



BJARKE FALGREN & SÖNKE MEINEN

Virtuosic playfulness and seemingly infinite creativity - with their new album "The Circle", guitarist **Sönke Meinen** and violinist **Bjarke Falgren** leave all traditions behind and inevitably captivate their listeners with delicate melodies and intoxicating grooves.

In their concerts, they transcend all boundaries between folk, jazz, world music and classical music and enthuse their audiences all over the world with their expressive and vibrant music. Nevertheless, the two musicians never take themselves too seriously, leave plenty of room for spontaneous interaction and combine their compositions with humorous and touching stories.

In addition to his duo with Sönke Meinen, Denmark-based Bjarke Falgren also performs solo and with his own jazz quartet. His "unique ability to make every note a world of its own" (Danish newspaper "Politiken") has taken him to stages in Asia and Europe and to almost every concert hall and jazz club in Scandinavia. He writes and produces music for film and theatre productions and is a sought-after studio musician. Jazz violin legend Svend Asmussen called Bjarke Falgren his musical heir: "Bjarke Falgren is the hardest swingin' fiddler I have seen since Stuff Smith".

Sönke Meinen not only performs concerts in his duo project with Bjarke Falgren, but also solo and together with guitarist Philipp Wiechert. He has taken his music to stages in China, Australia, the USA, Korea, Japan and almost all European countries. He has won prizes at various international competitions, including two of the most prestigious in the world in 2016: as winner of the Guitar Masters competition and the European Guitar Award. Guitar legend Tommy Emmanuel called him "one of the most

creative guitarists on the current guitar scene".

When the two musicians share the stage and coax an unusually wide range of timbres from their instruments, from warm and mellow to powerful and percussive, an extraordinary concert experience is guaranteed. For their highly acclaimed duo debut album "Postcard to Self", they were nominated for the Danish Music Awards in 2019: In the categories "Album of the Year (World)" and "Composer of the Year". Their almost exclusively original compositions are sometimes very delicate, sometimes highly energetic, but always captivating, full of childlike playfulness and emotion. High-class, entertaining, heart-warming!

newest duo release:

Bjarke Falgren & Sönke Meinen - The Circle (CD, LP, digital)
© + © Neue Meister, release date 30/08/2024
produced by Bjarke Falgren & Sönke Meinen

contact:

info@soenkemeinen.com

bjarke@falgren.dk

website:

www.soenkemeinen.com

www.falgren.dk

social media:

YouTube: @soenkemeinen

@Bjarkefalgren

Facebook: @soenkemeinenmusic

@bjarkefalgrenmusic

Instagram: @soenkemeinen

@bjarke_falgren

TikTok: @soenkemeinen

The newest duo album „The Circle“ (2024):

In their second duo album "The Circle", Bjarke Falgren's violin and Sönke Meinen's acoustic guitar merge into a sound full of surprising timbres, enchanting melodies and overwhelming playfulness.

Complemented by the gentle piano sounds of pianist Clemens Christian Poetzsch and enthralling string instrument soundscapes, the duo tells musical stories that are an invitation to pause and reflect - and captivate their audience with their emotional depth and attention to detail.

"The Circle" is a tribute to listening and being there for one another and to the impetus created by the feeling of togetherness. It counters the hype surrounding "self-made people" and is dedicated to friendships and families who take care of and support each other - and thereby create something deeper and more valuable than one would ever be able to achieve on their own.

On "The Circle", the music - as a universally understood language - not only brings together a wide range of styles such as folk, classical music, fingerstyle guitar, jazz and film music to create an immensely colourful overall sound, but also unites musicians from all over the world in the title track: from a Chinese guzheng to Indian tablas and Turkish oud to American slide guitar.

The pieces on "The Circle" are sometimes very tender and sometimes full of rousing energy, but over the course of 45 minutes they create the feeling of a warm hug - and finally a sense of togetherness that goes beyond all borders.

Awards (selection):

Duo:

2019: two nominations for the Danish Music Awards (categories „Album of the Year (World)“ und „Composer of the Year“)

Bjarke Falgren:

2010: four Danish Music Awards for his album „Duet“ with Nikolaj Busk

2017: Ellen & Svend Asmussen prize

2017: Trelleborg Foundations Culture prize

Sönke Meinen:

2015: eco Musikförderpreis 2015

2016: European Guitar Award (sponsorship prize)

2016: Artesano Guitarist of the Year

2016: Guitar Masters 2016 (1st prize)

Reviews (selection):

TOMMY EMMANUEL CGP:

"Amazing music, full of creativity, flowing with beauty, emotion and calmness. You compliment each other and raise each others' level of excellence to a height rarely seen now. I salute you both!"

MARTIN TAYLOR MBE:

"Deep musicality and enviable virtuosity to create music of stunning beauty. Guitarist Sönke Meinen's partnership with violinist Bjarke Falgren is a pure delight."

MARTIN HAYES:

"Bjarke Falgren and Sönke Meinen play with a lightness and delicacy that one rarely hears. This album is filled with refinement and nuance. Postcard to Self is a beautiful recording."

AKUSTIK GITARRE MAGAZINE:

"One of the most beautiful and exciting instrumental albums of the year!"

Bio:

Bjarke Falgren was born in 1979 and grew up in Næstved, Denmark. He studied at the Rytmisk Music Conservatoire in Copenhagen and has held teaching positions at various Danish music conservatoires.

In addition to his duo with Sönke Meinen, Bjarke Falgren also performs in solo concerts and with his own jazz quartet. His "unique ability to make every note a world of its own" (Danish newspaper "Politiken") has brought him to stages in Asia and all over Europe and to almost every concert hall and jazz club in Scandinavia. Bjarke Falgren has also established himself as a film composer for several documentaries and television series such as "Præst søger Paradis" and "Cool Cats". For his work as a violinist and composer, he was honoured with four Danish Music Awards in 2010 and the Ellen & Svend Asmussen Prize and the Trelleborg Foundations Culture Prize in 2017. Bjarke Falgren lives in Næstved.

Sönke Meinen, born in 1991 and raised in Ihlow/Northern Germany, studied with Prof Thomas Fellow, Prof Stephan Bormann and Reentko Dirks at the Dresden Conservatoire, where he also held a teaching position himself from 2019 to 2022. Sönke Meinen has played concerts all over the world (Australia, China, USA, Japan and almost all European countries) and won numerous awards - in 2016 he received awards at two of the largest international guitar competitions: the renowned "Guitar Masters" competition (1st prize) and the "European Guitar Award" (sponsorship prize). In addition to his collaboration with Bjarke Falgren, Sönke Meinen also performs as a soloist and with guitarist Philipp Wiechert. Sönke Meinen lives in Hamburg.

In addition to their musical work, Sönke Meinen and Bjarke Falgren are sought-after lecturers and workshop leaders as well as initiators and artistic directors of their own music festivals. While Sönke Meinen organises the annual "Freepsum International Guitar Festival" together with Philipp Wiechert, Bjarke Falgren hosts the "Falgren and Friends Festival Night" every year in his home town of Næstved.