

TÕNU NAISSOO – jazz pianist, composer, keyboardist

Having taken his first piano lesson at 7 years old, the 16-year-old Tõnu Naissoo made his debut, along with a jazz trio of his own, at the 1967 Tallinn International Jazz Festival. The following year, he recorded his first LP – *Tõnu Naissoo Trio*. In 1971, his first solo piano concerts took him to Novgorod and Leningrad. His third trio was formed in 1977, putting on a successful performance at the 1978 Thbilisi jazz festival. His second album, *Turning Point*, was recorded in 1980 for the *Melodiya* label. During the late Seventies and throughout the Eighties, he was active in several Soviet republics, both as a solo pianist and with his trio and quartet, touring Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan, but also Leningrad and Moscow. The Eighties also saw him performing abroad with various groups – in Hungary, Cuba, Finland, England, Ireland, Belgium, Germany, West Berlin, and France. In 1989–1990 he was a scholarship student at the Berklee College of Music, USA.

As a pianist, Naissoo has participated in the following international projects: EBU Bigband (Pori Jazz, 1985), *Trio Thomas Eckert – Vyacheslav Gaivoronsky – Tõnu Naissoo* (Switzerland–Russia–Estonia, Turku Jazz, 1992), *The Baltic Trio* (with Egils Straume, Vladimir Tarasov, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, 1992, Germany), *Vladimir Tarasov's Baltic Art Orchestra* (the Jazz Baltica and Münster festivals, 1994, Germany). In 2002 he played at the sixth Prague Jazz Festival for jazz pianists. The early 2000s saw him performing with George Haslam's *FreeTime* impro-music group in Prague and other cities of the Czech Republic. He has completed seven concert tours in Japan, and has had performances in the Russian cities of Moscow, St. Petersburg, Yaroslavl, Arkhangelsk, and Severodvinsk.

In the realm of classical music, he was among the soloists at the premieres of Alfred Schnittke's Symphony No. 1 with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in the USA (1988), and with the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra in the Netherlands (1991). The 1994 Riga Contemporary Music Festival saw him performing with the Riga String Quartet at the city's Wagner Hall.

He has performed in the famed venues of Boston Symphony Hall, De Doelen in Rotterdam, Rudolfinum in Prague, the Tschaikovsky Concert Hall in Moscow, the St. Petersburg State Capella, and Orchard Hall in Tokyo.

The pianist and composer Tõnu Naissoo is one of the living legends of Estonian jazz. Throughout his impressive musical journey of 55 years, his preferred format has been the piano trio. With this lineup, he recorded his debut album, *Tõnu Naissoo Trio* (1968), now a favourite among collectors. In 1980, the trio recorded his next LP, its title *Turning Point* referring to an altered cast as well as new ventures in music. With one exception (Ornette Coleman's *Lonely Woman*), the pieces on the album are Naissoo's own compositions from 1977–1980, ranging from intimate ballads to post-bop characterised by intense rhythmic and intertwined ensemble play. Fresh colour is added by the Rhodes electric piano enriching and modernising the sound, and by experiments with the lineup (the Rhodes and drums duo *Tomorrow*, and piano solo *Dewdrops*).

Joosep Sang

Pianist ja helilooja Tõnu Naissoo on üks Eesti jazz'i elavaid legende, kelle muljetavaldav muusikaline teekond on kestnud juba 55 aastat. Läbi aastakümnete on tema eelistatud ansambliformaat olnud klaveritrio. Selle koosseisuga salvestas ta oma debüütalbumi „Tõnu Naissoo Trio“ (1968), mis on tänapäeval kollektsionääride seas kõrgelt hinnatud. Trioga salvestas Naissoo 1980. aastal ka oma järgmise plaadi, mille nimi „Pöördepunkt“ viitab nii muutunud ansamblikoosseisule kui ka uutele otsingutele muusikas. Ühe erandiga (Ornette Colemani „Lonely Woman“) on tegemist aastate 1977–1980 omaloominguga, mis ulatub intiimsetest ballaadidest aktiivse rütmika ja läbipõimunud ansamblimänguga *post-bop*'i paladeni. Värskeid värve lisavad Rhodesi elektriklaveri kasutamine kõlapildi rikastamisel ja kaasajastamisel ning katsetused koosseisuga (Rhodesi ja trummide duo „Tomorrow“ ning klaveri soolopala „Dewdrops“).

Joosep Sang



TURNING POINT PÖÖRDEPUNKT

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|---|---|-----------------------|--------------------|------|
| A | 1 | Turning Point | Pöördepunkt | 4:53 |
| | 2 | Yourself | Sina ise | 4:38 |
| | 3 | Broken Hopes | Purunenud lootused | 6:10 |
| | 4 | Echo Of Reminiscences | Mälestuste kaja | 5:12 |
| B | 1 | Tomorrow | Homme | 3:30 |
| | 2 | Lonely Woman | Üksildane naine | 9:48 |
| | 3 | Dewdrops | Kastepiisad | 2:07 |
| | 4 | Blurred Brightness | Tuhm sära | 4:36 |

Tõnu Naissoo – jazz pianist, composer, keyboardist

He plays various styles of jazz, such as mainstream, post-bop, jazz-rock, and free jazz. His solo piano recitals also feature free improvisations.

He has recorded 30 solo albums, mostly on the Japanese Atelier Sawano label, but also on the Norwegian JazzAggression and Moscow's ArtBeat labels.

Besides jazz compositions, he has composed music for 50 motion pictures and 20 stage and teleplays as well as commercials.



Tõnu Naissoo – džässpianist, helilooja, klahvpillimängija

Stiililiselt hõlmab tema mäng džässi erinevaid tahke: *mainstream, post-bop, jazz-rock* ning *free jazz*. Sooloklaveri kontsertidel esitab ka vabu improvisatsioone.

Ta on välja andnud 30 soolo-plaati, neist üle poole Jaapani plaadifirma Atelier Sawano all, samuti teinud koostööd Moskva plaadifirmaga ArtBeat ja Norra plaadifirmaga JazzAggression.

Heliloojana on kirjutanud lisaks džässkompositsioonidele muusikat 50-le filmile ja 20-le teatri- ja telelavastusele ning reklaamfilmidele.

T Õ N U N A I S S O O T R I O

Still active after 55 years on Estonian and international jazz scene, pianist and composer **Tõnu Naissoo** revisits his early career on this re-release of the 1981 trio album of original compositions in the post-bop vein, joined by bassist **Taivo Sillar** and drummer **Peep Ojaveri**.

All compositions by Tõnu Naissoo, except *Tomorrow* by Tõnu Naissoo – Peep Ojaveri, *Lonely Woman* by Ornette Coleman.

First release: 1981

Label: USSR Melodiya, Forte Ltd

Sound engineer: Enn Laidre

Remastered release: 2023

Mastering engineers: Priit Kuulberg, Aular Soon

AADSD



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