



# Annual Report 2013



**Swinging Europe**

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# Introduction

Getting the world to Herning and getting Herning out in the world was the motto for 2013.

The cultural institution has worked hard to develop local activities while gaining widespread awareness of the organization internationally ever since it moved from Brande in 2010. Thus the year opened with a D-A-D concert in China and later in the year we co-organized the International Association of Schools of Jazz meeting, which took place in Herning and Aarhus. No less than 20 nationalities gathered during the weeklong meeting. It was an inviting musical experience for participants as well as the audience that showed up in Herning and Aarhus.

Despite the initial rejection from the EU, it was decided to implement this year's European Jazz Orchestra-Tour with 19 young musicians. Ann-Sofi Söderqvist led the orchestra, and the band managed to play nine concerts in no less than seven countries. The artistic potential, which Ann-Sofi and the orchestra managed to unfold in just three days, proved that it was a good idea to go through with the 2013-orchestra despite the setbacks.

Both locally and nationally hard work has been put into developing new projects as well as maintaining the existing ones. The old projects are: PLAY!GROUND Live; Blood, Sweat, Drum + Bass and UnderGround. Grænseløs is the new project, which was started in the fall. The project is a multi-ethnic orchestra of resident musicians and musicians from other cultures. The project ends in mid-2015 and is a collaboration between JazzDanmark and Swinging Europe.

Despite adversity and turbulence during 2013, our will to survive has grown even stronger. Thus 2013 was a year in which "old stuff" was packed down and new perspectives of development were put into play.

Happy reading!



Per Kap Bech Jensen

# Facts

<u>Name</u>	<u>No. of concerts</u>	<u>Countries</u>
European Jazz Orchestra	9	7
Blood, Sweat, Drum + Bass	8	1
Grænseløs	0	1
PLAY!GROUND LIVE	20	1
Melting Pot made in Wroclaw	1	1
UnderGround	5	1
IASJ Meeting	11	1
Total	54	

<u>Musicians</u>	<u>No. of musicians</u>	<u>Countries</u>
European Jazz Orchestra	20	17
Blood, Swaet, Drum + Bass	29	4
Grænseløs	10	6
PLAY!GROUND	10	1
Melting Pot made in Wroclaw	1	1
UnderGround	12	1
IASJ Meeting	110	34
Total	194	

## Board DSI Swinging Europe

President	-	Knud Jeppesen
Vice-president	-	Birgit Jonassen
Board member	-	Astrid Elbek
Board member	-	Vagn Buch-Pedersen
Board member	-	Niels Overgård
Board member	-	Birgit Vinge
Board member	-	Bent Hjort

## Web Address

[www.swingingeurope.dk](http://www.swingingeurope.dk)



### Employees at DSI Swinging Europe 2013

Executive Director:	-	Per Kap Bech Jensen
Projekt coordinator:	-	Linda Stenholt Jensen
	-	Marie Lilholt
Secretary and accountant:	-	Rie Damgaard
	-	Kate Rauff Nielsen
Accountant:	-	Mette Degn/ Holt Revision
International Producer:	-	Martin Røen Hansen
National Producer:	-	Thomas Sørensen
	-	Cüneyt Pala
ArtEpi Project Coordinator:	-	Joan Andersen
Press and Communication:	-	Michael Dyhrborg

### Collaborators

Hugo Sekoranja	-	Artistic Director of European Jazz Orchestra
Carsten Dufner	-	Member of European Broadcasting Music Group
Bo Stief	-	Conductor & composer PLAY!GROUND LIVE
Lars Greve	-	Teacher UnderGround
Jens Chr. 'Chappe' Jensen	-	Teacher UnderGround, conductor/composer BSD+B
We Make Space Architects	-	ArtEpi

# National projects

## *Blood, Sweat, Drum + Bass*

The vision of the BSD + B is to create a large ensemble with an international dimension based on the big band tradition, for example as with Ellington, Mingus, Evans and Schneider. But we also seek to break boundaries and explore new frontiers within big band music/the format of today's music, so that the orchestra and the music evolve. The orchestra, therefore, involves inspirations from contemporary music such as Electronica, Indie, Rap and whatever else inspires them artistically and personally.

