

# THE DANISH PSALM DUO

A concert with the **Danish Psalm Duo** is a fascinating travel through 800 years of Danish church music, and a fruitful meeting between Scandinavian folk music and American jazz.

The Danish Psalm Duo is based in Aarhus, Denmark and consists of **Hans Esbjerg** on piano and **Christian Vuust** on saxophones and clarinet.

Since 1996, the Danish Psalm Duo has performed in concert halls and churches in Denmark and Germany.

The Danish Psalm Duo plays new instrumental interpretations of traditional psalms from Denmark (many of which derive from medieval Central Europe), in a way that is never heard before. The music is inspired by Nordic and American jazz, Nordic folk music and European classical music. But the core of the music consists of the beautiful and vital Danish traditional psalms - with melodies and harmonies that any modern composer can envy.

Many of these psalms have been a part of the every day life of ordinary Danes for centuries! You can say that the psalms are Danish "standards" - i.e. classics.

The Danish Psalm Duo has released two CD's: *Den Danske Salmeduo* in 1998 (which simply means the Danish Psalm Duo) and *Se, nu stiger solen* in 2002. Both CD's are co-produced by Tobias Sjogren from Gothenburg, Sweden.

These are excerpts from what the press has written about the Danish Psalm Duo:

*"An exquisite renewal the Danish psalms"*  
Klavs Vedel, *Skive Folkeblad*

*"Vuust has a wonderful tone, warm and full-bodied, and he plays with both respect for the tradition and enthusiasm"... "There is no doubt that the Danish Psalm Duo is a very fine live experience".*  
Martin Sne, *Jazz Special*

*"In a masterly manner, the Danish Psalm Duo has succeeded in combining the different styles into a wonderful musical blend".*  
Ute Levisen, *Nordschleswiger*

*"The characteristic Nordic sound...has probably never been as distinct as it is here". "Hans Esbjerg's piano playing is at times almost divine".*  
Per Calum, *Jyllandsposten*

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**Christian Vuust** (born 1964) Saxophonist, composer and band leader. Associate professor at the Royal Academy of Music in Aarhus, Denmark. Studied at Berklee College of Music, Boston, USA. Received a Grammy nomination in 1998 for the cd *The Thule Spirit* (Virgin Records).

**Hans Esbjerg** (born 1967) Pianist and band leader. Studied at the conservatories in Esbjerg and Aarhus, Denmark. Prize winner in the First Danish Steinway Festival. Teacher at Royal Academy of Music, Aarhus.