

- 1 **THE ROYSTER** (Roy Powell) 5:50
- 2 **DIRT** (Frode Kjekstad) 5:37
- 3 **A NIGHT AT ZITA** (Frode Kjekstad) 5:49
- 4 **SONG FOR M** (Frode Kjekstad) 5:19
- 5 **BABA GANOUSH** (Roy Powell) 6:01
- 6 **JAZZ DETECTIVES** (Roy Powell) 5:57
- 7 **THE LIZARD** (Roy Powell) 6:45
- 8 **BLUES FOR RUNI** (Roy Powell) 6:38
- 9 **HONG KONG STEAMER** (Roy Powell) 5:02
- 10 **RED VELVET** (Frode Kjekstad) 5:24
- 11 **I GOT THE BLUES** (Roy Powell) 4:46

Total time 63:08

Recorded January 20, 2024 by Håvard Caspersen
at Rud vgs, Norway
Mixed February 2024 by Håvard Caspersen
Mastered April 2024 by Frode Berg
at Your Sound Mastering, Spikkestad, Norway
Produced by Frode Kjekstad,
Roy Powell and Raciél Torres
Executive producer Odd Gjelsnes
Trio photo by Odd Gjelsnes
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FRODE KJEKSTAD
GUITAR

ROY POWELL
ORGAN

RACIEL TORRES
DRUMS

LOS 303-2



FRODE KJEKSTAD TRIO JAZZ DETECTIVES

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FRODE KJEKSTAD TRIO

JAZZ DETECTIVES

ROY
POWELL

RACIEL
TORRES



Crisp, clean, CLASSIC! Three master musicians at the top of their game deliver an album that captures the essence of jazz's most elusive qualities: spontaneity, mystery, and thrill. With guitar, organ, and drums, this trio of sonic sleuths swings through shifting scenes and changing moods building a world of sound that is rich, intricate and full of surprises.

We're treated to a collection of tracks that range from fireball improvisation to smoky, late-night jazz moods, all while maintaining a sense of playful intrigue and subtle tension.

Dirt epitomises the essence of the album and indeed of gritty jazz. The groove is raw, the melody is infectious, the trio dives deep into the pocket. The guitar, with its crystal clear tone, cuts through like a sharp knife, while the Hammond swells with soulful flourishes. The drums drive the piece forward with a relentless, almost mechanically precise rhythm, yet there's a sense of freedom in the air – a perfect combination of structure and swing.

A Night At Zita treats us to well-furnished, laid back funk with radiant releases as Frode's octaves soar over Roy's chords delivered through his whirling Leslie cabinet.

Song For M is a beautiful, heartfelt ballad, a moment of intimacy.

The title track *Jazz Detectives* kicks off with a unison theme leading to virtuoso soloing from Frode and Roy underlaid by crisp fills and constant, driving rhythmic patterns courtesy of Raciél. And – it simply doesn't get blues-ier than *Blues For Runi* and *I Got The Blues*!

Just as jazz musicians improvise while staying within a framework, a "jazz detective" might approach a problem with flexibility, adaptability and a willingness to explore different angles, while also applying critical thinking and observation to make sense of clues or data. This band highlights a balance of creativity and logic.

Our jazz detectives, Frode, Roy and Raciél present a work that's as unpredictable as it is captivating. They unravel a dynamic and resourceful approach to discovery through a fertile and creative partnership and hey, they SWING!

Frode Kjekstad is a Norwegian jazz guitarist who has collaborated with the likes of Lonnie Smith, Eric Alexander, Joe Farnsworth, Johnny Griffin, James Morrison... the list is long! English organist/pianist Roy Powell studied at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and eventually moved to Norway at the end of the 90s. His massive body of work includes collaborations with (among others) Eddie Daniels, John Marshall, Roy Hargrove, and Mike Walker. Percussionist Raciél Torres was born in Cuba and now lives in Norway. A multi award-winning musician, Raciél has performed/recorded with artists such as Gary Husband, Roberto Fonseca, César López, and Yassek Mazano.

David Fishel
www.davidfishel.info