The band works on the basis of the above, and therefore creatively with the concert form, the audience and with the concert experience as a whole. Examples of this are different setups, visuals behind the band, video projections and online streaming.

We have recently been working more with woodwinds and strings in the "Arab project". Since 2001 BSD + B has been working with names such as: Arve Henriksen, Audun Kleive, Jørgen Munkeby, Palle Mikkelborg (intensely over the last five years), Dave Douglas, David Liebman, Julie Maria, Silas Bjerregaard, DJ Static (we closed Roskilde Festival 2012 with 30 star rappers in a unique 2-hour "hand played" concert).

May 5th Torvet Herning - Herning City Association

July 3rd Aarhus Concert Hall - Palle Mikkelborg and David Liebman

July 16th Ridehuset Swinger Aarhus Jazz Festival

August 10th Skanderborg Festival with DJ Static.

September 5th Aarhus Concert Hall / Jazzselskabet

October 7th Performers House

October 8th Bording Music School

October 9th Ollerup Music School



## **PLAY!GROUND LIVE**

PLAY!GROUND LIVE is a 12 person M/F band signaling vigor, will, vitality - young people who want something. Denmark's future stars can be seen in PLAY!GROUND LIVE. The band is led by musician Bo Stief, who directs and composes the music. The project is a musical offer that matters to all. It is be a big matter to the participants and an inspiration to all who attends a concert with Bo Stief and PLAY!GROUND Live.

The PLAY!GROUND offer is a journey for young talented musicians into the real world. It is here and now, it is real life. A great, serious and unique opportunity to be treated like a professional musician for a few weeks. All practical matters are organized by DSI Swinging Europe. Tour bus, rehearsals, concerts, hotel - everything is expertly taken care of. We prepare the young people to become strong, creative and dynamic musicians who want to add something more and something better to the world.

*It happened in 2013:*

February 10 PLAY!GROUND LIVE 2013 Tryouts Herning Music School

February 16 PLAY!GROUND LIVE 2013 Tryouts in Bo Stief's home

March 28 through March 31 workshops and rehearsals in Vildbjerg

March 30 PLAY!GROUND LIVE	Dalgas Hus
March 30 PLAY!GROUND LIVE	Svømmehallen DGI Herning
March 31 PLAY!GROUND LIVE	Lalandia
March 31 PLAY!GROUND LIVE	HEART
April 1 PLAY!GROUND LIVE	Torvet Herning
April 1 PLAY!GROUND LIVE	Familiehøjskolen
April 2 PLAY!GROUND LIVE	Brande Gymnasium
April 2 PLAY!GROUND LIVE	Herning Produktionsskolen
April 2 PLAY!GROUND LIVE	Frederica Ungdommens hus
April 3 PLAY!GROUND LIVE	Køge Musikskole
April 4 PLAY!GROUND LIVE	Sejergården
April 4 PLAY!GROUND LIVE	Den Rytmske Højskole in Vig
April 5 PLAY!GROUND LIVE	MGK Copenhagen
April 5 PLAY!GROUND LIVE	PH café
April 6 PLAY!GROUND LIVE	Brandbjerg Højskole
April 6 PLAY!GROUND LIVE	DGI Huset Herning
May 18 PLAY!GROUND LIVE	Torvet Herning
July 14 PLAY!GROUND LIVE	PH Café - Copenhagen Jazz Festival
July 15 PLAY!GROUND LIVE	Bispetorvet. Aarhus Jazz Festival

## ***UnderGround***

UnderGround orchestra consists of young horn players in the age of 12-17 and was started in 2012.

