



Annual Report 2014



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Introduction

2014 was yet another dynamic and eventful year for DSI Swinging Europe. It is the fourth year that we as an organization are working locally, nationally and internationally and time has shown new directions while others have been taken off the map. However, even though there has been reimagined and reevaluated somewhat since the arrival, the tradition and objective is still to work both locally and internationally on cultural projects.

Grænseløs is a successful national project that fills a niche in the Danish music scene.

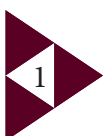
At the European level, we are working hard on making the new project European Circuit of Interludes a reality. We have tried to make this project a reality in 2014 by seeking EU funding; however, it became a narrow defeat to other great projects. Therefore, we are also feeling encouraged to try again in 2015 with an improved application and an intensified project.

2014 was also the year in which European Jazz Orchestra ended with a beautiful swan song in connection with the annual EU-day in Ankara, Turkey. The last swan song was documented in a Swedish film about Ann-Sofi Söderqvist, who in 2013 and 2014 was the bandleader of EJO. The film was one out of three documentaries in 2014 based on projects of DSI Swinging Europe.

2015 is already pointing towards new exciting initiatives and projects and it is the objectives that we as an organization continues to have a strong foundation in Herning, while bringing the municipality to the world and vice versa.

Happy reading!

/Swinging Europe



Facts

Name	No. of concerts		Countries
European Jazz Orchestra	1	1	
PLAY!GROUND LIVE	14	1	
Blood, Sweat, Drum + Bass	7	2	
Grænseløs	12	1	
Klassiske Dage	18	1	
Total	52		

Musicians	No. of musicians		Countries
European Jazz Orchestra	19	15	
PLAY!GROUND LIVE	12	1	
Blood, Sweat, Drum + Bass	27	2	
Grænseløs	10	5	
Klassiske Dage	18+	8	
Total	86+		

Board DSI Swinging Europe

President	–	Knud Jeppesen
Vice President	–	Birgit Jonassen
Board Member	–	Anne Damsgaard
Board Member	–	Vagn Buch-Pedersen
Board Member	–	Niels Overgård
Board Member	–	Martin Pihl

Web-address:

www.swingingeurope.dk

Employees DSI Swinging Europe 2014

Executive Director	Per Kap Bech Jensen
Managing Director and Project Coordinator	Marie Lilholt
Secretary and Accountant	Kate R. Nielsen
National Project Coordinator	Cüneyt Pala
Media officer	Anitta Falsig Laurberg
Communication and PR	Janus Valsted
Intern	Mathias Mygind Andersen
Intern	Michelle Nymann Jensen
Bachelorproject regarding how DSI Swinging Europe can enter Middle Eastern markets	Greta Valinciute and Anders Alnor Lassen

Collaborators

Grænseløs

Kulturgården:

Multiethnic orchestra

Den Jyske Sangskole

Herning Musikskole

Herning Garden

Herning Bibliotekerne

Huset no.7

Herning Billedskole

Rockstjernen

Jazztopad

Fermaten

Jazz Danmark

Remisen Brande

Dirigent og komponist, PLAY!GROUND LIVE

Europe Jazz Network (EJN)

Delegation of the European Union to Turkey

Festival in Wroclaw, Poland

Regional venue, Herning

Jazz-organization

Cultural Centre

Bo Stief

Jazz-organization

EU-delegation in Turkey

European Circuit of Interludes:

Fondazione Fitzcarraldo

Bass Culture SRL

Brussels Jazz Orchestra vzw

Handelsbeurs Concert Hall

JazzDanmark

Helsinki Arts Initiative Ltd.

Pluto Finland / Sodapop Oy

music:LX

Norrbottensmusiken

RF Sweden AB

Witold Lutosławski Philharmonic in Wrocław

New York Direct v/Marc Music

Casa da Música

Europe Jazz Network

Mad In Belgrade / Pinata, ltd

Improvised Music Company

Italy

Italy

Belgium

Belgium

Denmark

Finland

Finland

Luxembourg

Sweden

Sweden

Poland

Denmark

Portugal

France

Serbia

Ireland

National Projects

Blood, Sweat, Drum + Bass

By pouring heavy metal, electronica, rock, pop drum'n'bass and world music into the pot of jazz, Blood, Sweat, Drum + Bass is the only Danish big band that dares to be original.

