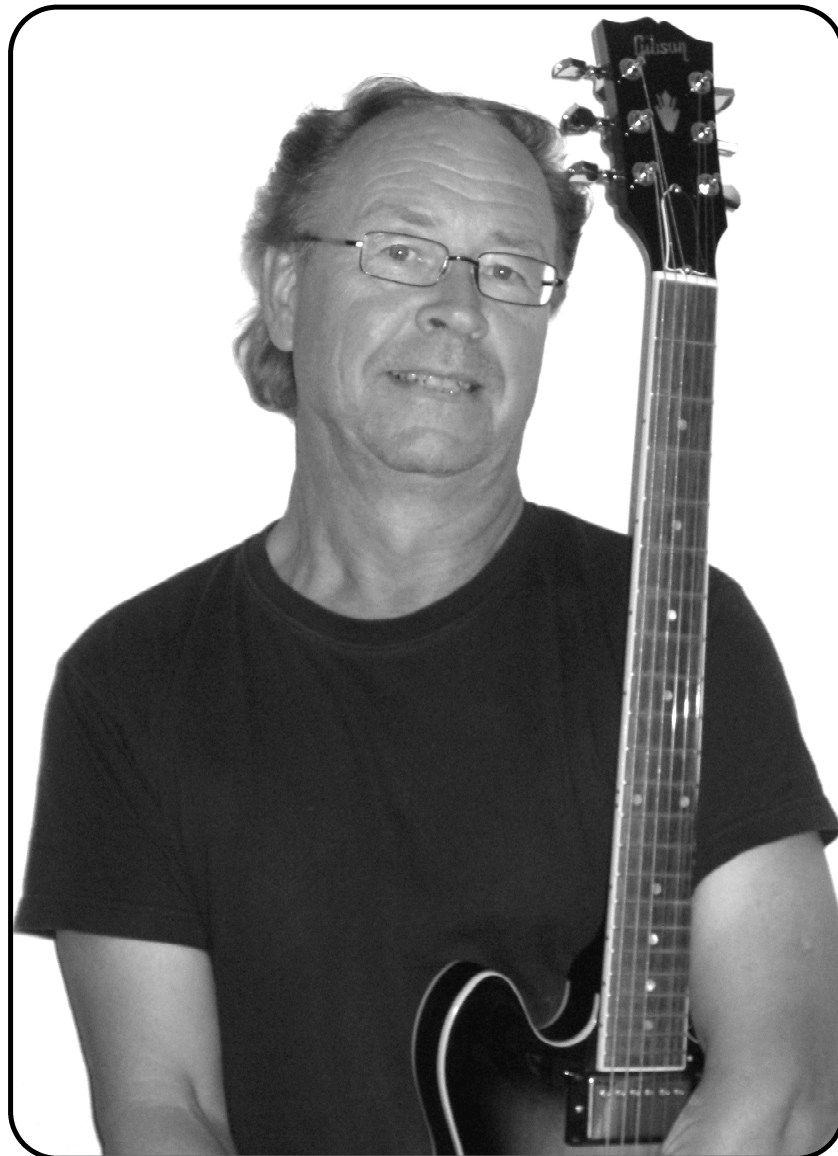


EWAN SVENSSON



Trio

Ewan Svensson Trio

Ewan Svensson - guitar

Yasuhito Mori - bass

Magnus Gran - drums

Ewan Svensson, considered by many to be one of Sweden's most interesting jazz guitarists, has been both a member and leader of a succession of many jazz groups since the end of the 70's. In 1984 he formed his first group under his own name. It started out as a trio but grew to a quartet - Ewan Svensson Quartet which since then has existed in some different constellations, toured regularly and made several records which have all been well received. Especially the last CD "**Meeting**" /w string quartet.

They have also performed occasionally with guest-artists like:

Art Farmer, Toots Thielemans, Clark Terry, Bob Berg, Kenny Wheeler, Johnny Griffin, Ken Peplowski a.o.

In 1987 it was time to put together a new trio, then for the purpose of accompanying the world-famous Polish saxophonist Zbigniew Namyslowski for a tour in Sweden. That collaboration continued for some years and became a new constellation of ES Quartet with tours to clubs, festivals and radio and TV engagements in different parts of Europe.

The next trio included **Palle Danielsson** - bass, and **Magnus Gran** - drums. They released the CD "Present Directions" in '91 and received excellent reviews.

In 1993 the trio performed at, amongst other locations, the Autumn Rhythm Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia, with **Yasuhito Mori** replacing Danielsson on bass and since then the group has been intact for almost 20 years.

EST has performed mostly in Scandinavia but also in Japan, where they had a great success on several tours.

