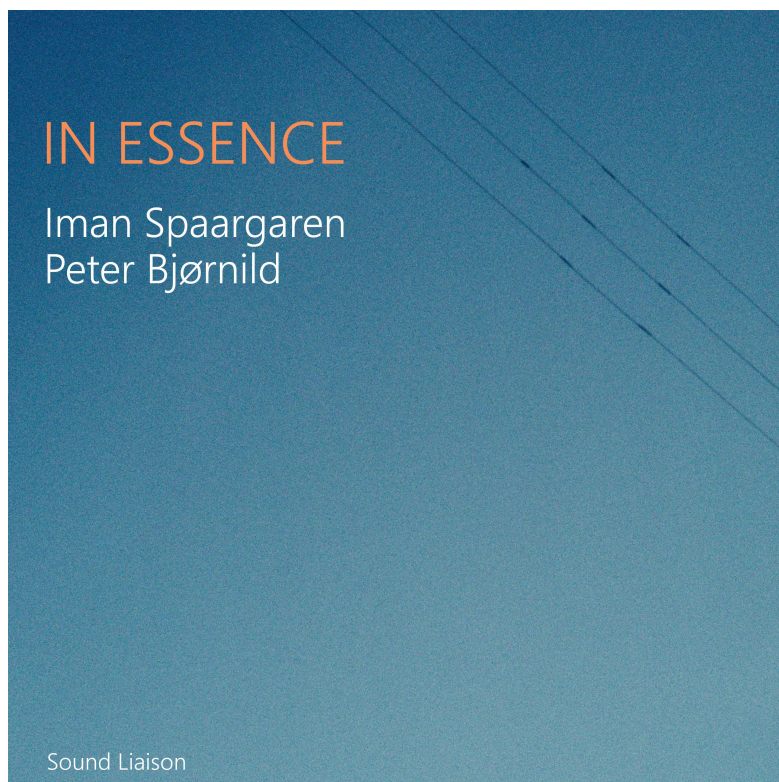




"Even in a world with much sadness, at its essence, life is beautiful."
- **Dianne Reeves**

Iman Spaargaren – Saxophone & Clarinet
Peter Bjørnild – Double bass

1. My One and Only You	(02:57)
2. My Funny Valentine	(03:26)
3. Stolen Moments	(02:52)
4. I Fall in Love Too Easily	(02:13)
5. In a Sentimental Mood	(02:50)
6. Willow Weep for Me	(02:55)
7. The Man I Love	(02:29)
8. Someday My Prince Will Come	(01:52)
9. Lover Man	(03:28)
10. Sophisticated Lady	(02:18)
11. Here's That Rainy Day	(02:00)
12. My Ideal	(02:20)
13. Manhã de Carnaval	(04:45)

Total time: 36:25

Iman Spaargaren & Peter Bjørnild- In Essence

One-Mic Audiophile Recording | Pure DSD 256 Master |

The original high-resolution DSD256 recording was analog mixed and mastered through an HQ analog stereo chain to a DSD256 master. All other formats are high-quality conversions of this master.

In Essence

"**In Essence**" is a welcome return to subtlety, depth, and direct communication. This new album from **Iman Spaargaren** (clarinet & saxophone) and **Peter Bjørnild** (double bass) was made using just one carefully placed **Josephson C700S** (3 capsule) stereo microphone. The entire performance was captured, live in the room, and recorded directly to **Pure DSD256**. It's an old-school method in a high-tech frame, a reminder that sometimes the most advanced thing you can do is keep it simple.

'**In Essence**' is an intimate thoughtful exploration of the **Great American Songbook**, featuring songs like "My Funny Valentine", "In a Sentimental Mood" and "Stolen Moments". But unlike most modern jazz albums, these are not elaborate reworkings or long improvisations. The duo has chosen to keep each track short, distilled down to its melodic and emotional core. It's as if the goal wasn't to impress with complexity, but to offer a clear, focused experience of each tune, each one a small, self-contained meditation, a kind of musical haiku, concise, almost fragile in its clarity, capturing the essence of melody, and melodic improvisation. The result is music that doesn't explain itself - it simply is.