The vision of BSD+B is to create a great ensemble with an international section, based on the big band tradition as for instance by Ellington, Mingus, Evans and Schneider. But at the same time seek to break and explore new boundaries within big band music/format in today's music, so that the orchestra and the music evolve. Therefore, the orchestra involves inspiration from the current contemporary music among other electronica, Indie, rap and whatever turns them on artistically and personally.

On this basis, the orchestra works creatively with the concert form, audience and experience – for instance with different setups, visuals behind the orchestra, video projections and online streaming.

BSD+B released in 2014 their sixth CD (and DVD) “In the Spirit of..” featuring Palle Mikkelborg and David Liebman. David Liebman said afterwards:

What a great pleasure to play with Palle, who is legendary in his own right. I have always maintained that what he wrote for Miles, “Aura,” was the best music for the Prince of Darkness in the 80's. Furthermore, I am very impressed with the Syrian Suite “Prayer for Syria” as a testament to the terrible situation in that country as well as from the musical side, the extraordinary manner in which Jens combined all the styles and sounds into a whole. This ensemble can cover a multitude of directions with great depth. By the way, the DVD is a first class production.

Palle Mikkelborg was the other guest appearing on the album and he said the following:

It was extraordinary to experience the way David's soprano sax and my trumpet felt immediately comfortable together. Creating a unique “at-one sound”... a sound which doesn't automatically happen, however great the wish.

And of course it was, as always, great to perform with the vibrant and creative BSD+B “maestro” Chappe and the “Who killed Bambi” string quartet.

That BSD+B is one the leading exponents of Danish Jazz were underlined at the selection to the showcase-festival Jazzahead! in Bremen where an enthusiastic and full hall discovered the unique Danish big band.

Activities in 2014

April 23	Concert	Holstebro
April 24	Showcase-concert	Jazzahead! Bremen
April 28	Concert	Copenhagen Jazzhouse
September 3	Concert	Klejtrup Musikefterskole
September 4	Concert	Musikhuset Aarhus
September 10	Concert	Ollerup Musikskole
November 20	Release Party	Aarhus Musikhus

The release of the CD Blood, Sweat, Drum + Bass with Palle Mikkelsen and Davis Liebman “In the Spirit of...”

Musicians in BSD+B

Vocals	Gunhild Overegseth and Turid Guldin
Electronics	Søren Lyngsø (Vectral)
Reeds	Ole Visby, Julie Kjær, Nokilaj Schneider, Jakob Danielsen, Harald Langåsdalen and Mette Rasmussen
Trumpets	Søren ‘Phille’ Bærbak, Bent Hjort, Rene Damsbak and Hans Christian Ilkov Erbs
Trombones	Jens Overby, Jens Kristian Bang, Kirstine Kjærulff Ravn and Ander Østergaard Frandsen
Guitars	Kasper Falkenberg
Keyboards	Kasper Bjerg and Aske Bode
Bass	Sisse ‘Moster Phonque’ Foged Hyllested and Rune Werner Christensen
Drums and Percussion	Espen Laub von Lillienfeld, Jais Poulsen and Magnus Lindgaard Jochumsen
Conductor and reeds	Jens Christian ‘Chappe’ Jensen

Grænseløs (Borderless)

Swinging Europe entered collaboration with Jazz Danmark and began the search for intercultural musicians resident in Denmark. They were invited to workshops in Copenhagen, Odense, Aarhus and Aalborg.

“At the first workshop we didn’t have very strict rules. The idea was to make a workshop where we could meet at a musical level by listening and get to know each other” says Bilal Irshed, Oud-player and mentor of the project. *“With these workshops we are looking for talented musicians who, for various reasons, hasn’t had the chance to participate the music life in Denmark. We will try to encourage and help them to play in front of a Danish audience”* says the Palestinian Oud player.

The workshops were not only an opportunity to play with and for each other and create new network. They were also a selection process where 40 musicians were pared down to ten. These ten musicians became the band ‘Grænseløs’ and toured Denmark in 2014.

