



## Erik Thormod Halvorsen Qnt with guests featuring Louis Stewart UPPERCASE

Uppercase, is a typographical expression and refers to capital letters. I chose this title because I believe in the the importance of clear speech. It's the same with my music; I constantly strive to create clean and simple lines.

**Erik Thormod Halvorsen**

### A THRILLING MIX

This album simply makes me happy. It's a living proof of an ever-growing musicality in its endless search for new challenges, unlimited by styles, generations, nationalities or levels of professionalism. Brilliantly performed and created with pure musical love and understanding - never in search of fame or stardom. At 64, Erik Thormod Halvorsen humbly presents his impressive debut album as a thrilling mix of original compositions with strong historic references, and great standards dressed up in the refreshing arrangements of a new century.

Like a typical Norwegian music career, «Uppercase» kicks off with a drum march, gliding into a mysterious quasi-symphonic world and from there to moody melodic thoughtfulness – until «Sweet Martina» takes off in catchy latin swing with a rocky backbeat under Erik's brilliant and warm trumpet solo. All delicately wrapped in a mix of distant flutes, harmon muted trumpets and a groovy rhythm section. This «reduced big band» sound also tells the story of Erik's lifelong collaboration with Sandvika Big Band and the inspiring milieu it after 45 most active years still represents. Sax and flute player Rune Nicolaysen shares this background and contributes powerful solos with

stylistic references to Knut Riisnæs as well as Dexter Gordon. And his homage to the bandleader «E.T.H.» is simply touching in its beauty and thoughtfulness. Pianist Freddy Hoel Nilsen is any band's eternal «groover», always raising the temperature – as here with his own Xmas blues stretched from 12 to 16 bars, and with the brilliant idea of putting Johnny Mandel into a bossa bag.

Thanks to «Uppercase» guitarist Knut Mikalsen's idea, he and Frode Kjekstad are here challenged by their world famous Irish veteran colleague Louis Stewart, giving Erik's album an extra international dimension. What a team!

Bass players Sture Janson from Bodø (newly retired from the Oslo Opera Orchestra) - and Danish-born Andreas Dreier represent two generations with the same ideal: Deep listening drive. Whereas big band drummers Erik Jøklung and Lars Erik Norum share the rare ability of swinging softly – with energy. The standards as well as the musicians are all challenged by arrangements taking us into both 5/4 and 6/4 time («Love For Sale»), straight and double time and surprising moods. I'm sure both Cole Porter and Horace Silver would have loved these versions of their songs. And for an old bebop'er like myself it's great for the first time in 2015 to hear a genuine new bop theme that even Bird himself would have accepted – Erik Thormod Halvorsen's «Kari i Nice». Wow! Uppercase!

**Erling Wicklund**



		<b>Composer</b>	<b>Arranger</b>	
01	<b>Sweet Martina</b>	5:31	E.T. Halvorsen	E.T. Halvorsen
02	<b>Mr. G.J.</b>	5:25	E.T. Halvorsen	E.T. Halvorsen
03	<b>Love For Sale</b>	3:40	Cole Porter	E.T. Halvorsen
04	<b>E.T.H. Bossa Nova</b>	5:49	R.A. Nicolaysen	R.A. Nicolaysen
05	<b>Kari i Nice</b>	3:48	E.T. Halvorsen	E.T. Halvorsen
06	<b>Close Enough For Love</b>	5:04	Johnny Mandel	F.H. Nilsen
07	<b>3. dag</b>	3:50	F.H. Nilsen	F.H. Nilsen
08	<b>Out Of The Night Came You</b>	6:44	Horace Silver	R.A. Nicolaysen
09	<b>E.T.</b>	3:38	E.T. Halvorsen	E.T. Halvorsen
10	<b>Old Folks</b>	4:53	Willard Robison	L. Stewart/K. Mikalsen
11	<b>East Of The Sun</b>	5:57	Brooks Bowman	E.T. Halvorsen

Solos in order: **Track 1:** Lars Erik, Erik **Track 2:** Freddy, Rune, Erik **Track 3:** Rune, Louis **Track 4:** Erik, Rune, Freddy **Track 5:** Louis, Erik, Rune, Erik J. **Track 6:** Louis, Erik, Freddy **Track 7:** Freddy, Knut, Rune, Andreas **Track 8:** Freddy, Louis, Rune **Track 9:** Erik, Knut **Track 10:** Louis, Erik, Knut **Track 11:** Erik, Frode

<b>Erik Thormod Halvorsen</b> trp/flh	All tracks
<b>Rune A. Nicolaysen</b> ts/fl	All tracks except 6,10,11
<b>Freddy Hoel Nilsen</b> pno	All tracks except 10,11
<b>Knut Mikalsen</b> g	All tracks except 5,11
<b>Louis Stewart</b> g	Tracks 3,5,6,8,10
<b>Frode Kjekstad</b> g	Track 11
<b>Sture Janson</b> b	Tracks 4,5,6,8,9,10
<b>Andreas Dreier</b> b	Tracks 1,2,3,7,11
<b>Lars Erik Norum</b> dr	Tracks 1,2,3,4,7,9
<b>Erik Jøkling</b> dr	Tracks 5,6,8,10,11
<b>Johan Bergli</b> brs	Tracks 4,9
<b>Harald Halvorsen</b> trb	Track 9

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