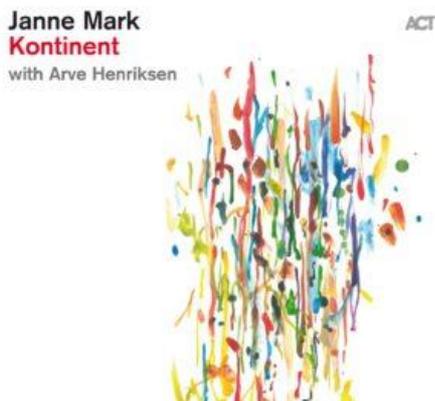


# Janne Mark – Kontinent

Marcin Puławski  
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Janne Mark rediscovers the beauty of the hymn of praise. The Danish singer is inspired by the aesthetics of Scandinavian folk music and the freedom that jazz improvisation gives. Not only does she compose hymns, she also writes lyrics to them. "Kontinent" is the second album in this convention after "Pilgrim" (Act Music 2018), on which she collaborates with the Norwegian trumpeter Arve Henriksen. The pastoral, exceptionally mild sound of his instrument perfectly correlates with the subtlety of Janne Mark's vocal parts.

The essence of the album is the melody. I am fascinated by the boundlessness represented by the melody. When we share it with others and sing together, it escapes all boundaries and frames and begins to live its own life - says the artist. Even when she sings in Danish - incomprehensible to most of us - we get the impression that she is telling us a story. It allows you to daydream, relax and completely devote yourself to the sound matter. The skills of Arve Henriksen, responsible for the production of this recording, are not without significance here. Minimalism is combined here with the warmth and authenticity of the artist's vocal part, endowed with crystal clear and dignified voice. The pieces have a transparent form to emphasize the melodic beauty. The piano, violin or melotron accompaniment is designed to strengthen the message hidden in the words.

The album was recorded in the spring of 2020, when the world was already engulfed in a pandemic. It seems that these circumstances greatly strengthened the message of this music. Ethereal and illustrative musical expression can be referred to the beauty of the world around us, struggling with ever new problems. Kontinent focuses on color and coloring, always searching for freshness in a different way. It

raises not only the melody, but also the sound of the album to the highest level. Each tone really matters here and can be a substitute for another beautiful phrase developed by the entire performance cast.

Kontinent is a production that is thoroughly thought out and offers us something more than just music. The message of this album goes much further, you just have to want to notice it.

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