You are taught ensemble playing, improvisation and have ear training and you learn to handle your instrument like a professional.

UnderGround meets four weekends a year in which we live, eat and play together. Every weekend we work with a new theme, and each themed weekend culminates in a live concert where people show what they have learned.

### *It happened in 2013*

March 9-10, Workshop in Aarhus

Saturday was used solely for UG rehearsals. Then, on Sunday, UG participated in a competition with 10 big bands including the Royal Academy of Music Big Band and Aarhus Jazz Orchestra. There were instructors from Norway and Lars and Chappe were also there.

April 20-21, Workshop in Herning

This weekend was for UG only. They worked a lot with composition. Two students from Aarhus, who work with electronic music, lead the course.

July 31-August 1, Workshop in Herning

The workshop marked the beginning of a concert series that the orchestra was a part of in connection with the cultural festival Bølgen (the wave). The project was an improfestival in collaboration with DSI Swinging Europe's Youth Orchestra and Ensemble Midtvest.

The band Radical But Not Fanatical, consisting of resident musicians from the Middle East, as well as the band Abiza from Ghana, also participated.

August 5-7, Improfestival Oprørte Vande (troubled waters) with EMV, UnderGround, Abiza from Ghana and Radical But Not Fanatical.

If there's one thing all music, which man has created throughout the ages across the globe has in common, it is the fact that it is almost always based on or uses improvisation to some degree.

## ***Grænseløs (Borderless)***

During September 2013 DSI Swinging Europe, in collaboration with Jazz Denmark, started to seek out and invite intercultural musicians who reside in Denmark for workshops in Copenhagen, Odense, Aarhus and Aalborg. The project aims to create a network and select some of the people in it to form a band. The band will be touring Denmark and learn about the music scene.

Former BSD+B musician and oud player Bilal Irshed is employed as a mentor for the project. A networking event on February 22 has been agreed upon and Bilal has selected 10 musicians from a collection of 30 musicians. The band will meet up March 15 and April 18-20 after which Grænseløs will tour Denmark.

“This project is a great initiative where talented immigrants will finally have the opportunity to develop and use their musical skills at a high and professional level. I really believe that “Grænseløs” will have a positive impact on the Danish music scene by combining and adding new and exciting elements. As a professional musician with a different ethnic background than Danish, I can clearly see the importance and necessity of such a project. “, Bilal Irshed says.

### ***MoorJazz***

MoorJazz is the jazz club at Fermaten, Herning DK. From autumn 2010 Swinging Europe has functioned as secretariat of the club. MoorJazz organizes around 10-12 jazz concerts a year at Fermaten. You can sign up to MoorJazz on their website ([www.fermaten.dk](http://www.fermaten.dk)) or by contacting Swinging Europe ([www.swinging-europe.dk](http://www.swinging-europe.dk)).

## **International activities**

### ***The IASJ meeting***

The IASJ Jazz meeting is an annual event, which was held in San Paulo 2011, and Graz 2012. In 2014 it will be held in Cape Town. In 2013 Herning and Aarhus hosted the meeting with strong support from its members, despite the fact that its Board of Directors had warned us, that support traditionally has not been great at meetings at non-exotic locations.

We were happy to bid 110 students, professors and rectors from 42 jazz schools / academies from 34 countries and four continents welcome to a week of jazz, art and teaching.

During the week, the young people were given the opportunity to work with other young people around the theme “Going Between” and the week ended with a concert for each of the groups, as well as with a recording.

The content of the project is based on the Danish folk high school model where students live eat and work together, which received great recognition from the participants. Vildbjerg Sports and Cultural Center was the setting for the first part of the meeting where the participants had the opportunity to get to know each other professionally and socially. This was a new way to accommodate participants. Usually they come to a big city and stay at various hotels throughout the week, which causes many of them to go out and enjoy an evening in the city instead of staying together as a group after the official meetings was over.

