

2005

Cæcilie Norby



She can do it all: Fusion, Rock and Jazz. At the tender age of 41 she already has a stupendous career, and she has contributed to breaking down the rigid division into genres, in addition she has attracted notice by awakening an interest in Jazz in the young, traditionally rock oriented audience.

Background

Cæcilie Norby was born on September 9th 1964 in Frederiksberg, Denmark, into a musical family: Her father, Erik Norby, is a renowned score composer, and her mother, Solveig Lumholt, an operasinger. She went to singing school Sankt Annæ Gymnasium, and then followed a year at a folk high school with theatre and music as her main subjects.

1982-92

In 1982 she was one of the founders of Street Beat, and she was a vocalist in the band for the next 2 years. From 1983 she was part of the Jazz/Funk group Frontline, which released 2 very successful albums, and was awarded the prestigious Ben Webster prize. In the former Danish music magazine MM, a readers poll bestowed prizes on the orchestra for "Jazz-act of the year", "Live-act of the year", "Most promising act", "Album of the year" and Cæcilie was elected "Soloist of the year".

1985

In 1985 she launched on a long cooperation with the singer Nina Forsberg in the highly popular Pop/Rock group One Two. The group existed right up to 1993 and recorded 3 albums, which sold approx. 250.000 copies in Denmark alone.

1986

The year of 1986 saw Cæcilie representing Denmark in an international Jazz orchestra at the Knokke Festival in Belgium.

1990

In 1990 Cæcilie's father wrote the work "Concerto for two sopranos" for Zealand Symphonic Orchestra. The two sopranos were Cæcilie herself and her mother, and the work contained both classical and rhythmic and improvising elements. Cæcilie has also performed with her mother and Thomas Clausen with a mixture of Opera, Musical and Jazz titled : "Ballads, Blues and Lieder"

1993-99

Moreover Cæcilie has performed as soloist with numerous renowned European and American musicians and orchestras: John Scofield, Mike Stern, Randy and Michael Brecker. Bassplayers Ray Brown, Niels Henning Ørsted Pedersen, Lars Danielsson, Heyn van der Geyn, Mads Vinding, drummers Billy Hart, Al Foster, Terri Lyne Carrington and Alex Riel, pianists: Bobo Steenson, Lars Jansson, Carsten Dahl, Joey Calderazzo, Dave Kikoski and many many more. Tolvan BigBand, The Danish Radio Big Band, Klüvers BB, Bohuslen BB and The Umo Big Band.

1995

In the spring of 1995 the album "Cæcilie Norby" was released on Blue Note, the legendary Jazz label, with contributions by a number of composers and soloists such as: Randy Brecker, Chick Corea, Don Grolnick, Rick Margitza, Billy Hart and Lars Jansson. The CD was mixed and partly recorded in New York. The Jazzspecial magazine elected "Cæcilie Norby" one of the five best records, and the five digit sales figures achieved so far both in Japan and Denmark are exceptional for a Jazz album. (sales: approx. 53.000 copies)

1996-97

Her second Blue Note release "My Corner Of The Sky" includes drummer Terri Lyne Carrington, bassist Lars Danielsson and the Brecker Brothers. After achieving the sales figure of of 70,000 copies Cæcilie was elected one of the ten most popular Jazzsingers throughout the world in 1996. Cæcilie toured for 3 weeks in Japan with her Scandinavian Quartet in December 1996, 3 weeks in USA and 4 months all over Europe during the summer of 1997.

2000

Her third album "Queen Of Bad Excuses" was released September 1999. This time she wrote 95% of the music and the lyrics herself. "Selfbiographical fiction." As she calls it. All arrangements, programming and producing were done in cooperation with Lars Danielsson. The album was released in Europe, Australia, Japan and South Africa. It recieved overwhelming good reviews both from hardcore jazzreviewers to the broad pop-jazz audience. And once again the sales figures were over 40,000 copies.

2002

The latest album is the most reknown and fast selling album she has done.

- Again in cooperation with producer Lars Danielsson. All material was recorded in the famous ECM studio Rainbow in Oslo, Norway.

Awards

Cæcilie recieved the prestigious Ben Webster prize in 1986. 10 years later, in 1996, she received a prize for Best Recording album in Japan. In 1997 Cæcilie received the Simon Spies soloist prize. The Wilhelm Hansen Music prize in 2000, and she has been Grammy-nominated 9 times throughout her carrier.

Cæcilie Norby has scored tremendous success and overwhelming reviews with her numerous projects. Cæcilie Norby's voice is lyrical and subtle. Improvisations and scats are done with elegance. Her phrasing can be both down-to-earth and romantic. She can radiate anything from sweet and vulnerable to the crude and powerful. Some critics have compared Cæcilie Norby to the Swedish Monica Zetterlund and to the American singers Nancy Wilson, Dinah Washington and Aretha Franklin.

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