

Jens Winther Curriculum Vitae

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Jens Winther biography

Jens Winther was born in Denmark in 1960 and started to learn the trumpet at age 10. In 1978 he became a professional freelance trumpet player in the jazz area. In 1982 Jens was appointed solo trumpet player in the Danish Radio Big Band which he began writing for three years later.

In 1989 he left the Big Band and made the big move to New York, due to an invitation to join a two-year workshop under the direction of Bob Brookmeyer. He worked as a professional trumpet player in New York with various groups and musicians such as Toshiko Akoishi Band, Eddie Palmieri, Kenny Barron, Max Roach, Tito Puente, Marie Bauza Orchestra, George Mraz, Xavier Cugat Orchestra, and others. He has worked full time since 1991 as a composer and trumpet soloist besides having his own small group (Jens Winther Group).

On May 5th 1994 Jens performed his first Trumpet-concerto for Symphony Orchestra, "Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra". The concerto was subsequently performed at an international music festival in Riga.

In 1998 Jens was commissioned to work for the Metropole Orchestra in Holland (60 piece orchestra) where he also acted as a soloist. He was then commissioned to work for the Danish Radio Big Band and the Danish Radio Concert Choir. Jens toured with George Gruntz Concert band in Oct-Nov 1998.

On April 29th 1999 Jens teamed up with Århus Symphonic Orchestra for the first performance with the 2nd. Trumpet concerto "The Eagle" in Århus Musikhus.

Shortly after that he composed "Pluto and Beyond", a 40 min. commissioned work for the Metropole Orchestra.

Since then Jens has been touring with his own group and various German small groups internationally.

Throughout the years Jens Winther has toured with such great musicians as Joe Henderson, Carla Bley, Steve Swallow, Bob Brookmeyer, Thad Jones, Al Foster and George Gruntz.

Jens has also had the opportunity to perform with Miles Davis (on "Aura"), Abdullah Ibrahim, Hermeto Pascoal, Michel Camillo, Dizzy Gillespie, Cella Cruz and Clark Terry to name but a few.

Jens Winther Datasheet

2009

Jens Winther moves to Geneve , Switzerland

Jens Winther receives a lifelong grant from The Danish Arts Foundation, and is thereby officially recognized as one of Denmark's most important artists!

Jens Winther moves to Berlin and signs up with Otone management (www.otonemusic.de)

JW Berlin Quintet, A-Trane, February

JW European Quartet, Washause, Potsdam Berlin, March 22, Featured Till Brönner, trumpet.

For further information about 2009, please see <http://jenswinther.net/biography/calendar/>

2008

Founded a new fusion band: [JW Electrazz](#) Worldpremiere in Copenhagen Jazzhouse March 22

Tours Germany with JW European Quartet

Recorded at Bayrische Rundfunk, March 11, and rec. Copenhagen, may 5th , for the NEW CD.

Double CD, JW European Quartet, "Directions /NEW Directions", released November 2008.

JW Soloist at Budapest Jazzfestival, Michaly Bordely Quartet, May.

JW Soloist with Till Brönner and Band, plus Berliner Chamber Orchestra, "BACH Festival", June 13th

JW soloist with Nené TRIO, São Paulo, Brazil, toured Brazil, rio de Janeiro, Jazzfestival Festival Bela Horizonte, Aug/sept.

JW European Quartet, European tours: London "Piazza Express"; Jazzfestival Rumania, Kronstadt Brasov;

and concerts in Germany.(A-trane, Berlin, BIX Stuttgart; Frankfurt Jazzkeller, Reutlingen etc.)

2007

2007 Marked an international breakthrough for JW European Quintet with gigs all over the world

May

Australia: Melbourne International Jazzfestival, Sydney, Perth, Brisbane amo.

June

USA: Rochester Jazz festival, Washington DC, New York amo.

June/July

Canada: All major jazzfestivals, , Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Ottawa, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Edmonton, Saaskatoon, Victoria amo.

September

China: Beijing NEW Jazz festival and other Beijing venues - arranged by Danish Cultural Institute

September

Trekking and traveling in Tibet

Oct/Nov.

The quintet is now a quartet, Tours and festivals in Europe and Scandinavia

Amo. Jazza Metz - France, Ettlingen Jazzfestival and Viersen Jazzfestival etc.

2006

Two Scandinavian tours w/ Jens Winther European Quintet, comprising 25 concerts.

Further tours to summer jazz festivals in Copenhagen, Oslo, Hornbæk (DK) and Hillerød (DK)

Studied the music and rituals of Tibetan Buddhist monks in Ladakh, Tibet. This was made possible with a grant from DJBFA.

Took part in the Toronto Fanfare Project.

Soloist in the Oslo Workshop Bigband.

Toured Germany with Anke Helfrich Quartet.

Wrote the work "Human Being" for Big Band and choir. Commissioned by Bissamblazz Bigband and the Coral Paulistano Choir in Brazil.

Played the works "Human Being" and "Angels" (also by Jens Winther) in the Teatro Municipal de Sao Paulo, with the aforementioned ensembles.