Because of this, there was a greater opportunity to build social relationships in Vildbjerg than previously experienced, which was greatly appreciated and maintained as people came to Aarhus.



## ***European Jazz Orchestra (EJO)***

As DSI Swinging Europe did not get the expected support from the EU, we started to book a new tour with focus on saving as much money as possible, while still maintaining a sound artistic product and present this at an impressive international tour.

The tour visited eight countries and included musicians from 16 nations. EJO's musical and interpersonal performance was at least on par with 2011 and 2012.

We finished off with a good recording in Stockholm on October 18, 2013, in relation to the Stockholm Jazz Festival and the EBU producer meeting, at which the producers chose to discontinue cooperation with DSI Swinging Europe, although there was much appreciation of the previous work done.

In February 2014 DSI Swinging Europe published a CD with the contents of the concert recording in Stockholm.

*Here is the line up for 2013:*

1st Trumpet: Darko Sedak Benčić, Croatia

2nd Trumpet, Bastian Stein, Austria

3rd Trumpet: Menzel Mutzke, Germany

4th Trumpet: Tomaž Gajšt, Slovenia

1st Trombone: Kristoffer Kompen, Norway

2nd Trombone: Roberto Lorenzo Elekes, Spain

3rd Trombone: Francesco di Giulio, Italy

4th Trombone: Robert Hedemann, Germany

1st Alto Saxophone: Mike Fletcher, United Kingdom

2nd Alto Saxophone (ss, cl, bcl), Michal Wróblewski, Czech Republic

1st Tenor Saxophone (cl): Jean Dousteysier, France

2nd Tenor Saxophone (cl, fl): José Maria Goncalves Perreira, Portugal

Baritone Saxophone (fl., as): Linda Fredriksson, Finland

Piano: Joel Rimmel, Estonia

Guitar: Daniël Dudok, The Netherlands

Bass: Matthias Petri Flemming, Denmark

Drums: Andrej Hočevár, Slovenia

Vibraphone: Jean-Lou Treboux, Switzerland

Vocal: Kristin Amparo, Sweden

Sound Technician: Pelle Giobel, Denmark

Tour Manager: Martin Røen Hansen, Denmark

Driver: Kjeld Meiling, Denmark

## ***Work in East and West***

DSI Swinging Europe works closely with Kulturstyrelsen "the Cultural Agency", JazzDanmark, ROSA and Kulturinstituttet "the Cultural Institute" on the presence of Danish music in China.

In April/May, DSI Swinging Europe completed a trip to China with D-A-D in cooperation with China's largest festivals and the Danish Consulate General in Shanghai. It was a good trip and D-A-D would like to cooperate on yet another visit to China.

With the D-A-D trip to China DSI SE also got the opportunity to promote itself to the Danish commercial partners such as Carlsberg and Velux. Subsequently, there have been meetings on future opportunities for cooperation.

### ***Melting Pot - Made in Wroclaw, vol 1:***

DSI Swinging Europe's commitment to the Melting Pot project stems from the organization's participation in the Europe Jazz Network. Together with project partners from Ireland, Germany and Poland, we thus conducted the first Melting Pot - Made in Wroclaw, vol 1.

The first version of the Melting Pot was supported by SNYK – which has not previously supported DSI Swinging Europe.

DSI Swinging Europe chose Søren Knudsen Lyngsøe to represent the organization. Søren also plays with BSD+B.

Watch video from Wroclaw, Poland:

<http://www.jazztopad.pl/en/concert/melting-pot-made-in-wroclaw/>

Melting Pot - Made in Wroclaw, vol 1 in Dortmund. On the 9th-10th of November 2013 Jazzwerk Ruhr held a combined conference and concert event, which DSI Swinging Europe was part of.

## **Other Activities**

### ***Eurosonic, The Netherlands, January***

We started this year's international work with a visit to the Eurosonic Noorderslag in the Netherlands. We mainly met with Dutch organizations such as Amersfoort Jazz Festival, Jazz Dag, and BUMA Cultuur. It was a presence that was noted by Danish internationally active institutions and companies.

