

## 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 coloured light from the spots, he sings and dances around behind his drum-kit, while his hands flash over the skins so fast that the eye can hardly keep up with

them.

Then the rest of the band join in on saxophone, violin, guitar and electric bass, 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 five 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 2017 is Eskil Romme (sax), Jens Ulvsand (bouzouki, vocals), Kirstine Haugaard Sand (violin , vocals) Andrzej Krejniuk (electric bass) og Ayi Solomon (percussion) .

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. The album had very good reviews, and in 2013 it was nominated for a Danish Music Award (Danish "Grammy") as Folk Album of the Year.

Since 2010 Himmerland has toured intensively in Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Greece, England, Scotland, Hungary, Bulgaria,

Ukraine, Russia, Canada, South America, Australia, and New Zealand, and in 2015 the band is going back to Australia to perform at Blue Mountains Music Festival and Port Fairy Folk Festival, amongst others.

During the last couple of years, Himmerland has been featured on festivals like:

The National Folk Festival (Canberra, Australia), Fairbridge Festival (Fairbridge, Australia), Goiikoorts Int. Volksmuziekfestival (Belgium), Festival Touscouleurs (Bodighera, Italy), Kaustinen Folk Festival (Finland), Summartónar (The Faroe Islands), La grand Recontre (Montreal, Québec, Canada), Mission Folk Festival (BC, Canada), The Bath Folk Festival (England), Urkult Festival (Näsåker, Sweden), Nordic Folk Festival (Tappernøje, Denmark), Tønder Festival (Denmark), Alkantara Fest, (Catania, Sicily, Italy), Koktebel Jazz Festival (Ukraine), World Stage (Copenhagen, Denmark), Festival International de Musica Immigrante de Valpariso (Chile), Musicport Festival (Whitby, England), G!Festival (Gøte, The Faroe Island), The Carrying Stream Festival (Edinburg, Scotland), The Harvest World Music Festival (Moscow, Russia) and so on...

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Himmerland is:

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 is the artistic director of the small but well-reputed Halkær Festival, and he is known for its many international tours with bands like "Færd" and "Kryss".

JENS ULVSAND (bouzouki, vocals) From Sweden, has been an integral part of the Swedish folkmusic scene in the last 25 years. Beside his work as a touring musician, Jens is a highly respected teacher at the Music Academies in Malmø, Sweden and Odense, Denmark, and he has a long career as composer for Swedish theaters. Jens Ulvsand has years of experience on the Swedish folk music scene, and combines his work in Himmerland with Trio Mio, with membership of Swedish Avadå Band, and toured the world with Danish Færd, KRYSS and Jullie Hjetland & Jens Ulvsand duo.

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-, folkmusic, and traditional danish dance.

ANDRZEJ KREJNIUK (Electric bass guitar, vocals) was born in Poland but has lived in Denmark most of his life. Andrzej is a respected musician and composer, and an excellent soloist on the electric bass guitar. He has extensive experience from the Danish and international jazz and world music scene, and he plays in bands like "Momento", "Sound of Polarity", "Lelo Nika", and of course with his own jazz fusion band, "Abstract Reality".

AYI SOLOMON (percussion, vocals) is from Ghana but has lived in Copenhagen for more than 30 years. Solomon enjoys great respect wherever he has played the last several years, both in Denmark and internationally. He has released two albums in his own name, and he has performed and toured with a wide range of top professional bands and projects in genres like world music, rock, pop and jazz. Among the best known are "Pierre Dørge & The New Jungle Orchestra", "Moussa Diallo Band" and "Palle Mikkelborg".

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