

## Czech trumpeter Jiří Kotača and Swedish guitarist Alf Carlsson release second album with their band



Czech trumpeter **Jiří Kotača** and Swedish pianist **Alf Carlsson** release a new album with their band, featuring nine of their own original compositions. Besides being firmly rooted in the tradition of modern jazz, the album, entitled **Our Stories**, draws on various other styles by which the individual players swear, including jazz rock, modern mainstream, pop, and Scandinavian lyricism. Alf Carlsson and Jiří Kotača, both respected musical personalities, first met in Rotterdam and then during Alf's visit to the Czech Republic, which eventually turned into a short common tour and later into a proper band as the two leaders were joined by two of the most sought-after jazz Slovak musicians of the youngest generation – double bassist and bass guitarist **Peter Korman** and drummer **Kristián Kuruc**. The band has been performing in this line up ever since. The new album, which is published five years after their critically acclaimed debut *Journeys*, will be introduced on

a tour including Czechia, Slovakia and other countries. Eager listeners can get a tasting of the album and listen in advance to Alf's piece **Alf's Groove**, which is now being released on all digital platforms, and to **Relief** by Jiří Kotača, which will be available as of 10 May.

The idea to bring out a new album was born during the COVID-19 pandemic: *“During the second year of the pandemic when we hadn't been playing for more than a year, Alf and I met in Stockholm to start working on new music. We decided to make more use of live electronics and we also wanted to achieve a greater genre variety, to break out of the box. So that was the initial impulse and as a result, the listeners will be treated to nine very diverse compositions. Some of these gravitate towards jazz rock and fusion, some have closer to pop, others are lyrical, and yet other could be said to belong to the modern mainstream. But the main characteristic of our music remains the same: we mix styles and influences that we love,”* says Jiří Kotača.

In November 2019, the quartet released a well-received album **Journeys** (Amplion Records) and has performed the repertoire at many jazz clubs and festivals in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Sweden and other countries. The new album will also be introduced in concerts in Czechia and abroad. Both band leaders are esteemed representatives of the young jazz scene and generation in their respective countries. Alf Carlsson was commissioned to compose music for the Nobel Peace Prize and Jiří Kotača has been nominated for the Anděl Award and is a recipient of the Czech Jazz Harvest award from 2020.

The album **Our Stories** is released on 17 May 2024 as part of the Animal Music 2024 edition supported by a grant from the City of Prague and the PPF Foundation. The recording has also been supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, the OSA and the Želex a Gumex companies. The album will be available on CD and digitally from the Animal Music e-shop, from the usual distribution outlets of Supraphon and on all streaming platforms.

In late April, the band will set out on the first part of their Czech tour which culminates with launches of the new album at concert performances in **Veselí nad Moravou** (27.4.), **Brno** (28.4) and **Prague** (5.5.). Later in the year, the band will also tour in **Slovakia, Greece and Sweden**.

# ANIMALMUSIC



## Line-up:

Alf Carlsson – electric guitar  
Jiří Kotača – trumpet/flugelhorn  
Peter Korman – acoustic and electric bass  
Kristián Kuruc – drums

Producers: Alf Carlsson, Jiří Kotača & Petr Ostrouchov  
Recording and mix: Milan Cimfe & Adam Karlík (Studio Sono Records)  
Mastering: Adam Karlík (Studio Sono Records)

## Tracklist:

1. Wanderer (Alf Carlsson)
2. Faith (Jiří Kotača)
3. Alf's Groove (Alf Carlsson)
4. Relief (Jiří Kotača)
5. Air-conditioned JK (Jiří Kotača)
6. Before the Storm (Peter Korman)
7. Supercell (Alf Carlsson)
8. Hotel Piast (Alf Carlsson)
9. Brno Boyz (Alf Carlsson, Jiří Kotača)

## Listen:

<https://lnk.to/alfsgroove>

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