

## AZUR AZUR (DK/SE)

**Azur Azur** is modern instrumental folk with a cool Nordic tone, that combines traditional Scandinavian folk music and jazzy improvisations.

The trio was formed in 2019 by double bass player Frederik Mensink. In the company of fellow musicians Rasmus Brinck (Tailcoat) and Jonathan Fjord Bredholt (Hvalfugl, Sylfide) he creates a sound universe around acute and atmospheric compositions.

With Nordic roots, yearning tunes dance melodically atop rhythmic grooves in a present, improvisational interplay. Piano, double bass and nyckelharpa blends into gentle, atmospheric sounds with rhythmic precision and nerve.

In September 2022 the band released their debut album *noget blå*, which was well received and broadcasted on Danish National Radio.

*"Evocative, inviting, frank and at the same time delightful and sensual."*

– JazzSpecial

*"It's very easy to like Azur Azur. There is an alluring calm and comfort in the music."*

- JazzNyt

The music places itself in the borderlands between traditional folk and Nordic jazz, that draws a line to Jan Johanssons *Jazz På Svenska*, and newer Scandinavian folk bands like *Väsen*, *Bazar Blå* and *Gjermund Larsen Trio*.

*"We're trying to create a modern sound based on the musical heritage in our part of the world. Azur Azur is all about our fascination with the universal language of folk music, with its blue notes and mystical rhythms"* - Frederik Mensink.

### Line-up:

Frederik Mensink: double bass

Rasmus Brinck: nyckelharpa

Jonathan Fjord Bredholt: piano

Frederik Mensink has studied folk music and has a Masters in double bass from the Danish National Academy of Music. He also studied improvisation and world music at the Academy of Music and Drama in Gothenburg. He has a developed and contemporary, harmonic approach in his music. He is a bass player, who challenges and pushes the boundaries of the role of the bass in Nordic folk music.

Pianist Jonathan Fjord Bredholt is also know from the critically acclaimed band *Hvalfugl*. He has studied at the Royal Academy of Music. He has developed a Nordic tone in the encounter between jazz and folk.

Rasmus Brinck has studied *nyckelharpa* at The Royal College of Music in Stockholm. Outside of Azur Azur, he plays with the folk music all-star band *Tailcoat*, who was nominated for 'Talent of the year' at Danish Music Awards Folk 2019.