

# Himmerland

**-New music from Scandinavia across styles, cultures and frontiers!**

"Himmerland were hot, they knew what they were doing and they did it very well!" - The Blog "Life with a Blackdog", Canberra, Australia



On a mild autumn evening in March at one of Australia's major folk festivals, the huge crowd in the big marquee clap and shout their admiration for the band on stage.

This is a Himmerland concert, and this Danish band is one of the most travelled outfits on Denmark's roots and folk music scene.

Right now it is the drummer that has all the audience's attention. Bathed in colored light from the spots, -Then the rest of the band join in on saxophone, violin and guitar and the marquee throbs with new roots and world music and happy listeners. It is as though everybody in the place has drunk of the same magic, intoxicating potion.

Himmerland and the international festival community

Himmerland tours in large parts of the world these years, performing new music

rooted in the very different styles, cultures and traditions of the outstanding and very experienced composers and musicians.

Where ever the band play, they bewitch and spread warmth and happiness amongst people, performing their unique blend of old Danish ballads, whirling fiddle tunes, equilibristic improvisations, and new fascinating music composed and arranged by the band members.

HIMMERLAND is Eskil Romme (sax), Kirstine Haugaard Sand (violin ,vocals) from Denmark, Jens Ulvsand (bouzouki, vocals) from Sweden and Donald Hay (percussion) from Scotland.

The start

The first line up got together in 2010, played their first concerts at festivals and venues at the Faroe Islands, and in Hungary and Bulgaria n 2011, and released their first album, "New Roots Music from Denmark", in august 2012.

-The band did celebrate the album by planning a busy "CD release week", featuring concerts at the Danish Tønder Festival, at Alkantara Fest in Sicily, Koktebel Jazz Festival in Ukraine, and finally at the Harvest World Music Festival in Moscow, all in one week, and from there the band went on.

The first album had very good reviews, and in 2013 it wasnominated for a Danish Music Award (Danish "Grammy") as Folk Album of the Year. -Second album release was "The Spider in the Fiddle" that came in 2014, and again in 2018 Himmerland went into recordings and released "Folktone From A Global Corner" in 2019. "This third release has been a while coming, but it was definitely worth the wait" Chris Nixon FRoots Festivals and tourings

Edinburg Folkclub : "Himmerland live act:.. among Top Ten acts at Edinburgh Folk Club...as voted for by our members" -Since 2010 Himmerland has toured intensively in Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Faroe Islands, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Greece, England, Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia, Canada, South America, Australia, and New Zealand.

-During the years, Himmerland has been featured on festivals like:

Australia: The National Folk Festival (Canberra)-Fairbridge Festival (WA) -  
Port Fairy Festival, (Vic) - Blue Mountains Folkfestival (NSW). New Zealand:Wellington Folkfestival -  
Canterbury Folkfestival. Canada: La grand Recontre (Montreal)-Mission Folk Festival (BC) -  
Festival Memoire & Racine (Quebec) -Sunfest (Ontario). Chile: Festival International de Musica Immigrante  
de Valpariso. Europe: Goiikoorts Int.Volksmuziekfestival (Belgium) - Festival Touscouleurs(Bodighera, Italy)  
- Alkantara Fest, (Catania, Sicily) -Kaustinen Folk Festival (Finland)- Summartónar (The Faroe Islands)  
G!Festival (Gøte, The Faroe Island) – Celtic Connections(Glasgow, Scotland) The Bath Folk Festival  
(England), Musicport Festival (Whitby,England)- The Carrying Stream Festival (Edinburg,Scotland), Feis na  
Mara Festival,(Scotland) - Urkult Festival (Näsåker,Sweden) – Nordic Folk Festival (Tappernøje, Denmark) –  
Tønder Festival(Denmark) – Godtfolk Festival(Fanø , Denmark) - Koktebel Jazz Festival(Ukraine), World  
Stage (Copenhagen,Denmark) -The Harvest World Music Festival (Moscow, Russia) and so on...  
“They’re a bit of a multi-genre, multi-culture supergroup” Chris Nickson Froots

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## **Himmerland is:**

“.. this version of the band makes a glorious and very varied noise...variety spicy, and the musicianship throughout is impeccable, with some superb, complex arrangements that still flow quite organically”  
FRoots Review June 2019

**ESKIL ROMME** (Soprano Saxophone) is from Funen, but has lived in  
Himmerlands in Northern Jutland, most of his life. During the 30 years Eskil  
has played, he has mixed traditional Danish music with jazz and other related  
genres. On his many travels in Scandinavia and the UK, he has developed his  
very own "North Sea blend" of sounds and styles. In 2009 he released the album  
" Himmerlandsmelodier", which also was the beginning of the band Himmerland.

Eskil he is known for its many international tours with bands like Færd, Kryss, Rod Sinclair/Sula and  
Spælimenninir I Hoydølum.

**SIGURD HOCKINGS** (Guitar) Sigurd is back again playing with Himmerland, as a strong representative  
of theyounger folkmusicians generation in Denmark. Sigurd has his roots in England and Denmark, and as a

part of his degree at the Music academy in Odense he was a student of Chris Newman in Yorkshire, and he also went to Sweden as a part of his study activities. Sigurd is known as one of the most remarkable guitar players in Denmark, and beside Himmerland, he has played in a nr of important bands as Basco, Habbadam, Fiddle8 and now most actually his duo with his partner Fromseier & Hockings.

**KIRSTINE HAUGAARD SAND** (violin, vocals) comes from a family of great traditional musicians and dancers

on the island of Funen, including her brother, Danish world champion violinist Harald Haugaard.

Kirstine has lived in the Danish traditional music life her whole life. She is trained at the academy in Odense as well as in Newcastle (UK). Kirstine plays and tours with Danish bands as Fiolministeriet and Svestar.

Kirstine is also a highly experienced teacher in both classical-, folk music, and traditional Danish dance.

**DONALD HAY** (Drums, Percussion) Donald is the latest member of Himmerland - We met and played With Donald first time at Celtic Connections 2016, and since we have met at several occasions and finally We decided to keep a Permanent cooperation despite the fact that Donald lives in Scotland. Donald has a lifelong career at the Scottish/British Folk scene and he has played with a huge nr of bands during the last 30 years, fxl Mystery Juice, Old Blind Dogs, Eliza Carthy Band, The Boum and Nuala Kennedy Band.

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-Learn more at : [www.himmerland.it](http://www.himmerland.it) - or [www.facebook.com/himmerlandband](https://www.facebook.com/himmerlandband)