

# FRIENSEMBLET

A Free-Spirited Jazz Ensemble Led By **Mathilde Grooss Viddal**

**FRIENSEMBLET** - a Norwegian Free-spirited Jazz ensemble led by Mathilde Grooss Viddal.

**Friensemblet** was born of the Big Band in the Department of Musicology at the University of Oslo. The Big Band has roots going back to the 1960s and has held many talented musicians in its ranks over the years (including Jan Garbarek).

**Mathilde Grooss Viddal** is an artist with a deep foundation in several different styles, whose own work goes beyond the boundaries of genre. Her education in music and composition comes from the Department of Musicology at the University of Oslo and the Music Conservatory in Agder.

The core of Friensemblet's repertoire is composed by Grooss Viddal, supplemented by other works from the band members. The players all have active careers as musicians in Norway, covering many different musical styles. The diverse background of the members is one of the defining factors of the band's unique sound.

Friensemblet's music is an exploration of the conceptual world of modern big band Jazz. A blend of free-improvisation, humor, and strict composition. The compositions serve as vehicles for showcasing the individual members' improvisatory skills as well as constituting a musical entity in its own right. Strong focus on the compositions and their arrangements makes for far-reaching music that explores many vistas; from the free-flowing and intense to the lyrical and soothing.

Friensemblet recorded their debut album, **"Holding Balance"** in 2004 with sound engineer **Jan Erik Kongshaug** in **Rainbow Studio**, Oslo. "Holding Balance" was released on Giraffa Records / Musikklosen in 2006, receiving excellent feedback in the Norwegian press, and in USA from Stephen Feigenbaum at Wayside Music.

Their second album **"Come Closer"** featuring **Britt Pernille Frøholm** (hardanger fiddle/electronics) and **Tellef Kvifte** (laptop/electronics/keyboard) is a live recording from Belleville in Oslo, recorded by Jan Erik Kongshaug and released in 2009.

*"Free-spirited contemporary music full of improvisation and freewheeling elements, in which each of the band members are featured equally. The result is extremely powerful music that takes its cue from open-mindedness and the sheer joy of playing."*

- **Kjell Moe, Nordlys, Norway**

Now the third recording from Friensemblet is on its way. **"Undergroove"** is a live recording from Nasjonal Jazzscene in Oslo, featuring **Dag Stiberg** (saxophones/amplifier), **Hedvig Mollestad Thomassen** (electric guitar), **Kari Rolland** (soundpaint) and **Per Willy Aaserud** (trumpet/electronics). The title track "Undergroove" is also featured on the compilation from **JazzCD.no** "5th set - Jazz from Norway 2012" - a promotional production used internationally by The Norwegian Jazz Forum in close cooperation with The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Their next project will be a tour of Northern Norway in the Autumn of 2012, featuring **Børge-Are Halvorsen** (saxophones).

## CONTACT

Mathilde Grooss Viddal - [info@friensemblet.com](mailto:info@friensemblet.com)

<http://friensemblet.com> | <http://mgviddal.com> | <http://giraffa.no>

# FRIENSEMBLET

A Free-Spirited Jazz Ensemble Led By **Mathilde Grooss Viddal**

**FRIENSEMBLET** - Personnel (Past & Present).

## 2011

Mathilde Grooss Viddal: Leader, Bass clarinet, Saxophones  
Børge-Are Halvorsen: Saxophones  
Dag Stiberg: Saxophones  
Kari Rolland: Saxophones  
Gunnar Halle: Trumpet, Electronics  
Per Willy Aaserud: Trumpet, Electronics  
Øyvind Brække: Trombone,  
Britt Pernille Frøholm: Hardanger Fiddle  
Tellef Kvifte: Electronics, Laptop, Keyboard  
Hedvig Mollestad Thomassen: Guitar  
Eivind Henjum: Bass  
Ivar Loe Bjørnstad: Drums

## 2007

Mathilde Grooss Viddal: Leader, Bass clarinet, Saxophones  
Dag Stiberg: Saxophones  
Børge-Are Halvorsen: Saxophones  
Kari Rolland: Saxophones  
Eivind Lønning: Trumpet  
Gunnar Halle: Trumpet  
Trude Eick: French Horn  
Øyvind Brække: Trombone  
Britt pernille Frøholm: Hardanger Fiddle  
Tellef Kvifte: Electronics, Laptop, Keyboard, div.  
Hedvig Mollestad Thomassen: Guitar  
Eivind Henjum: Bass Terje Engen: Drums

## 2004

Mathilde Grooss Viddal: Leader, Bass clarinet, Saxophones  
Marianne Natvig: Vocal  
Kjell Asbjørn Bunæs: Flute  
Tellef Kvifte: Saxophones, Taragot  
Dag Stiberg: Saxophones  
Kari Rolland: Saxophones  
Harald F. Bugge: Saxophones  
Silje Systad: Trumpet  
Ida Tveiten: Trumpet  
Are Reichelt Føreland: Trumpet  
Bård Melhus: Trumpet  
Trude Eick: French Horn  
Øyvind Brække: Trombone

## CONTACT

Mathilde Grooss Viddal - [info@friensemblet.com](mailto:info@friensemblet.com)  
<http://friensemblet.com> | <http://mgviddal.com> | <http://giraffa.no>

# F R I E N S E M B L E T

A Free-Spirited Jazz Ensemble Led By **Mathilde Grooss Viddal**

Elisabeth BJORLI DAHL: Trombone

Kai Braaten: Trombone

Joachim Pihl: Trombone

Kjetil Myhre: Trombone

Gunvald Hagen: Piano

Hedvig Mollestad Thomassen: Guitar

Eivind Henjum: Bass

Inge Tokstad: Drums

## C O N T A C T

Mathilde Grooss Viddal - [info@friensemblet.com](mailto:info@friensemblet.com)

<http://friensemblet.com> | <http://mgviddal.com> | <http://giraffa.no>