

INVITATION

Like most jazz musicians, the standards from the Great American Songbook have been essential for my musical development. They have also been an important part of my life. The quality of these songs, that have been around for half a century or more, triggers creativity, and it is inspiring and fun to play around with them, and to explore them from new angles.

Would it be worth the effort to record my own versions? These songs have been done by so many great artists. What more is to be said? How can I make versions that are relevant in 2022? I wanted to give myself this challenge, and I decided to invite some artists from earlier collaborations in my career. I invited four of my favourite singers, each with a distinct signature and character. Hilde Hefte, Torun Eriksen, Hilde Norbakken and Kari Iveland. Fortunately, they all accepted the invitation. So, what kind of arrangement and instrumentation would suit their unique voices and vocal styles? I worked out different arrangements. Demos were made and sent around. The final versions ended up in various formats ranging from trio to full band with additional horn arrangement, trying to capture a unique signature based on the significant qualities of these excellent vocalists.

I also saw the opportunity to invite one of my absolute favourite guitar players, Allen Hinds, into the project, when he visited Kristiansand to give a concert and masterclass. It was an amazing experience to do the recording of 'Crystal Silence' with a musician of his calibre!

During some spare time in studio, we tried out a backbeat version of Ornette Coleman's 'Broadway Blues'. I liked the feel of this version, it could work as a good contrasting instrumental piece on the album. Later I also added a horn arrangement to it. Finally, for the last track, we recorded a duo version of the lovely ballad 'You Must Believe In Spring' featuring the Swedish double bass player Jan Mathiasson.

I am very grateful for the contributions, the results of these collaborations, the great performances, and generosity from everyone involved in this project!

Rolf Kristensen



1 BLUE IN GREEN
Featuring Hilde Hefte: vocals
Arranged by Rolf Kristensen
Recorded and mixed at UiA Studio and Sanden Studio by Roald Råsberg and Rolf Kristensen

2 I'LL BE SEEING YOU
Featuring Torun Eriksen: vocal Kjetil Dalland: electric bass
Arranged by Eriksen / Dalland / Kristensen
Recorded and mixed at UiA Studio by Eric Pettersen

3 INVITATION
Featuring Hilde Norbakken: vocal Torjus Vierli: piano, guitar, keyboards
Arranged by Vierli / Kristensen
Recorded and mixed at Lia Studio by Torjus Vierli
Additional guitar recording and co-mixing by Rolf Kristensen

4 BROADWAY BLUES
Arranged by Kristensen
Recorded and mixed at UiA Studio by Eric Pettersen and Rolf Kristensen

5 LOVE FOR SALE
Featuring Kari Iveland: vocals
Arranged by Kristensen
Vocal arrangement by Iveland
Recorded and mixed at UiA Studio by Eric Pettersen and Rolf Kristensen

6 CRYSTAL SILENCE
Featuring Allen Hinds: electric guitar
Arranged by Kristensen
Recorded at UiA Studio and mixed at Sanden Studio by Roald Råsberg

7 YOU MUST BELIEVE IN SPRING
Arranged by Kristensen
Recorded and mixed by Simen Steinarsson Hefte at Kilden Studio

Electric and acoustic guitars: Rolf Kristensen (all tracks)
Piano, electric piano, synth: Bernt Moen (1,4) Johannes Hetland (6)
Double bass: Jan Mathiasson (1,7) Håvard Henriksen (4,5)
Electric bass: Per Elias Drabløs (6) Drums: Jango Nilsen (1,3,6) Andreas Skorpe Sjøen (4,5)
Clarinet: Bjørn Rønnekleiv (1,4,5) Flute: Mengran Wu (4,5)
Saxophone: Trygve Rypestøl (4,5) Trumpet: Anders Skjerdal (4,5) Trombone: Reidun Ottersen (4,5)

Recorded and mixed between
September 2019 and June 2021
at UiA Studio, Kristiansand, Norway
Kilden Studio, Kristiansand
Sanden Studio, Kristiansand
Lia Studio, Grimstad, Norway
by Eric Pettersen, Simen Steinarsson Hefte,
Roald Råsberg, Torjus Vierli, Rolf Kristensen
Mastered January 2022 by Morgan Nicolaysen
at Propeller Mastering, Oslo, Norway
Produced by Rolf Kristensen
Executive producer Odd Gjelsnes
Rolf Kristensen photo by Anja Kathrine Laland
Cover photo and design by Max Franosch
Supported by the University of Agder

- 1 BLUE IN GREEN** 5:20
D'Ambrosio / Davis / Evans
- 2 I'LL BE SEEING YOU** 5:08
Kahal / Fain
- 3 INVITATION** 6:36
Webster / Kaper
- 4 BROADWAY BLUES** 3:11
Coleman
- 5 LOVE FOR SALE** 5:24
Porter
- 6 CRYSTAL SILENCE** 7:45
Corea
- 7 YOU MUST BELIEVE IN SPRING** 4:01
Legrand

Total time 37:25

All music arranged by Rolf Kristensen
Co-arranged by Eriksen / Dalland / Vierli / Iveland

TORUN ERIKSEN
HILDE HEFTE
KARI IVELAND
HILDE NORBAKKEN
VOCALS

ROLF KRISTENSEN
ALLEN HINDS
GUITARS

BERNT MOEN
TORJUS VIERLI
JOHANNES HETLAND
PIANO & KEYBOARDS

KJETIL DALLAND
JAN MATHIASSEN
HÅVARD HENRIKSEN
PER ELIAS DRABLØS
BASS

JANGO NILSEN
ANDREAS SKORPE SJØEN
DRUMS

BJØRN RØNNEKLEIV
MENGGRAN WU
TRYGVE RYPESTØL
ANDERS SKJERDAL
REIDUN OTTERSEN
WIND INSTRUMENTS

ROLF KRISTENSEN
INVITATION



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ROLF KRISTENSEN INVITATION

Featuring TORUN ERIKSEN HILDE HEFTE KARI IVELAND HILDE NORBAKKEN ALLEN HINDS