“This project is a fantastic initiative where immigrants finally are given the chance to evolve and use their musical skills at a high and professional level. I really think that ‘Grænseløs’ will have a positive influence on the Danish music scene by combining and adding new exciting elements. As a professional musician with a different ethnic background than Danish, I can clearly see the importance and necessity in a project like this” says Bilal Irshed.

Something seems to suggest that Bilal Irshed is right that ‘Grænseløs’ fills a void on the Danish music scene because the project has found its way to the medias. TV2 East Jutland made a feature about the band during Silkeborg Ildfestregatta. Aarhus Global Media recorded an entire concert at Gellerup church and Berlingske Tidende wrote an article about the band.

Claus Strøm’s review of Grænseløs’ concert at Aarhus Jazz Festival shows how well the project works musically.

Amidst the rain came exotic sound from Klostertorvet. It led many to listen carefully and unfurl their umbrellas.

‘Grænseløs’ is a constellation of ten musicians, resident of Denmark, who comes from Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Denmark. Because of the rather unusual combination of instruments it gave a bit longer sound check than usual but there was nothing to complain about and there was room for all instruments. The crew consisted of stringed instruments – saz, oud, guitar and mandolin and apart from that flute, stringed instrument, vocal and percussion.

As the music began, one could instantly hear that the talents among the performers were great. There were played cool saz solos and the bass player Chaher Ali Murtada had a thorough basis and played solos, which in moments could bring your mind to no one less than Jaco Pastorius.

Mette Marie Ørnstrup, on percussion, played an important role together with Saer El-Jaichi and apart from that, she sang together with the primary vocalist Jamile Alfer. The singers did well and one could not help feeling impressed by Mette Marie Ørnstrup who also could tell that she studied Turkish and classic music in Istanbul.

The music was different to listen to compared to the jazz music that usually is played at the festival, however, very catchy, melodious and meditative with long lingering melodies and interesting soundscapes. In addition, the musicians played with good dynamic and rhythmic sense where you sometimes had to clap to five rather than four that you are accustomed to.

Unfortunately, there was a rather long break between sets, perhaps in hope of better weather, and thereby lost a bit of the whole experience. However, one should not ignore the fact that Denmark can look forward to many new male and female Zlataner if the musical activity level is maintained at current or higher level.

The project is being carried out in the second phase, where three members of the band has been selected for a mentor program, in collaboration with Jazz Denmark, where they can develop in the direction they might need for musical or promotional purposes.

Members of Grænseløs

Oud	Bilal Irshed
Transverse flute	Adam Woer
Guitar, Mandolin	Emil Palme
Kemane, Saz	Dogan Sahin
Darbuka	Saer El-Jaichi
Violin, Oud	Ayman Khattar
Vocal, Percussion	Mette Marie Jensen Ørnstrup
Oud	Maher Mahmoud
Vocal	Jamile Alfer
Bass	Chaher Ali Murtada

2013 – These workshops was used to select musicians to Grænseløs

October 25	Workshop 1 - Copenhagen
November 2	Workshop 2 - Odense
November 10	Workshop 3 - Aarhus
November 24	Workshop 4 - Aalborg

Activities in 2014

February 22	Workshop: Jam'n'Network – Copenhagen
Marts 15	A day of rehearsal with Grænseløs
April 18-20	Band camp at Nørgaards Højskole in Bjerringbro (which among other things included a jam session with PLAY!GROUND LIVE. - It was very educational for both parts)
May 9 - Concert	Eurovision Village/CPH
May 9 - Concert	Stengade/CPH
May 10 - Concert	Center Kongelunden/CPH
June 26 - Concert	Slagelse Festuge
June 27 - Concert	CHP Museum/Birk, Herning
July 3 - Concert	World Jazz & Grill – VerdensKulturCentret/KBH
July 13 - Concert	Aarhus Jazz Festival
August 15 - Concert	Silkeborg Ildfestregatta
August 23 - Concert	Cultural meeting at Mors
August 31 - Concert	Intercultural Festival - Gellerup Kirke/Aarhus
September 5 - Concert	Aarhus Festuge - Det Turkise Telt/Aarhus
September 9 - Seminar	Musikbranchens ABC – free seminar for network
September 16 - Concert	Frederikshavn Musikskole
November 2	Evaluation with Grænseløs Band/KBH

