

OPTUR meets the audience with outgoing playfulness

and a deeply rooted danceable, Nordic vibe.

With more than 40 years of experience from the Danish and International folk scene, Søren Korshøj composed a string of new dance tunes based on the Nordic folk music tradition. His main idea was to form an ensemble capable of playing dance music with an edge, surprising improvisational passages and an occasional touch of humor.

The alternation between the tightly thematic and the improvisational interplay in free and open spaces gives each instrumentalist the opportunity of expressing both their individual and collective potential, and the possibility of creating an intense expression together with the audience which captures the music of the moment.

By gathering experienced musicians across different musical genres - in order to contribute to the creation of a new and unique Nordic sound - our own form of musical expression arose:

We're calling it Nordic Free Folk.

OPTUR is:

Søren Korshøj – violin & vocals

Mikael Fleron – saxophones

Heidi Luke - beat oriented Motown drumming

Jens Kristian Andersen – jazzy doublebass

www.optur.info

The Debut album "Nordic Free Folk" was released 4 August 2022 at <https://gofolk.dk/>
The album has been very well received in Denmark and abroad. And has been number 2 on top 40 on "Global Village"

<https://www.facebook.com/GlobalVillageRadio/posts/pfbid02pxJh3zzHnrtYdmk8spmsJ1zUxd2mkphZ9W7Lr7VrapWjpVfVjtahtLmf595WzqZWI>

Rootsworld.com :

"The idea is to mix Nordic-influenced folk dance with improvisation, and it works like a charm".

<https://www.rootsworld.com/reviews/soundbites-22.shtml?fbclid=IwAR1ctR67u43s3sueEfUgdZUIkCiuz8365h4DqLpRNbOKhozym-z8BHf-AVk>

Lira.se :

allt från jazziga saxofonsolon till discotrummor, och inte minst en väldig massa snygga melodier. Och svänger gör det, rejält.

https://www.lira.se/skivrecension/nordic-free-folk/?fbclid=IwAR1CgGXBxEbqaUfn0XonH9y1ulhXe_TQUpWWsFIJ87z40_wU3x5xbXJMLhQ

Rootszone.dk :

Bassen og ikke mindst trommerne underbygger som hovedregel melodiernes rytmik frem for at lægge en egentlig grundpuls. Derved opnås en ganske kraftfuld og fremadgående dynamik.

https://rootszone.dk/cd-optur-nordic-free-folk/?fbclid=IwAR0PDysusEolHAnAHqcTbxKRpkqz7Njl-h3Ehqor7SmmQx4_OcozdmpVQ4A

Side33.dk :

og så naturligvis – igen – en Mikael Fleron, der virkelig formår at spille farvestrålende uden af udfylde hele paletten.

https://side33.dk/optur-nordic-free-folk/?fbclid=IwAR0QgRCa24SYrEK57CJbeDqzXFhqij74xS51GcFhCY_y66_eT0QhWJ8OBhl

Folkmagazin.de

kurzum, eine kurzweilige CD voller oft schöner Überraschungen.

<https://folkmagazin.de/fm-zeitschrift/fm-rezensionen-2/rezensionen-skandinavisch-baltisch/optur-%E2%80%93-nordic-free-folk.-go%E2%80%98-danish-folk-music.-www-gofolk-dk-gh.html>

History of the band :

Violinist and composer Søren Korshøj was a founding member of the band Instinkt, touring festivals in Europe and Canada from 2003-2008. Including Roskilde, Dranauter, Hebridian Celtic, Winnipeg and Calgary festival. The band received 6 Danish Music Awards for their 2 albums.

With more than 40 years of experience from the Danish and international folk scene, Søren has composed a string of new dance tunes revolving round the Nordic folk music tradition.

An important idea behind this new project has been to bring together an ensemble capable of playing dance music with an edge, leaving room for improvisational passages and an occasional humorous hint.

The saxophone player Mikael Fleron quickly became a close collaborator in the process of launching the project, also based on an idea of gathering musicians across different musical genres in order to contribute to the creation of a new form of unique Nordic sound. Jointly they found beat-oriented Motown drummer Heidi Luke and Jazz bassist Jens Kristian Andersen.

The band was baptized OPTUR (equivalent to upturn or having an upper) and received a grant from Statens Kunstfond (The Danish Arts Foundation) earmarked for premiering one hour of nonstop music for a dancing audience at the Nordic folk music festival Musik Over Præstø Fjord (<https://www.mopf.dk/>); a festival with a strong focus on both traditional and contemporary Nordic dance and music.

The debut was a big success, which made us confident that we had something unique and potent going on.

Playing at Tønder Festival august 23 was a big success

enjoy the live videos here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9w23kvOZGM&list=PLWLqyDNBPT69wJba6TUxjaOmjwX5dr-Ls&index=7>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSjw_Cd6IMc&list=PLWLqyDNBPT69wJba6TUxjaOmjwX5dr-Ls&index=6

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFboUGa1vC8&list=PLWLqyDNBPT69wJba6TUxjaOmjwX5dr-Ls&index=4>

Live Videos From Musik over Præstø Fjord Festival by "Music from Scotland" :

<https://www.facebook.com/MusicfromScotland/videos/1141443683435963>

<https://www.facebook.com/MusicfromScotland/videos/1999339033600506>

<https://www.facebook.com/MusicfromScotland/videos/5385798044844927>