

**We Love
BEING HERE
WITH YOU**

NORDKRAFT BIG BAND
& JOHN CLAYTON



This recording represents the fun and joy experienced by a group of Danish musicians who love playing together. Everyone wants to hear a concert, a recording, a band like that!

I write these lines from a position of bias. I have come to know these artists as people and friends. I have had laughs, food, serious conversations and explored much music with them. Putting that bias aside as much as possible, I can say that I'm impressed by their swing, their drive, dynamics (listen to *Jody Grind*), and their spirit. I know – "spirit" is such a vague, intangible thing; that is, until you hear and feel it. And you WILL hear it.

How exciting to hear the original compositions from within the band, too!! As a composer and arranger, I'm always happy to hear other writers' fantasies. I enjoyed witnessing and hearing the evolution of *Life* and *Sweets* to *The Sweet*. Bravo!

I'm honored to have made music with these fine musicians. I'm flattered that many of the pieces they chose were from my pen. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen of the big band.

This is a swinging big band album, filled with sparkling moments that take one by surprise. Those moments uplift us, as the Nordkraft Big Band uplifts the music.

JOHN CLAYTON
artistic director (2017-2019)

It has been a fantastic journey – and we're just getting started!

For almost three years we have worked together with John Clayton as our chief conductor/artistic director. He taught us to play together as a unit like never before. No one is playing alone, not even when playing solo. He doesn't even like the word soloist – "Think of playing a solo as just having fun with your friends!"

John always focuses on the bands development – "Wow! Fantastic guys! So, what would you like to add to that?" he asked the band with lots of energy radiating from his eyes after we had finished a great concert. He never told us what to do or where to go, but always asked what WE wanted to do – what WE would like to add. And that is crucial to John Clayton. He never puts himself in front. He is always serving the music and the people around him.

He took the band to a higher level and made every musician take responsibility for the music, their bandmates, and our common growth. He unlocked lots of potential, self-confidence, and musicality throughout the group that we never knew existed – and we are continuing that journey on our own. Well, almost... John is still checking in from time to time to hear how things are going – for which we are thankful! We simply love being here (in the rehearsing room, on stage, back stage, in the tour-bus) with you, John – and we love being here, playing for our audience!

PETER LUND PAULSEN
manager/drummer



JOHN CLAYTON

Conductor/Bass

NORDKRAFT BIG BAND

Jan Jacobsen
Mimi Barkmann
Uffe Markussen
Ask Andreassen
Nis Hellerøe Myrtue

Reeds 1
Reeds 2
Reeds 3
Reeds 4
Reeds 5

Nicolai Andersen
Tristan Button
Niels Munk Petersen
Jonas Scheffler Kristensen

Trumpet 1
Trumpet 2
Trumpet 3
Trumpet 4

Jonas Lindh
Thomas Skovlund Hansen
Ida Hovde
Kristian Kloster

Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Trombone 3
Trombone 4

Martin Granum
Theo Benjamin Hjorth
Anders Ulfkjær Ammitzbøll
Peter Lund Paulsen

Guitar
Piano
Bass
Drums

First of all, Nordkraft Big Band would like to thank John Clayton for a wonderful time together and fantastic collaboration. What a journey!

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Danish Arts
Foundation



**Aalborg
Kommune**



**spar nord
FONDEN**



DANSK KAPELMESTERFORENING
FAGLIG SAMMENSLUTNING AF PROFESSIONELLE DIRIGENTER OG KAPELMESTRE

Recorded by Morten Laursen November 8+9, 2019 at The Royal Academy of Music/Musikkens Hus, Aalborg.
Mixed/mastered by Rich Breen at Dogmatic Sound, Los Angeles (USA), April/May 2021.

Cover art by Lützen Design/Henrik Lützen.

Produced by John Clayton & Peter Lund Paulsen.

NORDKRAFT BIG BAND & JOHN CLAYTON

WE LOVE BEING HERE WITH YOU

1. MAX 07:33

Jeff Hamilton, arr. John Clayton

Soloists: Uffe Markussen (tenorsax), Thomas Skovlund Hansen (trombone),
Niels Munk Petersen (trumpet), Peter Lund Paulsen (drums)

2. THE JODY GRIND 05:29

Horace Silver, arr. John Clayton

Soloists: Ask Andreassen (tenorsax), Thomas Skovlund Hansen (trombone),
Peter Lund Paulsen (drums)

3. LIFE 08:16

Martin Granum

Soloists: Jonas Scheffler Kristensen (flugelhorn), Martin Granum (guitar)

4. SWEETS TO THE SWEET 06:30

Hugo Rasmussen, arr. Anders Ulfkjær Ammitzbøll

Soloists: Ask Andreassen (tenorsax), Anders Ulfkjær Ammitzbøll (bass)

5. FOR ALL WE KNOW 06:38

J. Fred Coots/Sam M. Lewis, arr. John Clayton

Soloists: John Clayton (bass), Theo Benjamin Hjorth (piano)

6. 15 MINUTES LATE 07:09

John Clayton

Soloists: Uffe Markussen (tenorsax), Jonas Scheffler Kristensen (trumpet)

7. I LOVE BEING HERE WITH YOU 03:13

Peggy Lee, arr. John Clayton

Soloists: The Trombone Section - Jonas Lindh,
Thomas Skovlund Hansen, Kristian Kloster, Ida Hovde.

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Gateway music



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