



Media Release

From Finland: Jazz Trio - Joona Toivanen - Asia-Australia tour September 2007

One of Finland's finest contemporary jazz ensembles, the **Joona Toivanen Trio**, will return to Australia after 4 years for their second tour in September as part of an international touring project, which will include Seoul and the Jarasum International Jazz Festival in Korea, and the Australian cities of **Darwin, Perth, Melbourne, Canberra, Cairns and Brisbane**. The tour is supported by the Finnish Arts Council and music promotion institutions together with the Embassy of Finland in Canberra.

The **Joona Toivanen Trio** - www.joonatoivanentrio.com **Joona Toivanen** – piano, **Tapani Toivanen** – bass, **Olavi Louhivuori** – drums, plays contemporary, intelligent, versatile, and above all lyrical jazz. This is one of the most promising and talented young jazz ensembles coming out of Finland during the past 10 years. They have a skilful grip on the art of improvisation and know how to deliver a great mix of original compositions with superb musicianship, and do so at times with a melancholic Nordic vibe and often an air of gladness and joy is laced through their material. The music of Joona Toivanen trio is considered lyrical and elegant but equally strongly individual and daring and has its genesis in the Finnish nature and draws from the its rich epic and folk tradition.

Active since 1997, this ambitious young threesome have an unassuming and natural attitude to their playing, and today are considered one of the most internationally successful young jazz groups in Finland. They have performed in Europe, Australia and Asia at key festivals and exotic music spots, and are enjoying a wonderful reception wherever they go, filling the hearts of young and old with delight. The trio won first prize in the Nordic jazz competition in Iceland in 2000, and in April 2006 EMI Music Finland released the Joona Toivanen Trio's third album 'Frost' on the legendary Blue Note record label.

Joona Toivanen (1981) - piano

Graduated from the jazz programme of the Finnish Conservatory in 2002. and currently studies at the School of Music, Gothenburg University and at the Royal Academy Of Music in Stockholm, Sweden. Joona composes for and performs with several line-ups both in Finland and Sweden.

Tapani Toivanen (1982) - bass

Has studied double bass at the Finnish Conservatory and currently studies at Helsinki University of Technology. Apart the trio Tapani is also the artistic director of Polirytmii, the jazz group of tech students.

Olavi Louhivuori (1981) - drums

Graduated from the jazz programme of the Finnish Conservatory in 2002. is also a member of several top class jazz ensembles, including the Ilmiliekki Quartet, the winner of the Young Nordic Jazz Comets Competition 2002, and his own group Oddarrang which released its debut album in 2006.

Tour schedule:

- Sept 10-13: Korea – Jarasum International Jazz Festival and National Television performances;
- Sept 16: Darwin – SkyCity Sunset Jazz series – www.skycitydarwin.com.au
- Sept 17: Perth – Jazz Society, Hyde Park Hotel North Perth – www.perthjazzsociety.com
- Sept 18: Melbourne – BennettsLane Jazz Club, Melb Jazz Coop – www.bennettslane.com
- Sept 19: Canberra – Embassy of Finland – by invitation concert
- Sept 20: Canberra – Southern Cross Club Woden – www.csc.com.au - 62837288
- Sept 21: Cairns – Tanks Arts Centre – www.tanksartscentre.com - www.ticketlink.com.au
- Sept 22: Brisbane – Brisbane Jazz Club Kangaroo Point – www.brisbanejazzclub.com.au **-/cont..**

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This is what Finnish jazz critic Jukka Hauru said in the Helsinki Evening Standard (Sanomat) in 2005:

“The Trio's work is marked by an unusually mature and subtle sound and Joona Toivanen and colleagues are in line with some of the best of piano trio's such as Bill Evans, Keith Jarrett, Esbjorn Svensson, and Trio Tøykeät. The stylistic differences between the bands may be enormous but Joona Toivanen Trio has gained an insight into what is the most important ingredient in a piano trio: a well-matched interaction between the players. The star is not the pianist, not even if he is the greatest virtuoso. The group dynamics and shades are always carefully planned, either composed or rehearsed. The magic of a piano trio is a complex and yet uniquely vulnerable affair that depends on the chemistry of the players. If you bring in a fourth player even as a guest appearance, the results can be dreadful. For the last five years Joona Toivanen Trio has maintained all its qualities praised since the millennium, and during the period the band has also further developed and matured. The Joona Toivanen Trio performed some great pieces of music for an enthusiastic audience, and the Trio is only a fraction away from becoming as famous as Esbjorn Svensson from Sweden or the Tord Gustavsen from Norway”.

“This was indeed a night for fresh, intelligent, modern and intriguing jazz. The evolution of the music of Toivanen Trio its genesis in the Finnish folk tradition has developed in a manner that seems holistic rather than merely eclectic, yet illuminates and reflects the rich facets of jazz and of its close links with contemporary music on a universal stage”. – Cairns/John Kotow – 2004

The trio's latest album, "Frost", has received enthusiastic reviews in Finland:

"Frost's strength is the honest, beautiful and juggle-free way in which it's worked. The album's music possesses an exceptional ability to express the sort of longing in which melancholy and joy find combination."- Helsinki Sanomat/Jukka Hauru - 2006

"Courageously beautiful jazz. The trio has an uncanny skill to connect what are essentially elements of traditional jazz to light music. They succeed in turning miniatures into a large fresco, which sounds fantastic and admirably depicts the group's deep musical landscape." - Suomen Kuvalehti/Petri Sajari - 2006

"...redolent of Bill Evans, Joona Toivanen's piano jazz sounds simultaneously fresh and individual, timeless and unbounded." - Keski-suomalainen/Pentti Ronkanen - 2006

"'Frost' is a coherent and solidly-constructed album, but at the same time it is also understatedly rich in nuances. It sheds light on limpid, melancholy Nordic romance from a variety of different perspectives." Suomijazz.com/Jukka Piironen – 2006

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