

# Listen

**The Norwegian trio Listen has won several international awards and toured in great parts of Europe, as well as Syria and Cuba. Both their debut album "Listen!" (2007), and their second release, "II" (2009), have received overwhelming reviews. Dagbladet, a national Norwegian newspaper, wrote that their music is "a joy to the ear", and NRK's Erling Wicklund said that "it's seldom to hear such an interacted ensemble, no matter the genre".**

Listen's second album, "II", was released in October 2009 and it is their first pure trio album without guest musicians. It consists of original compositions only, inspired by different kinds of ethnic music from around the world. Tight interaction and a diverse variety of compositions makes "II" a light, intense and seldomly beautiful record.

**Bendik Giske** - saxophones • **Espen Berg** - piano • **Daniel Herskedal** - tuba

Listen is highly participating in longterm projects in cooperation with other musicians from different cultures and music traditions. In October 2009 the trio toured in Norway together with three Syrian musicians from Damascus, and in November 2009 they travelled to Cuba to prepare a possible collaboration project together with Cuban musicians.

## **Listen**

- has toured in Norway, Spain, Belgium, Syria and Cuba during the recent years
- has played concerts in France, Denmark, Hungary and on the Faroe Islands
- released "Listen!" (SMLCD206) in February 2007, and "II" (SMLCD213) in October 2009
- won 1st prize at Hoeilaart Int'l Jazz Competition 2004, and was awarded at Getxo Int'l Jazz Competition 2004

"The finely tuned interplay is both intensive and loose, and this still young trio, which is a pleasure in all it's quiet overwhelm, will be an incredibly exciting trio to follow in the future."

*Dagbladet, 10.14.09 - rating 5/6*

"Now's the time for the difficult second release. But Listen takes the challenge and succeeds. The interplay is even more secure and playful, and the compositions is both creative, intense, subtle and beautiful."

*Hamar Arbeiderblad, 10.20.09 - rating 6/6*

"New triumph. [...] Two years ago they crowned a spring release of Norwegian debutants, and now they light up the autumn after the release at Cosmopolite in Oslo, and what a sound!"

*Dagsavisen, 10.10.09*

"Mythical forest atmosphere, panoramic scenery and deep gorge sounds comes to mind when they almost blend together as a three-headed troll."

*Dagens Næringsliv, 10.10.09*

**[booking@listentrio.net](mailto:booking@listentrio.net) / +47 99 62 31 57 / [www.listentrio.net](http://www.listentrio.net)**

**Bendik Giske** from Oslo, Norway, has become an active player in the Norwegian arena of art and music during the last years. He's been touring with his own band BG-5 in northern Europe, and he has played as a solo artist at the Norwegian festival of contemporary music, Ultima. Together with singer and performance artist Nils Bech he has played the opening concert of the acknowledged art exhibition Høstutstillingen in Oslo, in addition to well-known Norwegian festivals as Øya, Oslo-live and Parkenfestivalen in Bodø. Bendik Giske has performed as a composer, saxophone and flute player with the following groups and artists: BG-5, Nils Bech, Listen, Latinga, Mira Craig, Bare Egil Band, among others. He completed his education at the jazz division of the conservatory in Trondheim and Rythmic Music Conservatory in Copenhagen in 2002, and since then Bendik Giske has played at Oslo Jazz Festival, Molde Jazz Festival, Kongsberg Jazz Festival, Nasjonal Jazzscene, Dokkhuset in Trondheim, Gipfel du Jazz in Germany, Copenhagen Jazz Festival, Hennie Onstad art center, Jazzkerho in Finland, Brötz in Gothenburg, and more.

**Espen Berg** has a master's degree in music which he completed in 2008 at the acknowledged jazz division at the conservatory in Trondheim. He works as a pianist, composer and arranger in many different settings. Espen worked with grammy nominated soprano Sissel Kyrkjebø as a pianist, arranger and conductor, touring Denmark and Sweden in autumn 2008. He has written music for the grammy nominated Trondheim Soloists, Cikada String Quartet, and Nidaros String Quartet, and he's the band leader of the awarded jazz trio Green Serene. The trio has carried out several successful projects with Per Jørgensen and Eirik Hegdal, among others. Espen is playing in Jo Skaansar Quartet, Kåre Kolve Quartet and occasionally Mambo Compañeros. He was awarded with the prize for best soloist at Hoeilaart Int'l Jazz Competition in 2007. Espen has been one of the main teachers at Trøndertun college since 2005, and he is a regular teacher at the conservatory of music at NTNU in Trondheim.

**Daniel Herskedal** is known from several different constellations and releases, and he's considered to be one of Norway's leading talents as a tuba player. He did his bachelor's degree at the jazz division at the conservatory in Trondheim (2006), and later he completed his master's degree at Rythmic Music Conservatory (RMC) in Copenhagen (2008). There he made the music to the short movie "The End", in addition to complete his orchestral piece "A sacred narrative" which premiered in the church of Kong Haakon. Daniel is often hired as a musician in the internationally acclaimed Trondheim Jazz Orchestra, and in Copenhagen he played in Django Bates' orchestra "stoRMChaser". He is now the tuba teacher at RMC. Daniel received the prize JazzTalent at Molde Int'l Jazz Festival 2008, and he was awarded with the prize for best soloist at Getxo Int'l JazzCompetition 2004 in Bilbao, Spain.