In 2002 the trio performed in Tbilisi, Georgia, where they met the French pianist **Antoine Hervé**. That meeting resulted in a long collaboration with tours in France, Japan and Sweden, Radio, TV and 3 cd recordings. On 2 of those CDs the Swedish singer **Linda Pettersson** sings all original tunes by Ewan with lyrics by **Dave Castle**.

The idea of the trio is based on the conclusion that it is easier to conduct a conversation with fewer people. The interplay becomes close and intensive and at the same time a stimulating challenge. The music is made up of originals together with a few favourite standards.

Recent CDs: **Moments Passed / Sunrise on the moon**

These CDs show different sides of Swedish guitarist Ewan Svensson. (1) is all about Svensson the player as he tackles a set of Jazz and pop standards with a style out of the usual Jazz guitar lineage. On fast tempos, as with "My Shining Hour" and "Summer Night," he attacks with a speed and dexterity reminiscent of John McLaughlin. But on slower pieces, like "Infant Eyes" and "Peace," he has more of the spectral grace of John Abercrombie with Jim Hall and Pat Metheny somewhere in the mix as well. His rhythm partners, Mori and Gran, provide him with supple swinging backgrounds and constantly give him tasteful support. There are no real arranging surprises except maybe for the extra muscle on "Moment's Notice" where Gran struts and pops on his drums and Svensson goes crazy in his soloing.

(2) is more about Svensson the composer. He wrote all the pieces on this which were given lyrics by one Dave Castle and are sung by Linda Pettersson Bratt. Svensson writes pretty folkish melodies with a slight Ralph Towner flavor and Bratt has a warm, sunny voice perfect for tackling them. Slow songs like "I'm Here" and "Shy" melt in her treatment but she also shows capable Jazz chops climbing all over energetic tunes like the bouncy "Absolutely You" and the loping "Starsville." She is also surrounded by excellent instrumental settings like the swooning atmosphere of Svensson's lyrical guitar and Gran's dancing drums on "Sunrise On The Moon," Antoine Herve's drifting acoustic piano on "Season Of The Heart" and the moody electric piano groove of "Shadows." Bratt's girlish coolness is in the same vein as other great European singers like Karin Krog and Norma Winstone and Svensson's music gives her room to fly. /*Jerome Wilson*

This CD is, in fact, in every respect superb / *DIG-music*

"The more I listen to this one, the more I like it. The first time around, it was the solid work by drummer Magnus Gran that attracted me. After a few more plays, I still feel that Gran is the key to the music's success, but I've come to appreciate Yasuhito Mori's dependable bass and Svensson's guitar textures as equally critical to the project. Most enjoyable music that will reward repeated listening." (*Stuart Kremsky, Cadence*)

"Ewan Svensson is a guitarist who impresses more and more with each new project. Had he been born a little more west than Halland he would without doubt have been a world name.

(*Magnus Nilsson, Smålandsposten*)

Moments Passed is concluded with the leader completely solo in a brilliant version of

"Have you Met Miss Jones?" Joe Pass could not have done it better. *OJ*

"each new record from him is an exiting meeting with a musician who keeps developing his music." (*Jazz-Stage*)

"Their power and energy is quite irresistible" (*Luleå- Kuriren.*)

"the main thing, anyhow, is the three musician's play and both individual as inside the ensemble it is glowing..." (*Politiken DK*)

"The guitarist Ewan Svensson is an unique musician in Sweden.

Among all jazz -guitarists he plays neither fusion nor be-bop.

His playing is based on a more personal style that is also influenced of his skill as a composer.

ES is one of Sweden's most interesting and personal jazz guitarists." *SLA*

"Jazz-guitar in world-class" *TSL*

"Obvious" *OJ*

Ewan Svensson CDs. All on Dragon Records
except no 7 (Spice of Life, Japan) and 8 (Nocturne, France)



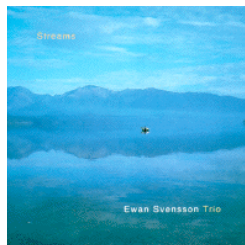
1 Present Directions



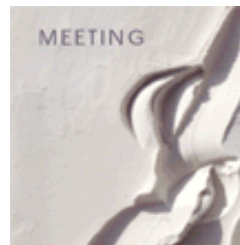
2 Reflections



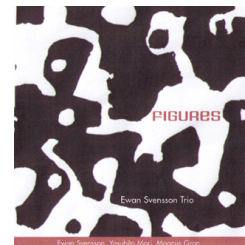
3 Next Step



4 Streams



5 Meeting



6 Figures



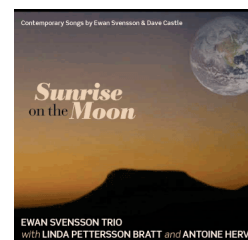
7 Just live to tell the tale



8 Light & Shade



9 Moments Passed



10 Sunrise on the Moon

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