

## Kornstad/Wiik Duo

Håkon Kornstad (tenor sax) and Håvard Wiik (piano) have since the late nineties been two real phenomenons on the young Norwegian Jazz scene. They were among the first young musicians disconnecting with the mainstream (also dubbed "mountain jazz"), exploring other directions (post-Coltrane, nu-jazz, free improvisation) thoroughly. Individually, Kornstad's unique saxophone sound and Wiik's amazing piano playing has been and still is of inspiration to many young Norwegian jazz musicians.

Now well established as two solo performers in their own rights, both Kornstad (28) and Wiik (30) have shared stage with a vast range of musicians (Pat Metheny, Bugge Wesseltoft, Nils Petter Molvær, Joe Lovano, Lee Konitz, Chris Potter), and played at nearly every jazz festival in Europe. In addition, they have also toured frequently in the US and Japan with their bands Wibutee, Kornstad Trio, Free Fall (with Ken Vandermark) and Atomic.

On their first album as a duo "Eight Tunes We Like" (Moserobie, SE), they show a more gentle side than on previous sessions with Kornstad Trio or Atomic, and for Kornstad especially this shows a new direction, one step further away from the high-octane energy jazz that has been his trademark ever since he entered the arena. With tunes by Keith Jarrett, Carla Bley, Annette Peacock and Ornette – and evergreens like "Autumn In New York" – they take the listener and themselves onto the quiet but bumpy ride off Tin Pan Alley.

### Press:

*«Their interpretations of these classics are both respectful and ingenious.» (Cadence, USA)*

*«Hakon Kornstad and Havard Wiik have produced an absolute gem of an album that is on my short list for Best of 2005. (...) Eight Tunes We Like is a stunningly beautiful achievement and a major statement of musical purpose and method. In this respect it is an important album that will not allow you to hear these tunes the same way ever again. Bravo!» (AllAboutJazz, USA)*

*«Until now the most affecting version of Carla Bley's Jesus Maria was Gary Burton's solo vibraphone meditation from the 1976 ECM album Dreams So Real. Kornstad and Wiik are more open with it, and harder, and even more personal. (...) Kornstad and Wiik, young musicians from Norway, succeed where more famous saxophonists and piano players have often failed. They have created a duo album that is complete in its creative realization, with no sense of missing instruments.» (JazzTimes, USA)*

*One can say a lot about where the best jazz is made today, but it will be difficult not to count this one in when it's time to review Jazz Album Of The Year» (Jazznytt, NO)*

*«There's a lyrical beauty here that's missing from some of Kornstad and Wilk's Jazzland sets - a personal, intimate quality that we really love - and one that brings us a new appreciation of the set's well-chosen tunes.» (Dusty Groove, USA)*

*«When I hear Carla Bley's beautiful «Jesus Maria» on the album «Eight Tunes We Like», I wonder yet another time how much great music there is left to be made out there in the universe. Will it never end? (...) Kornstad has a saxophone tone similar to none, clean cut, rich and strong with a vibrato in the end (...) Wiik stands out with virtuoso yet distinctive playing» (Dagsavisen, NO)*

*«I think of Wayne Shorter/Herbie Hancock when I hear Kornstad/Wiik. Not because they sound similar, but because of the authority in their playing: The music is vulnerable, but on this level it's unattackable.» (Dagbladet, NO)*

*«These musicians' interpretation of Carla Bley's «Jesus Maria» is despicably beautiful - it almost hurts listening to it. Håkon Kornstad's and Håvard Wiik's interplay is sart but never boring!» (Bergens Tidende)*

*«Kornstad and Wiik know and encourage each other in a way I've never heard before in this rare constellation. They create moods and edges that only good friends with unique talents can create. This is rare music» (Puls.no)*

**«Eight Tunes We Like» was nominated for Best Jazz Album 2005 by ALARM – the alternative Norwegian Grammy Award.**