

mongrel

thick as thieves



Mongrel thick as thieves Losen Records LOS 148-2

A Norwegian band with a Japanese pianist, recording an album in the Spanish countryside, near Valencia, Spain. The album's opener, *Strömningar*, was the session's very first take, establishing the calm but energetic mood the band had envisioned. It also provides a good example of Mongrel's compositional method: a written framework with spaces left for spontaneous contributions and ideas. The album's title tune *Thick as Thieves* was written by trumpeter Thomas Litleskare as a homage to long-lasting friendship – but could also describe the close teamwork and interaction within the band itself.

Offering a set of 9 subtle miniatures, mostly painted in minor, this album is a step up from Mongrel's previous work and a very promising example of what these four musicians have to offer.

Hayden Powell, March 2016

Thick as Thieves is Mongrel's second album but the first featuring Ayumi Tanaka on piano. The recording spanned three days at Studio

The mixing of genres characterizes many creative bands on the Norwegian music scene. With established genres so fully explored and virtuosity almost commonplace, today's challenge is to combine existing influences in an original way (or maybe this has always been the case). Add your own personal voice and the courage not to hide your imperfections and you just might be on to something original.

Big thanks to Komponistenes Vederlagsfond and TONO for financial support, to Dani Castelar and Odd Gjelsnes for a great session in Barxeta, to Losen Records for releasing this album, and to our friends and family.

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LOS 148-2



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5:46 1 Strömningar
3:02 2 Bakgården
1:56 3 Kongen av Kamper Bas
4:31 4 Una
0:56 5 The Gist of It
4:47 6 Vincent
6:07 7 Søvndrukken
5:25 8 Quinn
6:30 9 Thick as Thieves

Total Time 39:00

Tracks 1, 3, 4, 7, 9
by Thomas Husmo Litleskare
Tracks 2, 6, 8
by Stian Andreas Egeland Andersen

Track 5 by Mongrel

Recorded at Studio Barxeta by Dani Castelar,
3 days in November 2015
Mixed by Dani Castelar February 2016
Mastered by Giuseppe Ielasi February 2016
Produced by Mongrel
Executive Producer Odd Gjelsnes
Front cover painting by Sylva Karin Johansen
Cover design by design holtmann

Thomas Husmo Litleskare trumpet
Ayumi Tanaka piano
Stian Andreas Egeland Andersen bass
Tore Flatford drums



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Photos: Odd Gjelsnes