

# **JOHN HELLIWELL - JASPER SOMSEN**

## **feat. Hans Vroomans & Marcel Serierse**



**JOHN HELLIWELL – Saxophone & Clarinet**

**JASPER SOMSEN – Double Bass**

**HANS VROOMANS – Piano & Keyboards**

**MARCEL SERIERSE – Drums**

In March 2022 the famous British saxophone/clarinet player and Supertramp member John Helliwell and the Dutch renowned double bassist/composer/producer Jasper Somsen recorded a beautiful and intriguing instrumental album. A mix of carefully selected jazz and pop repertoire form the perfect match for the intense, deep sound and lyricism which characterizes and connects both musicians. The lineup is completed by the Dutch major league musicians Hans Vroomans (piano/keyboards) and Marcel Serierse (drums). Their album “Don’t Ever Leave Me” will touch the hearts and souls of a wide audience from all over the world. The release is scheduled in November ’22 (Challenge Records). The album will be out on Vinyl, CD and at all major digital streaming platforms.



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.



**Hans Vroomans** is one of the most sought after pianists in Europe. After his classical piano studies at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague, he became one of the first graduates of the jazz and contemporary program at the Rotterdam Conservatory, the Netherlands. Hans pursued further education in New York, where he stayed for five years and attended New

York University. He studied with Jim McNeely, Don Friedman and Bob Mintzer. During his New York days he also worked with trumpeter Randy Brecker and saxophonist/clarinet player Eddie Daniels. Since his return to the Netherlands he has been the principal pianist of the Grammy Award winning Metropole Orkest, touring with artists such as Ivan Lins, John Scofield, Al Jarreau and Kurt Elling. Hans can be heard on countless albums as a session musician. He released three albums as a leader. As a pianist/producer/musical director he collaborated with the renowned Dutch vocalists Laura Fygi and Trijntje Oosterhuis. He's often in demand by the finest German radio orchestras: NDR Big Band (Hamburg), the WDR Big Band (Cologne) and the Hessische Rundfunk Big Band (Frankfurt).<sup>[SEP]</sup> Hans is also on the Jazz piano faculty of the Conservatorium van Amsterdam. Hans Vroomans is a Steinway Artist.



After studying with amongst others Steve Gadd and Mel Lewis, **Marcel Serierse** became one of the most versatile and in demand drummers in the Netherlands. At a young age he won the prestigious Dutch Wessel Ilcken Award, currently the Boy Edgar Prize. In his very impressive resume you'll find the very best musicians in the world, such as Chaka Khan, Toots

Thielmans, Michel Petrucciani, Lionel Richie, Randy Crawford, Al Jarreau, Ernie Watts, Tom Harrell, Benny Golson, Jimmy Heath, Ronnie Cuber, Randy Brecker, Bob Brookmeyer, Johnny Griffin and John Beasley. He's a frequent drummer at the Dutch Metropole Orchestra and the German NDR Bigband. Marcel is also on the drums faculty of the Conservatorium van Amsterdam.

## **BOOKING AGENT**

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