



PHOTO © JEFF SALES, PARIS

SILENT FIRES **FORESTS**

Born at the **Norges Musikkhøgskole** (Oslo), Norwegian-Italian chamber group **Silent Fires** reunites four young bandleaders from the improvised music scene: singer **Karoline Wallace**, trumpeter **Hilde Marie holsen**, violinist **Håkon Aase** and pianist **Alessandro Sgobbio**. Their personal intermixture of chant, lyrics and acoustic-electronic fragments, merged into written and improvised soundscapes, investigates the theme of spirituality in its multiple meanings. Since 2018, they perform on stage with Norwegian dancer **Synne Garvik**.

The music, written by Alessandro Sgobbio, is collectively elaborated and arranged by all band members. The English, Norwegian and Italian lyrics combine several extracts by **René Guénon**, **Maya Angelou**, **William Butler Yeats**, the **Coptic Gospel of the Egyptians**, the **Psalms**, with original texts written by Alessandro Sgobbio.

Debut album **Forests** – recorded by **Stefano Amerio** at the **Artesuono Studios** (Italy), released on December 6, 2019 under **AMP Music & Records** (Norway) – has received +40 reviews, including a mention of "Album of the month" by Italian Magazine **Musica Jazz** and **Europe Jazz Network**.

The band has performed in Oslo, Berlin, Paris, Porto, Milan, Udine, Pavia, Turin – receiving financial support from **FUKK**, **Kulturrådet** and **Norsk Jazzforum**. A video-reportage of the tour has been produced and released by Swiss National TV **RSI**.

Norwegian journalist Tor Hammerø has welcomed **Silent Fires** as « a wonderful collective » (**Nettavisen**), while **All About Jazz** (USA) has reviewed **Forests** as « a first-rate debut album, full of promise for the future ».

FORESTS THE ALBUM

"FOUR YOUNG EUROPEAN TALENTS GATHERED UNDER THE GOOD STAR OF IMPROVISATION, CRYSTALLIZED IN THEIR FIRST ALBUM. TECHNICALLY FLAWLESS, THEIR MUSIC IS THE PERFECT FUSION OF CONTEMPORARY ACIDIFICATIONS AND THE NORTHERN EUROPEAN MELODIC MASSES."

ALCESTE AYROLDI MUSICA JAZZ



APPLEMUSIC • SPOTIFY • SOUNDCLOUD

ALBUM OF THE MONTH

EUROPEAN JAZZ NETWORK
MUSICA JAZZ

RELEASE CONCERTS

OSLO | NASJONAL JAZZSCENE
PARIS | SUNSIDE
BERLIN | B-FLAT
PORTO | PORTA JAZZ



VIDEO PLAYLIST

(click below)

LIVE IN OSLO

LIVE IN NORWAY

TEASER

VIDEOCLIP (Paris - Haugesund)

VIDEOCLIP (Venezia)

SWISS TV REPORTAGE

INSTAGRAM • FACEBOOK • TWITTER • YOUTUBE



SILENT FIRES **REVIEWS**



PHOTO © SOUKIZY, MILAN

AN EXQUISITE INTERPLAY OF SOUND AND SILENCE.
JAZZ JOURNAL (UK)

A PROFOUND UNIQUE ALBUM. SILENT FIRES IS A BAND LIKE NO OTHER.
JUAN HITTERS (AT)

ALBUM OF THE MONTH – JAZZ MEDIA CHART
EUROPE JAZZ NETWORK CHART

FORESTS: TV INTERVIEW & TOUR REPORTAGE.
SWISS TV RSI-LA1 (CH)

JAZZ TROTTER : SILENT FIRES - FORESTS.
FRANCE MUSIQUE (FR)

OPEN, MELANCHOLIC, EXPERIMENTAL AND MODERN LANDSCAPE. A THOUGHTFUL RECORD.
SALT PEANUTS (NO)

A PIECE OF POIGNANT CONTEMPORARY MUSIC WITH SIGNIFICANT MELODIC QUALITIES.
JAZZNYTT (NO)

A VERY EXCITING MUSICAL EXCURSION. A WONDERFUL COLLECTIVE.
NETTAVISEN (NO)

SUPERBLY MEDITATIVE, IMMERSIVE.
HIS VOICE (CZ)

AMBITIOUS, DREAMY AND ATMOSPHERIC.
LIRA (SE)

A POWERFUL AND MARVELOUS ALBUM.
JAZZNYT (DK)

AN ENCHANTING SOUND.
JAZZRADAR (NL)

FORESTS IS A NEW FASCINATING SOUND UNIVERSE.
THE GRONINGEN REPORT (NL)

SMALL, MYSTERIOUS PIECES OF JEWELRY TO UNLOCK.
JAZZFLITS (NL)

AN ALBUM FULL OF SUPPLENESS, INVENTIVENESS, EMOTION, ABSTRACTION AND SENSUALITY. CAPTIVATING.
SILENCE AND SOUND (FR)

FULL OF SECRET AND UNSPOKEN PROMISES. WELL WORTH IT!
LABORATORIUM MF (PL)

A REALLY SURPRISING AND ENJOYABLE RECORD.
CAN BE EVEN THIS BE CALLED MUSIC BLOG (UK)