Klassiske Dage

Klassiske Dage is a classic festival in Holstebro, which takes place every year in the first week of October. In 2014 the festival was held from October 2-5. Before the festival started there were a number of launch concerts in Silkeborg, Copenhagen, Hamburg, Aarhus and Brande. This year was the 10th anniversary of the festival and it was produced by DSI Swinging Europe. Klassiske Dage is characterized by a mix of children, young Danish talents and international stars of the highest order, which occurs in various constellations during the four-day festival. Therefore, they need to be more aware of each other since there is no familiar habits or anchors to fall back on. These things help to vitalize the music in a way that you do not experience at general classic concerts.

DSI Swinging Europe produced the festival, made PR, marketing and communication before and during the festival. The work of producing Klassiske Dage took place from June to October.

Concerts and events at Klassiske Dage 2014

Aug. 2 Silkeborg Classic 2014	Launch concert with Priya Mitchell, GL. Skovriddergaard, DUEN and Morten Ryelund
Aug. 3 Copenhagen Summer Festival Charlottenborg banquet hall,	Launch concert with Priya Mitchell, DUEN And Morten Ryelund
Sep. 17 Laeiszhalle Hamburg	Introduction of Klassiske Dage to the audience in Hamburg
Sep. 30 Musikhuset Aarhus	“Tango Jalousie” from the new world
Oct. 1 Remisen, Brande	“Tango Jalousie” from the new world
Oct. 2 Holstebro Musikteater	“Musikkens magi” (Magic of the music) - Gala concert for children with Sigurd Barrett
Knudsens, Holstebro	“Jungle Baroque” – greetings to Boliviafrom MGK
Holstebro Musikteater	“When Mozart kissed Marie Antoinette” - from the city of dreams: Vienna
Oct. 3 Festsalen, Golstebro Gymnasium	“Jungle Baroque” – greetings to Bolivia from MGK
The Old City Hall, Holstebro	“Gang i gågaden med Sigurd” (A boost in the pedestrian street with Sigurd)
“Grædemuren”, Holstebro	“Magic Jazz”
Holstebro Musikteater	“Tango Jalousie” from the new world
Resturant and vine bar Støberiet	“The invisible cities” and Italian vine

Oct. 4	Knudsen, Holstebro Scala, Holstebro	London-Paris: A tale of two cities “Die Tote Stadt” – Opera by Erich Korngod
	Knudsens, Holstebro	Brahms’ Journey to Copenhagen – and the disastrous final
	Holstebro Church	Toccata and Fuga BWV 565 in D-minor
Oct. 5	Folkeuniversitet Skærum Mølle	Dr. Phil Johan De Mylius: A poets bazar - H. C. Anderson’s journey to Italy and Turkey

Cast

Soloists:

Isabelle Faust, violin; Anastasia Injushina, piano; Alexander Melnikov, piano; Priya Mitchell, violin; Marcelo Nisinman, bandoneon; Daniel Rowland, violin; Janne Thomsen, flute; Students from MGK; Lars Colding Wolf, conductor, organ, cembalo and figured bass;

Ensembles and orchestra:

DUEN, ensemble; Hamburger Camerata, chamber orchestra; Orchestra MidtVest, symphony orchestra; Remus, symphony orchestra; Students from MGK;

Conductors:

Ralf Gothóni; Bruno Campo; Morten Ryelund

Others:

The Royal Danish Ballet School in Holstebro; Peter Blæsild, journalism student; Sigurd Barrett, Entertainer and composer; Stine Voigt de Klauman, Journalism student; Karsten Fundal, composer and organizer.

Kultur i Mørket (Culture in the Dark)

Kultur i Mørket is a collaboration, between cultural institutions in Herning, on an event that will provide the citizens of Herning with an insight into the daily work of these institutions. Kultur i Mørket was held for the first time this year and it is the plan that the event will become an annual event. Kultur i Mørket is arranged by Kulturgården, which is a consolidation of all cultural institutions at Nørregade No. 7 in Herning.