The works were studio recorded, and are yet awaiting public release.

2005

Preparing Jens Winther European Quintet for summer festivals, DK and Scandinavia. Connected to that, studio CD recording. Released October 2005. (JW E. Quintet featuring Palle Danielson, Antonio Farao, Dejan Terzic, Tomas Franck and JW)

CD "Concorde" with the European Jazz Quintet is released

- 2004** | Tours and festivals in Belgium and Germany with own small group. "Facing the Sun" with Nürnberg Symphonic Orchestra and Big Band, June 2004. Composed 90 min, of new music for DR Big Band. Performed and live-recorded January and February
- 2003** | Working with RTS Big Band, Belgrade. Summer Festivals and tour in Spain with Jens Winther European Quintet feat. Antonio Faraó and Dejan Terzic. Various recordings with small groups, Ed Thigpen Scantet, Carsten Dahl, Jon Christensen, Palle Danielson
- 2002** | Commissioned for 45 min. of music for NDR Big Band, Hamburg + various projects as a conductor for NBR Big Band. Projects with WDR Big Band, Cologne, Odense Musikkonservatorium, doing „Pluto and Beyond“ (Symphony & Big Band). Tours with Jens Winther Sextet, Dejan Terzic European Assembly and various soloists jobs in Europe.
- 2001** | Projects with German Big Bands, NDR (Hamburg), Rias (Berlin). Recording with German small groups, Dejan Terzic European Assembly (with Tony Lakatos, Antonio Faraó) and tours in Europe etc. Tour and recording with own group "Walk the walk, Talk the talk". Recordings and concerts with Ben Besiakov Quintet, with Billy Hart and George Garzone. 7 recording projects for radio broadcast or CD releases, as well as studio jobs as trumpet soloist for films etc.
- 2000** | Composed "Pluto and Beyond", a 40 min. commissioned work for the Metropole Orchestra. Recorded February 2001. Tours with own group and various German small groups.
- 1999** | April 29th, Jens Winther and Århus Symphonic Orchestra had first performance with the 2nd. trumpet concerto "The Eagle" in Århus Musikhus.
- 1998** | Commissioned work for the Metropole Orchestra in Holland (60 piece orchestra) where he also acts as a soloist. Performed April (35 min. of music) "Facing the Sun". Commissioned work for the Danish Radio Big Band and the Danish Radio Concert Choir (45 min. of music) "Angels". World-premiere November 11th. at the art gallery Louisiana. Toured with George Gruntz Concert band Oct-Nov. As a trumpet player he is mainly working with his small group (quartet), and usually playing in the in the writing projects as well.
- 1997** | Different writing and playing jobs for the Danish Radio Big Band, the drummer Mike Clarke, working with Big Bands in Nürnberg and Spain among others. The official opening of the Rhythmic Conservatory performing "The Four Elements". Starts working at his second trumpet-concerto for Århus Symphony Orchestra, world performance April 29th. 1999.

- 1994** May 5th. his first Trumpet-concerto for Symphony Orchestra, "Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra" is performed for the first time. The concerto was also performed at an international music festival in Riga on October 6th. 1994. 1995 Various commissioned works, e.g. for the Danish Radio Light Orchestra, various CD recordings, some in New York. 1996 Commissioned works for the Cultural City of Europe 1996 (Copenhagen), among others "The Four Elements" for extended big band (one hour of music) and a suite "The Beginning-Now The-Future-Beyond", for the European Broadcast Union's Big Band (also one hour of music). From October to December on tours in Europe, Brazil and Australia as trumpet player, among others with Scandinavian / Australian Sextet.
- 1993** Composition for Randers City Chamber Orchestra, Big Band and St. Peder Choir among others.
- 1992** Composition for organ, percussion and trumpet "After Silence" among others.
- 1991** Back in Denmark. Doing various writing and playing projects for the Danish Radio, Aalborg Symphony Orchestra, UMO Big Band in Finland, Swedish Radio, Norwegian Radio NRK, German Radio Big Band such as NDR in Hamburg, WDR in Cologne, SDR in Stuttgart among others Worked full time since 1991 as a composer and trumpet soloist besides having his own small group (Jens Winther Group).
- 1989** Left the Big Band and moved to New York, due to an invitation to join a two-year workshop, "Jazz Composer's Workshop", under the direction of Bob Brookmeyer. Worked also as a professional trumpet player in New York with various groups and musicians such as Toshiko Akoishi Band, Eddie Palmieri, Kenny Barron, Max Roach, Tito Puente, Marie Bauza Orchestra, George Mraz, Xavier Cugat Orchestra, and others.
- 1985** Started writing for the Big Band. Thad Jones was leader at the time.
- 1982** Was appointed solo trumpet player in the Danish Radio Big Band.
- 1978** Became professional freelance trumpet player in the jazz area. Played with various local groups and the New Jungle Orchestra, Erling Kroner Tentet, Candentia Nova Danica, Ernie Wilkins Almost Big Band and others.
- 1970** Started playing the trumpet
- 1960** October 29th born in Næstved, Denmark