A DEEP EXPLORATION OF SPIRITUALITY THAT ENCOURAGE THE LISTENER TO DELVE INTO EMPATHY AND INTROSPECTION.
HARMONIC DISTORSION (UK)

A FIRST RATE DEBUT ALBUM, FULL OF PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE.
ALL ABOUT JAZZ (USA)

OUTSTANDINGLY BEAUTIFUL RECORDING.
GAPLEGATE MUSIC REVIEW (USA)

DREAMY INTIMATE HORNS AND AN ETHEREAL VOICE.
JAZZ WEEKLY (USA)

BEAUTIFUL AND ENGAGING NEW RELEASE.
KSFR RADIO (USA)

A BRILLIANT QUARTET.
JAZZIT MAGAZINE (IT)

AN EXEMPLARY BALANCE BETWEEN COMPOSITION AND FREE IMPROVISATION, SINGING AND POETRY.
ALL ABOUT JAZZ (IT)

A PERFECT FUSION OF CONTEMPORARY ACIDIFICATIONS AND NORTH-EUROPEAN MELODIC MASSES.
MUSICA JAZZ (IT) – ALBUM OF THE MONTH

MUSIC WITH A GREAT SENSE OF MUSICALITY AND SOPHISTICATION.
PERCORSI MUSICALI (IT) – BEST ALBUMS OF 2019

AN ALBUM MARKED BY A FRESH ORIGINALITY.
GAZZETTA DI PARMA (IT)

AN ALBUM OUTSIDE THE BOX WITH AN UNUSUAL BEAUTY.
JAZZ CONVENTION (IT)

ELEVEN SONGS OF AN EXTRAORDINARY FORCE.
RADIOAKTIV (IT)

AN INTENSE JOURNEY.
OFF TOPIC (IT)

A DELICATE CONSTANT MOVEMENT, AN EMOTIONAL FLUX.
RELICS (IT)

AN INVITATION TO A DEEP INTROSPECTIVE SEARCH.
SOUND CONTEST (IT)

A TIMELESS SURPRISE THAT SHALL BE REFERENCED AS A GOLDEN, TREASURED CLASSIC IN THE FUTURE.
NITE STYLEZ (DE)

EXTREMELY IMAGINATIVE, COLORFUL MUSIC.
NORDISCHE MUSIK (DE)

GREAT COMPOSITIONS. A WINTER ALBUM.
MUSIK AN SICH (DE)

A HARMONIOUS COMBINATION OF ELECTRONICS AND ACOUSTIC INSTRUMENTS.
SALONAV (RU)

SILENT FIRES BIOGRAPHIES

KAROLINE WALLACE – vocals



Karoline Wallace is a singer, composer and arranger. She composes and arranges for her bands, for wind orchestras, choirs, string quartets, big bands. She has a master's degree in composing and music performance from the Rhythmic Music Academy in Copenhagen with semesters done at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo and the Academy of Music and Drama in Gothenburg. She took her bachelor degree in jazz music performance at the Grieg Academy in Bergen and in the Royal College of Music in Stockholm. Between her studies she lived two years as a performing musician in Berlin.

PHOTO © JENNY BERGER MYHRE, OSLO

HILDE MARIE HOLSEN – trumpet, effects



Hilde Marie Holsen blends the mournful tone of the brass instrument with the explorative field of electronic music to make music that lists somewhere between jazz, the contemporary and drone music. Holsen's debut album «Ask» was released on the Norwegian label Hubro in 2015, and hit the shelves with critical acclaim from amongst others The Guardian, The Wire and The Quietus. In 2018, Holsen followed up with her second solo album, «Lazuli», also released on Hubro, and was claimed to be «an almost shockingly complete musical statement».

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SYNNE GARVIK – dance



Synne Garvik graduated with a BA in modern and contemporary dance from the University of Stavanger, Institute for music and dance in 2016. Synne has worked

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in different productions such as: "Suite Transformé" and "WOW!" in Todelt Aften 2017 and 2019, MASS in Iceland 2018, and various performances connected with the company. She is based in Oslo, and is currently working as a freelancer, teacher and as chairman for Kompani Haugesund.

HÅKON AASE – violin, percussion



Norwegian violinist Håkon Aase is an outstanding presence in the Norwegian and International scene. In these recent years, Håkon has recorded and toured extensively worldwide with the Thomas Strønen's TiAbG as well as the Mathias Eick 5et (ECM Records). Håkon earns a master's degree from the Norwegian Academy of Music (Oslo) and has released several albums with his own personal projects Yügen, Duetrost and Filosofer.

ALESSANDRO SGOBBIO – piano, composition



Since his debut piano solo album "Aforismi Protestanti", Alessandro keeps expanding his own personal vocabulary of compositions, improvisations and spiritual explorations throughout music. He's earned master's degrees at the Norwegian Academy of Music (Oslo, Norway) and the Boito Conservatory of Music (Parma, Italy). Alessandro has released 12 albums as a leader, co-leader, pianist, composer and producer, including the Debra's Dream Sextet, the CHARM trio, and Scandinavian quartet HITRA who has recently released «Transparence» (2021). Sgobbio regularly tours Europe, China and the US with his co-led project Pericopes+1, as well as a piano solo performer.

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