



Ivar

Dag

Ole Marius

Composer		
01 Morris	3:39	Dag S. Arnesen
02 Grynte	4:58	Dag S. Arnesen
03 Bonden i bryllupsgarden	6:57	Traditional
04 Summer Morning Mist	6:58	Dag S. Arnesen
05 Yellow Feather	6:07	Dag S. Arnesen
06 What Is This Thing Called Love	4:40	Cole Porter
07 In Your Own Sweet Way	5:26	Dave Brubeck
08 Svendsen ordner alt	5:37	Dag S. Arnesen
09 Love Me Tender	6:16	George R. Poulton
10 I Remember This	4:15	Dag S. Arnesen
11 Lille Måltrost	4:23	Finn Ludt

Total Time: 59:16

**Dag Arnesen** piano  
**Ole Marius Sandberg** bass  
**Ivar Thormodsæter** drums

All music composed or arranged by Dag S. Arnesen  
Recorded by Morten Skage in the Pentagon room at the Reksten Collections Building, Bergen September 2016  
Mixed by Morten Skage, November 2016  
Mastered by Morten Lund at Lund´s Lyd, November 2016  
Produced by Dag S. Arnesen  
Executive producer Odd Gjelsnes  
The recording is partly supported by Fond for utøvende kunstnere  
Front cover painting by Sylva Karin Johansen  
Cover design by design holtmann

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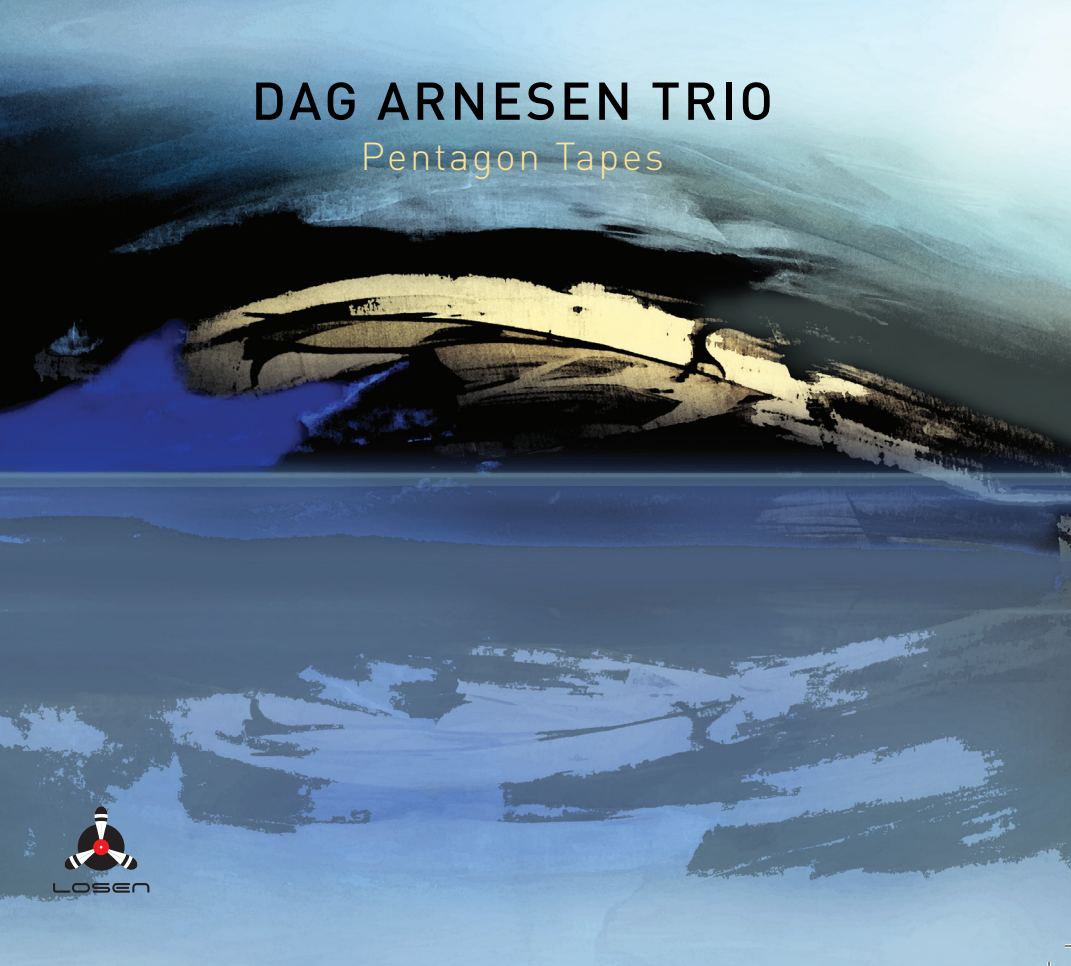
DAG ARNESEN TRIO Pentagon Tapes

