

# NILS LANDGREN & FUNK UNIT



## OME proudly presents – **NILS LANDGREN & FUNK UNIT**

Nils Landgren was born in 1956, an Aquarius. Started playing the drums at the age of six and picked up the trombone at thirteen. Went to music college in 1972 and to music university in 1974, finishing his studies 1978.

Moved to Stockholm, Capitol of Sweden the same year, to work as a professional trombonplayer. Nils played in various jazz- and rockbands as well as dwelling in the pit of all the theatres in Stockholm and doing recording sessions.

In 1981, Thad Jones formed a new Big Band in Milan, Italy, with Nils as lead trombonplayer. The band included members from Thad's earlier bands, among others Jerome Richardson, Sahib Shihab, Benny Baily and Idrees Suleiman. After the band split-up, Nils continued with Mr Jones in different settings for another two years, playing all over Europe.

He formed his first UNIT in 1983 and recorded his first album as a leader in 1984, called "PLANET ROCK". The same year he also formed the to become very famous in Sweden bands NILS LANDGREN and THE COSMIC BEAVERS. The debut album "Streetfighter" was also released in 1984, featuring Nils as a trombonplayer and, for the first time, also as a singer.

Together with some other Swedish topmusicians Nils formed the very successful 13-piece group LITTLE MIKE AND THE SWEET SOUL MUSIC BAND, touring Scandinavia from 1984 to 1987, and recording two smash hit albums. In 1985 Nils recorded his third album as soloartist, recorded in London and titled: YOU ARE MY NUMBER ONE.

Between 1985 and 1987, Nils was co-starring in the PLAY OF THE YEAR, "SKÅL!", as an actor, singer, trombonplayer and dancer, doing somewhat 360 performances.

He released his fourth album MILES FROM DUKE in 1987, collaborating with Sweden's foremost composer and arranger, Mr Bengt-Arne Wallin. The album was a dedication to the giants of jazz, performed by a large modern jazzorchestra, featuring the playing of Nils and writing of Mr Wallin, with whom he also made the soundtrack for the movie "Winter of the rats" in 1988.

In 1988 Nils formed the duo CHAPTER 2 with guitarplayer and singer Johan Norberg, touring Sweden extensively between 1988 and 1991. The duo released their first album in 1989, titled CHAPTER 2, and they followed up the success with the new album CHAPTER 2, TWO and an extensive tour of Sweden in the beginning of 1994.

1990 saw the next Landgren album being released, FOLLOW YOUR HEART, featuring the current members of NILS LANDGREN UNIT.

A very special project was released in 1991, called UNTITLED SCHETCHES 1991, featuring the polish trumpetplayer and member of JAZZ BALTICA, Tomasz Stanko, and churchorgan player Anders Eljas. With Nils on trombone they performed in Oscarskyrkan, one of Stockholm's acoustically wonderful churches, playing music composed specially for the occasion by Nils. The concert was recorded and released on the ACT MUSIC label worldwide in December 1995.

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NILS LANDGREN UNIT released their latest album in November 1992, titled RED HORN, in collaboration with the legendary sound engineer and producer Bruce Swedien.

Nils has appeared on countless TV-shows and recording sessions during the years, working with absolutely every star, every artist to be found in the country of Sweden, may it be jazz, rock, pop or even classical music. He has been featured as an actor in TV-specials, thrillers and comedy shows as well as in theaterplays in Stockholm. He has also written the musicscore for the thriller "CODE PARAGON" for the Swedish National Television.



*Nils Landgren & Herbie Hancock*

Nils has recorded and performed with many Swedish and international artists, such as: **Bernt Rosengren, Rolf Eriksson, Bobo Stensson, Palle Danielsson, ABBA, Kenny Wheeler, Keith Tippets, Elton Dean, Neil Conti and Paul Carrack, The Crusaders, Joe Sample, Marcus Miller, Brenda Russell, Randy Crawford, Michael Ruff, Warne Marsh, George Russell, David Murry, Bernard "Pretty" Purdie, Herbie Hancock and Thad Jones.**

Nils own Record label RED HORN RECORDS, released its third CD-production in Sweden in December 1994, titled NILS LANDGREN UNIT LIVE IN STOCKHOLM, featuring **Maceo Parker.**

In 1996 Nils signed a contract with the German Record Company ACT MUSIC+VISION witch will bring four new albums during the next four years. The first album, PAINT IT BLUE, was released in oktober 1996 and is dedicated to the Adderly-brothers, with Michael and Randy Brecker, Airto Moreira a.o. among the guest soloist. It has become a great success in Sweden, Germany and USA.

Since summer -96 Nils has toured in Scandinavia and Europe with his own, new band NILS LANDGREN FUNK UNIT. This band is a mix of musicians from his earlier bands, with some of the best and most well known younger Swedish jazzmusicians as the pianist Esbjörn Svensson. NLFU was the most inquired band on jazzfestivals in Sweden -96.

During 1997 NLFU made two tours all over Germany and Switzerland, one tour in Balticum and a tour to Peking, Chine, where the band was the head attraction. All together the band played 80 concerts on different festivals and clubs, and Nils got the award "jazzmusician of the year" in Germany.

1998 NLFU made three major tours in Europe, all together 70 different concerts on clubs and festivals in Europe, including Montreux, where the CD "live in Montreux" was recorded.

In 1999 Nils record his fourth CD on ACT, "5000 Miles". The band tour in Europe during the summer and autumn. Nils gets the price "Readers Poll Award" from the musicpaper "Concerto" from Austria.

In 2000 the band toured Canada and Europe.