



Strangers to Ourselves

Nordkraft Big Band & Remy Le Boeuf

Recorded by Morten Laursen, October 7-8, 2023 at Voergaard Slot, Denmark.
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Produced by Remy Le Boeuf and Peter Lund Paulsen.

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MINISTRY OF CULTURE DENMARK



Aalborg
Kommune

Remy Le Boeuf

Chief Conductor/Soloist

Nordkraft Big Band

Sophus Bech Lauesen
Jan Jacobsen
Uffe Markussen
Ask Andreassen
Nis Hellerøe Myrtue

Nicholai Andersen
Niels Munk Petersen
Thomas Fryland
Jonas Scheffler

Jonas Lindh
Thomas Skovlund Hansen
Jonathan Bruun Meyer
Kristian Kloster

Martin Granum
Theo Hjorth
Anders Ammitzbøll
Peter Lund Paulsen

Reeds 1
Reeds 2
Reeds 3
Reeds 4
Reeds 5

Trumpet 1
Trumpet 2
Trumpet 3
Trumpet 4

Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Trombone 3
Trombone 4

Guitar
Piano
Bass
Drums/Percussion



"I haven't spent much time traveling alone. At least, not outside of Denmark. I've always traveled with friends and bandmates on tour, with family, or with a partner. But there is a certain beauty to exploring a new place and culture on your own. I have learned to enjoy spending time traveling by myself, enjoying inward exploration and introspection. The Nordkraft Big Band is based in Aalborg - the fourth largest city in Denmark, and a cultural hub in the Northern Jutland region of the country. Over the past two years, while I visited often to work with the band, I spent a lot of time between rehearsals and performances absorbing the town's spirit through walks, meals, jam sessions, and of course music. The songs I wrote for this project capture that spirit, or at least my experience of it.

"Østerbro," named after the street that hugs the side of the Nordkraft building where the band rehearses, captures my mood walking down the town's main strip in the rain. In addition to featuring myself on alto saxophone, the song calls for guitar, and Martin Granum with his penchant for color and conversational depth, is the perfect fit. A modified minor blues, "Aalborg" is an homage to the city written to feature Thomas Fryland on trumpet and myself on alto sax. "Strangers to Ourselves" w/ich features both Theo Hjorth on piano and Uffe Markussen on tenor sax is another introspective piece that goes between an intimate piano trio to a grand orchestra.

During my first year with the band, we celebrated Thad Jones' centennial, so I chose to include two of my favorite arrangements from that concert. Jones' "Three and One" features Peter Lund Paulsen on drums, Anders Ammitzbøll on bass, Thomas Skovlund Hansen on trombone, and Theo Hjorth on piano, while "A Child Is Born" features myself on alto saxophone. I revere Jones as such a tremendous composer that I wouldn't dare arrange his music without putting some of my own heart into it. As soon as I heard baritone saxophonist Nis Hellerøe Myrtue, I knew I wanted to write him a ballad feature; "Childhood Memories" is meant to feel like a theme from a kid's movie in the late 80s/early 90s when I was growing up. And then of course there is "Scarface Rodeo" - a grand tango theme for the spy archvillain alter ego character named in honor of my partner Rachelle when she wakes up from naps with a pillow mark on her face. The piece features solos by Jonas Lindh on trombone, Niels Munk Petersen on trumpet and Peter Lund Paulsen on drums.

It has been a joy getting to know the players in the Nordkraft Band over these past two years, both as musicians and as people. It is wonderful to see the community surrounding the many concerts and tours they present, particularly in Northern Denmark, and I consider it a great honor to be invited into this community as the band's chief conductor."

Remy Le Boeuf, August 2024

A **Osterbro**
Remy Le Boeuf, alto sax
Martin Granum, guitar

A Child Is Born
Remy Le Boeuf, alto sax

Scarface Rodeo
Jonas Lindh, trombone
Niels Munk Petersen, trumpet
Peter Lund Paulsen, drums

Three and One
Peter Lund Paulsen, drums
Anders Ammitzbøll, bass
Thomas Skovlund Hansen, trombone
Theo Hjorth, piano

B **Aalborg**
Remy Le Boeuf, alto sax
Thomas Fryland, trumpet

Childhood Memories
Nis Hellerøe Myrtue, baritone sax

Strangers to Ourselves
Theo Hjorth, piano
Uffe Markussen, tenor sax

"A Child Is Born" and "Three and One" are composed
by Thad Jones and arranged by Remy Le Boeuf.
All other titles are composed and arranged by Remy Le Boeuf.

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