We also had a good seminar program including Finnish, Canadian and German speakers and debaters.

### ***12 Points Festival, Dublin, February 2013***

For the 12 points festival in Dublin 12 jazz bands from 12 nations were gathered. In addition approx. 25 jazz professionals and journalists were invited to the conference during the day. Here marketing, the history and evolution of jazz, new concepts and possible future cooperation were discussed.

The 12 Points Festival has manifested itself as perhaps the most important European festival for young musicians in improvisational music. DSI Swinging Europe's participation was the basis for several international activities and connections.



### ***JazzAhead in Bremen, April***

The JazzAhead fair in Bremen in April was one of this year's biggest network-building events in jazz. Martin Røen represented DSI Swinging Europe and met with a large number of international key jazz performers. Here too, DSI Swinging Europe's presence helped consolidate the organization among other Danish players, as a serious and internationally active institution.

### ***Spot festival in May 2013***

DSI Swinging Europe was responsible for the program of visits and seminar at this year's SPOT festival. In collaboration with ROSA-Danish Rock Council, three guests from China and Hong Kong were invited; Jani Joenniemi, Center Stage China, Justin Sweeting, Glock Work Festival, Hong Kong, and Michael Ohlsson, DADA & Antidote Shanghai.

### ***Copenhagen Jazz Festival, July 2013***

During Copenhagen Jazz Festival, DSI Swinging Europe was visited by a Chinese delegation mainly from the music industry in Beijing. The visit was realized in cooperation with Roskilde Festival, Kulturstyrelsen and Copenhagen Jazz Festival.

DSI Swinging Europe participated in the international network meetings throughout the festival.

### ***Art-Epi Green Performing City***

As part of Kulturfestivalen Bølgen (the Cultural Festival the Wave) the Art-Epi team worked side by side in DSI SE's office to realize Art-Epi's vision of creating a sustainable, portable micro city in Præstbjerg from August 18 to October 19. The team consisted of two employees, two architects and approx. 15 trainees. Since the support of the Region Midt stopped just before the summer, the project was put on hold and work resumes in 2014. Both local and international networks of sustainability enthusiasts have been created and the project was even featured in Aarhus Sustainability Festival at Godsbanen April 12-14.

# Membership and Networking

## *Europe Jazz Network (EJN)*

DSI Swinging Europe is a member of the Europe Jazz Network. The network keeps the organization informed of action in Europe's biggest venues and festivals, and allows the organization to participate in specific projects initiated by network members. At the same time membership also offers some visibility among other international stakeholders, and places the organization, and especially Herning municipality, at the center of European jazz.

## *Culture Action Europe*

DSI Swinging Europe is a member of the non-profit organization Culture Action Europe, which brings together individuals and legal entities around the following objectives:

a) to place culture at the center of public debate and decision making at all levels - local and European - as an essential element of sustainable communities based on respect for universal human rights, and for the benefit of present and future generations.

b) to promote the development of democracy in the European Union, as the first and most ambitious attempt to establish a new form of democracy based on respect for human rights and the will to organize cultural life around a complex identity and not the hegemony of a single language, culture or religion.

Culture Action Europe currently has over 100 members, that gives voice to over 80,000 artists and cultural producers across Europe and beyond for more than 14 artistic disciplines.

## *International Association of Schools of Jazz*

- Active member of the international umbrella organization for jazz. The members are from all over the world and consist of music conservatories. The organization's largest annual event is the organization of the IASJ meeting, which we hosted in 2013.

## *European Asia Roundtable Sessions (EARS) Nov/Dec 2013*

DSI Swinging Europe was represented in the panel and subsequent debates and concerts at both the Beijing and the Shanghai version of EARS. New and better relationships were forged with potential partners from both China and Europe.