The interplay of clarinet or saxophone and double bass feels like a conversation between friends— sometimes melodic, sometimes contrapuntal, always personal. It's a modern take on a 2 part invention, rooted in swing, blues, and lyricism.

Iman Spaargaren's tone, whether on clarinet or tenor saxophone, is open, warm, and completely natural, focused on storytelling rather than technical display. His phrasing feels effortless and honest, never forced. His approach comes straight out of the jazz tradition. In contrast, **Peter Bjørnild**, whose roots besides jazz and blues, include formal classical education, brings a strong architectural sensibility to the music. His lines are melodic, architectural, and emotionally grounded, sometimes leading, sometimes anchoring, always listening. The result is a rare equality between voices.

The superb sound quality invites you into the studio up close , sitting still, noticing, listening: two instruments, the space between them, the breath before each phrase, the resonance of air and wood. In *Essence* is a quiet, heartfelt reminder of the beauty of musical intimacy.



Frans de Rond on the Recording Process

"Working with **Sound Liaison** has always been about combining craftsmanship with innovation, and our first Pure DSD recording was a real turning point in our approach to high-resolution audio. Recording **Iman Spaargaren** on sax and clarinet, and **Peter Bjørnild** on double bass, I wanted to explore the full potential of the **DSD256** format for audiophile recording. It required rethinking my workflow from the ground up. Every detail from mic placement to post-production had to be handled with absolute precision. The aim was to capture the raw emotion of the performance with complete fidelity. This recording represents what's possible when every part of the production chain is designed to preserve the integrity of the original performance.

The Josephson C700S stereo microphone was fed through a Merging Technologies Horus mic preamp directly into a **DSD256** signal path. It's a fully native Direct Stream Digital (DSD) workflow, optimized for maximum transparency. Mastering was done through a high-quality analog chain, and all format versions - DSD512, DSD128, DSD64 - are direct conversions from that original **DSD256** master.

Monitoring during mixing was done on both **Linkwitz LX521** and **TAD Compact Evolution One** loudspeakers. I also used **Hifiman HE1000se** and **Sennheiser HD800S** headphones, selected for their ability to reveal subtle details without coloration, essential tools in high-end audio production.

DSD began as an archival format, but it has become a powerful tool for artistic expression and high-fidelity recording. What excites me is how it captures the warmth of analog with the precision of digital. This project reflects that synergy, pure, transparent sound driven by a minimalist signal path and honest engineering. It's a start to something bigger: a recording philosophy that lets the listener feel not just the music, but the room, the breath, and the intent behind every note."

- Frans de Rond

Recording Details:

- Recorded in Studio 2 (Heuvellaan Hilversum) on January 16, 2025
- Recording, mixing, and mastering: Frans de Rond
- Producers: Peter Bjørnild & Iman Spaargaren
- Digital mastering: Tom Caulfield

- Photography: Chris Blokhuis

High-End Audio Equipment Used:

- **Microphones:** Josephson C700S – premium stereo condenser microphone offering three capsules for versatile polar patterns and exceptional clarity in high-resolution recordings.
- **Speakers:** Linkwitz LX521.4 & TAD Compact Evolution
- **Power Amplifier:** Moon 760A
- **Analog-to-Digital Converter (Recording):** Merging Horus, state-of-the-art A/D converter used for capturing the original performance with transparent, detailed sound quality at high sample rates.
- **Mastering Headphones:** Hifiman HE1000se & Sennheiser HD800S.
- **Cables & Power Conditioners:** AudioQuest – audiophile-grade cables and power conditioning equipment ensuring signal integrity and noise reduction throughout the recording and mastering chain.
- **Network Switch:** SOTM

Catalog Number: SL-1078A