

JASPER SOMSEN/JOHN HELLIWELL QUARTET



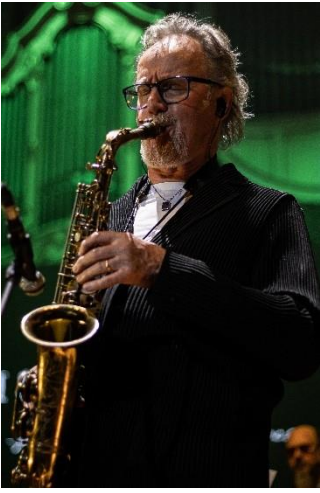
JOHN HELLIWELL – Saxophone & Clarinet

JASPER SOMSEN – Double Bass

KAREL BOEHLEE – Piano & Keyboards

MARCEL SERIERSE – Drums

The British saxophone/clarinet player and Supertramp member John Helliwell and the Dutch renowned double bassist/composer/producer Jasper Somsen will head in to the studio for a brand new instrumental album. Carefully selected original and famous ballads will form the perfect repertoire for the warm, deep sound and lyrical phrasing which characterizes and connects both musicians. The lineup will be completed by the Dutch major league musicians Karel Boehlee (piano/keyboards) and Marcel Serierse (drums). The album will be recorded at the MotorMusic Studios, Mechelen Belgium, in January 2022. The release will be in the fall of 2022. The studio has been Jasper Somsen's second home since 2016, where he recorded his highly praised Challenge Records albums, with pianists Enrico Pieranunzi, Jean-Michel Pilc and Lynne Arriale.



Like most musicians, clarinet and saxophone player, John Helliwell started his life in music at a very young age. At age 13 he picked up the clarinet. Inspired by “modern” jazz, he bought a saxophone two years later. In his very active young adult life, he joined the Alan Bown Set for six years, collaborating with amongst others singer Robert Palmer, playing thousands of gigs and recording several albums. In 1973 he got a call from Supertramp and never left the band since (now 47 years). The album “Crime of the Century” was the start of their huge international

success, “Breakfast in America” was the biggest selling album in the world in 1979. In the 1990s Helliwell decided to enroll at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, but went back on the road with Supertramp in 1996. John now plays music based on his many inspirations - including jazz, funk, blues, soul and rock. His current projects are his jazz group “Crème Anglaise” and the “The Super Big Tramp Band”. His latest album “Ever Open Door” (Challenge Records, 2020) features hammond organ and a string quartet, playing folk tunes and ballads.



Dutch double bassist, composer and producer **Jasper Somsen** graduated in both Jazz and Classical double bass at the Conservatory of Amsterdam. He collaborated amongst many others with Peter Erskine, Enrico Pieranunzi, Joey Calderazzo, Jeff Ballard, John Beasley, Jean- Michel Pilc, Eric Marienthal, Bob Sheppard, Seamus Blake, Lynne Arriale, Kendrick Scott, Justin Faulkner, E.J. Strickland, André Ceccarelli, Gary Husband and Gabriele Mirabassi. Jasper Somsen is a renowned studio producer. Besides his own albums as a leader, he has produced albums by Lynne Arriale, Enrico

Pieranunzi, Bob Sheppard and Jean-Michel Pilc for Challenge Records International. In 2017 he released the Jasper Somsen Trio (featuring Jean-Michel Pilc & André Ceccarelli) albums: “A New Episode In Life, part I & II”. He won the Dutch EDISON Award 2020 with the Maria Mendes (feat. John Beasley) album: “Close To Me”. From the same album the fado/jazz arrangement “Asas Fachadas” was nominated for a GRAMMY Award. Jasper performs worldwide and can be heard on more than 40 albums. Outside a busy performance and studio producing schedule, Jasper divides his time between composing and teaching.



Karel Boehlee started his career in the Dutch Jazz scene at an early age. His first albums with the Toon Roos Quartet and Batida were a direct success in The Netherlands and Japan. His European Jazz Trio has toured frequently in Japan since 1989. In this period Boehlee's name grew in the international Jazz scene, being the regular European

pianist with Toots Thielemans, Philip Catherine and Gino Vanelli. He performed and/or recorded with a.o. Wynton Marsalis, Peter Erskine, Woody Shaw, Roberta Gambarini and the Dutch Jazz prominents: Trijntje Oosterhuis, Benjamin Herman, Toon Roos, Ferdinand Povel, Jesse van Ruller and Maria Mendes. Karel is a teacher at the Conservatory of Amsterdam.



After studying with amongst others Steve Gadd and Mel Lewis, **Marcel Serierse** became one of the most versatile and sought after drummers in the Netherlands. In his very impressive resume you'll find the very best musicians in the world, such as Jimmy Heath, Ronnie Cuber, Randy Brecker, Bob Brookmeyer, Johnny Griffin, Michel

Petrucciani, John Beasley, Maria Mendes the Dutch Metropole Orchestra and the German NDR Bigband. Marcel a teacher at the Conservatory of Amsterdam.

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