

Since they first began performing live together in 2011, keyboardist/composer Haakon Graf, drummer Erik Smith and bassist Per Mathisen have been indisputable Norway's number one jazz-funk trios. They have enthralled capacity crowds, a large number of times, around the country and performed at major jazz festivals, in concert halls and clubs, always leaving the stage with standing ovations and the audience in euphorically state of mind. Presenting world class funky jazz performed in a lively and humorous fashion, with a super virtuous touch from three Norwegians, their debut CD/DVD recording package is a unique and multi-faceted audiovisual presentation of two of the Haakon Graf Trio's live performances, perfectly capturing their innate chemistry as an ensemble and virtuosity as individuals.

About the title for this live CD and DVD, Graf says: "For those who do not live or did not grow up in Scandinavia, the phenomenon of "Sunrain" is very common. After weeks of rain, there are often local clouds with showers pouring down as the sun peers through the other side. When the sun appears, it's a special experience. It's a metaphor for the fabric of life, a place between a smile and a tear, like my music, and also the dual package of this release gives an opportunity to look at our music from two different angles. "Sunrain" was just the title for one of the tunes, but when Mathisen came up with the suggestion of calling the whole release for that, I thought it was a brilliant idea"

About Smith and Mathisen, Graf says:

"Erik incorporates a wide variety of wonderful rhythmic expressions and he gives the trio a fantastic forward motion and drive. His techniques, musicality and flexibility on the drums, makes him able to play any kind of groove or style and to react instantly as a world class improvising musician. Erik is a true bona fide drummer with extreme fantastic skills"

"Per is not only a wizard on the electric bass, he is also a true virtuoso on the upright acoustic. Not many bass players in this world can switch back and forth between those two, so different basses, so effortless like he can. Per's constantly experimenting and being highly creative with using a huge number of effect pedals also gives him an arsenal of amazing sounds, that always brings in fresh and sparkling elements to the music. And, besides of all of this, his fretless electric bass playing is incredible sensitive, lyrical and always with impeccable pitch".

"It's always an honor and a privilege to perform with Smith and Mathisen in our trio. I deliberately write tunes that are sketchy with just small arrangements built into them so we all 3 can be very spontaneous, have an intense organic interplay and push each other in surprisingly new directions. The music is always performed with serious passion and depth but also always has the aspect of humor and joy, much the same as the title "Sunrain" indicates."

This release of both a CD and DVD gives you as a listener and a viewer a unique opportunity to both seeing and hearing these 3 incredible musicians live in action. These performances are the raw truth, straight in your face, with no over dubs, edits or cut & paste producing, they just show you how super and hip Graf, Smith and Mathisen sound both as individuals and together. Haakon Graf is close to a living musical legend in Scandinavian jazz, he has played with all the greats ever worth mentioning and his carrier spans for over 45 years. On these recordings he sounds just as fresh, with endless new ideas, exactly like he did in the 70's. His ability to master 2 keyboards with different sounds at the same time is formidable and his compositions are subtle but still transparent and unique.

Hope you like to see and listen to this trio, with their amazing performances, as much as I do. Graf, Smith and Mathisen are playing their hearts out, pulling you into a world of beautiful grooves, melodies, harmonies and sounds.

Jonathan Widran

CD		
1.	Fat Freddy's Cat	07:03
2.	Santa Monica	05:35
3.	Thrustin'	08:57
4.	Herbal Music	06:47
5.	Paperflowers	06:51
6.	Sunrain	08:03
7.	Funkalectual	05:21
8.	Good Groove	05:27
9.	My Intentions - Zawizong	14:26

Total Time 68:30

Haakon Graf: keyboards
Erik Smith: drums
Per Mathisen: bass
All compositions by Haakon Graf

Recorded at Olsen Bar Oslo and Buddy Scene Drammen, Norway, August 2015
Recorded and mixed by Olav Erik Johansen
Mastered by Njål Frode Lie
Produced by Graf - Smith - Mathisen
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LOS 163-2

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www.lostenrecords.no
info@lostenrecords.no
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DVD		
1	Santa Monica	
2	Herbal Music	
3	Garfield	
4	Thrustin'	
5	Fat Freddie's Cat	
6	Romjulsdrøm	
7	Funkalectual Sensitivity	
8	Tickle Me	
9	We Ate	
10	My Intentions	
11	Zawizong	
12	In The Pocket	

Total Time: 1:37:22

DVD Live at Olsen Bar Oslo, December 30, 2014
Thanks to Tom Olsen, and Lars Forseth
Sound recorded and mixed by Olav Erik Johansen
Mastering by Njål Frode Lie at NFL Productions
Video filmed by Inge Helle Skaland, Torleif Helle Gangstø Skaland
Camera assistant Carl Joachim Molstad
Thanks to ProLyd, staff and friends
Video editing and post production by Dynabeat - Inge Skaland

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Graf, Smith, Mathisen

Sunrain

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haakon graf

erik smith

per mathisen

SUNRAIN



Live CD & DVD



Per Mathisen plays
Dillian Obretenov electric basses,
Yamaha electric upright bass, EBS
amps, speakers and pedals, Elixir
strings, N-audio electronics.



Erik Smith plays
Yamaha Drums, Istanbul Mehmet Cymbals,
Vic Firth Sticks, Evans Drumheads, Protection
Racket cases, Tycoon percussion.



Haakon Graf plays
Yamaha S80
Yamaha Motif.