Jens Winther Discography

- 2008** Jens Winther European Quartet
DIRECTIONS NEW DIRECTIONS
Stunt records, STUCD 08172 & 08182
- 2006** Jens Winther European Quintet:
'Concord'. Stunt Records, STUCD 05012
- 2003** Jens Winther & Metropole Orchestra conducted by Vince Mendoza and Markku Johansson:
'Pluto and Beyond', Stunt Records, Stunt X, STXCD 20332
- 2001** Jens Winther Group:
'Walk the walk, Talk the talk' Stunt Records, STUCD 01172.
- 2000** Jens Winther Trio:
'Standards' Stunt Records, STUCD 00062
SWR Big Band w. Jens Winther:
'SWR Big Band LIVE Feat. Jens Winther' (Südwestfunk Big Band, Stuttgart)
HÄNSSLER CLASSIC CD 93.004
- 1999** Jens Winther and The Danish National Radio Choir and Danish Radio Jazzorchestra:
'Angels', Dacapo, DCCD 9442.
- 1998** Jens Winther and IASJ Big Band:
'The Four Elements', Stunt Records, STUCD 19802.
Jens Winther and The WDR Big Band (Cologne, Germany):
'The Escape', Dacapo, DCCD 9437.
Jens Winther 6tet and The Danish Radio Concert Orchestra:
'Symphonies Vol. 2. (Dreams)', Dacapo, DCCD 9441.
- 1995** Jens Winther Group:
'The Planets' (Grammy awarded). Stunt Records, STUCD 19502.
- 1992** Jens Winther and The Danish Radio Big Band:
'Jens Winther Music Played by DRBB' Olufsen Records, DOCD 5167.
- 1991** Jens Winther Quintet feat. Al Foster:
'Scorpio Dance'. Storyville, STCD 4179.
- 1988** Jens Winther Quintet:
'Looking Through'. Storyville, STCD 4127.
- 1986** Jens Winther Quintet:
'Jens Winther Quintet'. Stunt Records, STULP 8603.

Jens Winther Discography (as sideman)

Not complete

- 2002 Dejan Terzic European Assembly:
'**Coming Up**', DMC HR 71034
- 2001 Ben Besiakov with Billy Hart & George Garzone:
'**Aviation**' Stunt Records, STUCD 00192.
Stephan-Max Wirth Ensemble (Berlin):
'**Fish and Monkey**', BOS REC. 206-01.
- 2000 Tómas R. Einarsson:
'**Undir 4**'. Mál og mening, MM-022 (Island).
- 1999 George Cruntz Concert Jazz Band:
'**Merryteria**'. The Montreux Jazz Label, TCB 99502.
- 1996 Claus Waidtløw Quartet feat. Jens Winther:
'**Claustrophobia**'. Stunt Records, STUCD 19696.
Stephane Furic with French and American musicians:
'**Crossing the Brooklyn Ferry**' Soul Note, 121275-2
- 1993 .Kim Kristensen - Jens Winther:
'**Nomade og Tomorrow**'. Olufsen Records, DOCD 5179.
- 1992 Jazzbaltic Ensemble with David Murray, Jukkis Uotila, Anders Jormin, Nils Landgren:
'**Jazz Baltica**'
- 1989 The Big Carla Bley Band:
'**Fleur Carnivore**'. Watt (ECM).
- 1987 The Danish Radio Big Band:
'**Crackdown**', Hep Records, 2041.
- 1986 Marilyn Mazur, Kim Kristensen, Klaus Hovman, Jens Winther:
'**Ocean Fables**' Stunt Records, STULP 9601.
Erling Kroner Tentet:
'**From The Dark Side**'. Music Mecca, ML 122.
Ernie Wilkins Almost Big Band:
'**On The Roll**'. Steeplechase Records, SCS 1225.

Jens Winther Awards

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| 2009 | Lifelong grant from The Danish Arts Foundation |
| 2001 | Nominated by Nordic Music Council (Nordisk Musikråd) for the work „Angels“ |
| 2000 | Was chosen for “Den Blå Bog“ (“Who is Who“). |
| 1998 | The album ‘The Escape’ was awarded by the Danish National Art Foundation. |
| 1997 | 2nd prize in the International Competition of Jazz Themes, Monaco. |
| 1996 | 1st prize in the International Competition of Jazz Themes, Monaco.
A Grammy for the best Danish Jazz recording of the year. |
| 1993 | A prize of honour from the organisation of Danish Jazz, Beat and Folk Authors. |
| 1992 | Granted a 3-year scholarship as a composer from the Danish National Art Foundation. |
| 1991 | 1st prize in the International Competition of Jazz Themes, Monaco. |
| 1990 | 1st prize in the International Competition of Jazz Themes, Monaco. |
| 1988 | 2nd prize in the International Competition of Jazz Themes, Monaco. |
| 1987 | The Ben Webster prize. |
| 1986 | The Danish Bank Bikuben’s award „The Yellow Card“. |
| 1983 | Elected as the Danish representative in the European Youth Jazz Orchestra. |
| 1982 | Sonning’s Music Grant. |