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## DAG ARNESEN TRIO

### Pentagon Tapes



folk songs and the folk-inspired music of Edvard Grieg, Geirr Tveitt and a few other composers into his own musical language. Combining a classical education with a jazzman's heart for this music turned out very well for Arnesen and his «Norwegian Song»-book, having a big band-chapter in the writing, is not yet closed.

Pentagon room became the recording studio where pianist Dag Arnesen, bassist Ole Marius Sandberg and drummer Ivar Thormodsæter laid down the tracks for this album in September 2016.

«Pentagon Tapes»? Stay calm! The title makes no reference to secret surveillance or lethal covert operations inside the most secretive building on the planet. This Pentagon is the Pentagon room in the abundantly fine art-supplied Reksten Collections Building in Bergen, Norway. Blessed with nice acoustics and equipped with a Steinway Grand, the Pentagon room became the recording studio where pianist Dag Arnesen, bassist Ole Marius Sandberg and drummer Ivar Thormodsæter laid down the tracks for this album in September 2016.

For Dag Arnesen (b. 1950), «Pentagon Tapes» represents a welcome return to playing jazz within the modern, American-originated idiom that he has mastered so well ever since his breakthrough on the Norwegian jazz scene in the mid-70s. Not that he ever completely abandoned it, but for several years, his highly successful «Norwegian Song» concept kept him very busy interpreting

and it feels pretty safe to say that «Pentagon Tapes» undoubtedly will serve as a reminder of Arnesen's composing capacity. Not only because of the two ballads, but also thanks to the charming waltz «Morris», dedicated to Arnesen's resident house cat. Dag has a habit of writing songs to *all* his cats – and the more muscle-flexing «Svendsen ordner alt» («Svendsen fixes everything»). That one is named after and dedicated to the carpenter who for years has kept the Arnesen Residence in shape (no habit here, though), and who continues to do so up to this day.

As one of the most prominent Norwegian jazz musicians over the last 40 years, Dag Arnesen has led his own groups, served as a sideman for a few worthy colleagues and played a number of dates with international stars, among them Carla Bley, Joe Henderson, Elvin Jones, Jerry Bergonzi, Woody Shaw and Philip Catherine. He has also worked extensively with larger ensembles, and is currently the co-leader of the excellent Bergen Big Band. His current trio with Ole Marius Sandberg and Ivar Thormodsæter, both belonging to the generation succeeding his own, was established for the recording of his folk/classic 2015-album, «Grieg, Tveitt & I». Here, the band switch effortlessly to the jazzier «Pentagon Tapes» and handle Arnesen's quite demanding arrangements of standards like Cole Porter's «What Is This Thing Called Love» and Dave Brubeck's «In Your Own Sweet Way» with skills and sensitivity equal to that displayed on their debut recording.

That much said, there is no denying that a folk-inspired melody has snuck into «Pentagon Tapes» too. «Bonden i bryllupsgarden» («The Peasant at the Wedding Farm») is two different, linked-together arrangements/expansions of an old folk song.

The trio further makes the Elvis Presley-hit «Love Me Tender» their own. Arnesen, never a Presley-fan, speaks highly of their great support before, during and after the recordings.

*Dag Arnesen*

This» («this» referring to Keith Jarrett's new life into older Arnesen-compositions like «Grynte» and «I Remember

For a proper ending, Arnesen chose the popular Norwegian children's song «Lille Måltrost» («Little Song Thrush») by the much-loved team of composer Finn Ludt and poet/singer Alf Prøysen. Okay, we may miss the beautiful lyrics, but the way the trio gently lands the melody makes the song stand out as an instrumental in its own right.

And it still provides «Pentagon Tapes» with the slightly melancholy aftertaste that the lyrics would have conveyed.

*Terje Mosnes, November 2016*