

Sunniva Brynnel Group The Letter

Sunniva Brynnel - voice
Nathan Reising - alto saxophone
Andrew Boudreau - piano & Rhodes
James Heazlewood-Dale - double bass

Recorded by Gintas Norvila at Samurai Hotel Recording Studio, Queens, New York, November 4-6 2018.
Mixed by Gintas Norvila at Studio 4G2.
Mastered by Tomas Ferngren at Digitalfabriken, Gothenburg.
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“This music is wonderfully understated and compelling. Sunniva’s songs are poetic with Scandinavian mystic overtones, and there is a vulnerability that draws the listener in.” - Jerry Bergonzi

With ***The Letter***, Swedish vocalist and composer Sunniva Brynnel presents nine original compositions written in England, Sweden and the US - countries in which she has all lived in for extended periods of time and which all informed her musical language deeply. Some of the lyrics to Sunniva’s original songs are picked up from Swedish well-loved poet Karin Boye (in translation by David McDuff), others from Lebanese-American writer Kahlil Gibran, and some are penned by the composer herself, during her time in the US and in Europe. Though the words of the songs on ***The Letter*** are sprung from these three different pens they all speak, in some form, of a life in flux, of facing the ever changing and a nomadic lifestyle.

The poet Karin Boye, was, like Sunniva, from Swedish West Coast. Kahlil Gibran, though born in Lebanon - spent a large part of his life in Boston, which now is Sunniva’s city of residency. Gibran’s book *The Prophet* made a huge impact on Sunniva, as she read it on the balcony of a 37th floor Manhattan apartment, overlooking the Hudson River on a warm Christmas Eve some years ago. Overwhelmed by the beauty of the book, she started writing songs to Gibran’s words.

Having grown up immersed in Swedish folk music, Sunniva’s sense of melody leans towards the effortlessly melodic. The hopeful melancholy that prevails in the music on ***The Letter*** could very well spring from her year in Ireland studying Gaelic sean-nós singing, as well as five years of jamming Celtic folk music on the accordion in England. Add to that her background in jazz: with a BA in Jazz from Leeds College of Music in England and a Masters in Contemporary Improvisation from The New England Conservatory in Boston, she wraps her folk-like melodies in contemporary jazz harmony; sheets of colors to bring out the unique character of each song.

For more information about Sunniva, go to www.sunnivabrynnel.com.

Sunniva Brynnel Group have been playing together regularly since September 2016, when Sunniva from Sweden, Andrew from Canada and Nathan from the US started running a jazz jam session every Friday afternoon at a coffee

shop local to The New England Conservatory. Australian James Heazlewood-Dale became an early collaborator with them all, often popping into the jazz jam before rushing off to play a Friday night gig. All four members of the quartet graduated with a masters of Music from NEC in May 2018.

American **Nathan Reising** is an award winning saxophonist, pianist, and composer based in Brooklyn, NY. Primarily influenced by jazz, rock, and folk music, his original work possesses qualities of sincerity and openness that allow him to emotionally connect with audiences of varied musical tastes.

Firmly rooted in the jazz tradition, Nathan is a force to be reckoned with on the alto saxophone. He was recently featured in an article for Downbeat Magazine after winning their prestigious Jazz Soloist award. In 2016, Nathan was accepted to Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead program, a two week residency for outstanding young jazz composers and improvisers. His musicianship also earned him a place at the 2018 Banff International Workshop for Jazz and Creative Music, a highly competitive program for young musicians led by Vijay Iyer and Tyshawn Sorey. Nathan also currently performs with Tyshawn Sorey.

In 2018, he received a Master of Music degree in Jazz Performance from the New England Conservatory. For more information about Nathan, go to: www.nathanreising.com.

Canadian pianist **Andrew Boudreau** is quickly becoming an active part of the North American and international jazz scenes. Andrew was one of eight emerging musicians to receive the Astral Artist Prize at the National Arts Centre (Ottawa), and is the recipient of the OPUS Prize for Jazz Concert of the Year in Quebec. Andrew completed a Master of Music at the New England Conservatory, Bachelor of Music at the Schulich School of Music (McGill University), and ARCT Diploma (Piano Performance) from the Royal Conservatory of Music (Toronto).

Andrew has performed in the Montreal International Jazz Festival, Jazz Educators' Network (Dallas, TX), OFF festival de jazz de Montréal, Ottawa International Jazz Festival, Halifax Jazz Festival and the International Chamber Music Festival (Stavanger, Norway). Andrew has performed with a diverse array of musicians and ensembles, such as the Orchestre national de jazz de Montréal with David Binney, Joel Miller, soprano Measha Brueggergosman, and the Altsys Jazz Orchestra among others in New York, Boston and Montreal. As a soloist, Andrew was featured in the Peabody Essex Museum's "Ocean Liners, Glamour, Speed and Style" exhibition. Andrew is a native of Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada and currently lives in Brooklyn, New York. For more information about Andrew, go to: www.andrewboudreaumusic.com.

Growing up in Australia, **James Dale** discovered a passion for playing jazz double bass and was accepted into the Sydney Conservatorium with a full scholarship. After receiving a first class honors he relocated to Boston to study at Berklee School of music with a further full scholarship.

Having played with some of the world's top jazz musicians such as Maria Schneider, Aaron Goldberg, Kurt Elling, Monty Alexander, Terence Blanchard, Donny McCaslin, George Garzone, Dave Douglas, Bob Moses, Jason Palmer, Ernie Watts and Will Vincent, he continues to be extensively active in the Boston music scene.

James has recently completed his Masters at New England Conservatorium where he studied under the tuition of some world-class artists such as Dave Holland, Jerry Bergonzi, and Jason Moran.