Attendees on November 14, 5:00pm-10:00pm: DSI Swinging Europe, Huset No7, Herning Billedskole, Herning Garden, Herning Musikskole, Den Jyske Sangskole, Herning Bibliotekerne, Rockstjernen. DSI Swinging Europe contributed by showing self-produced music documentaries about Grænseløs, Blood, Sweat, Drum + Bass and European Jazz Orchestra. Jamile Alfer, Maher Mahmoud and Mette Marie Jensen Ørnstrup from Grænseløs played an intimate concert here at the office in candlelight. Additionally, Herning Billedskole (art school) invited to an exhibition and workshop, at the Library you got to use all senses, Huset No 7 offered a concert with the KMF 365 choir and workshops in laughter and dance, Filmværkstedet had an open house and a workshop in film production. The roleplaying association "New Hope" created an atmosphere in the yard and the street between Kulturgården and the Library. At Herning Garden it was among other things possible to try an instrument, Den Jyske Sangskole invited everyone to come and sing and Herning Musikskole had concerts, offered 'painting and music' and big band café evening.

Moorjazz

Moorjazz has arranged jazz concerts in Herning and the surrounding area for ten years. Musically speaking, the concerts have moved around in all possible genres and sub-genres of jazz. The goal is to draw international jazz to Herning in collaboration with the regional venue Fermaten, Herning. The president for Moorjazz is Niels Overgård who is a passionate jazz geek.

Activities in 2014

Feb. 27	Concert with Chris Minh Doky & The Nomads feat. Dave Weckl, Dean Brown & George Whitty at Fermaten, Herning
March 16	Concert with Christian Vuust Quartet feat. Aaron Parks (US) at Carl-Henning Pedersen & Else Alfelts Museum in Herning
April. 1	Concert with Free Moby Dick feat: Stefan Pasborg (DK) Mikko Innanen (SF) Liudas Mockunas (LIT) & Nicola at Fermaten, Herning
April 16	Concert with Mikkel Nordsø Band at Fermaten, Herning
May 23	Concert with Kurt Elling (US) & Aarhus Jazz Orchestra at Fermaten Herning
Sep. 27	Concert with Jørgen Leth & Reverse at Fermaten, Herning
Oct. 4	Concert with INDRA at Carl-Henning Pedersen & Else Alfelts Museum in Herning

KAOSmonaut

KAOSmonaut is the name of some new creative services, which KaosPilot Cüneyt Pala offers through Swinging Europe. Some examples from 2014 is graphic summaries for Dansk Industri and the political party Alternativet. As the name implies, a graphical summery is a counterpart to the classical written summery and main headlines, essences and themes are communicated through simple graphics. This way of communication can in various situations make it easier to remember stories or points.

Danish Music Day

Since 2001, Danish music and Danish-produced music has been celebrated the last Thursday in October all over the country. Including Herning where DSI Swinging Europe contributed by arranging pop-up concerts with the duo Rolf & Riis October 30 at the train station in Herning.

A reporter from Herning Folkeblad discovered that the small concert was a musical experience, however, the young mobile-phone-armed audience was a sluggish opponent to the beautiful music.

PLAY!GROUND LIVE

PLAY!GROUND LIVE is an orchestra that once a year by try-outs selects a bunch of talented musicians in the age of 15-22. Bo Stief selects the musicians so that they work together both musically and socially. From here the young musicians get to experience the life as a professional musician at concerts and workshops.

Bo Stief writes the following about the project on his website:

PLAY!GROUND LIVE is a 12 person m/f band that signalizes vigour and rigour, determination and vitality – youngsters who want something. Denmark's future stars can be experienced in PLAY!GROUND LIVE. Bo Stief who conducts and composes the music leads the band. The project is a musical offer that concerns everyone. It is a great experience to be a part of and it is inspiring to everyone who attends a concert with Bo Stief and PLAY!GROUND LIVE.

This PLAY!GROUND LIVE offer is a journey for young talented musicians in the real world. It is here and now, the real life. It is a great opportunity, where you will get a serious and unique chance, to be treated as a professional musician for a couple of weeks. All practicalities are organized by DSI Swinging Europe. The tour bus, rehearsal room, concerts, hotel – everything is in capable hands. We prepare the youngster to be strong, creative, dynamic musicians who wants something.

As something special in 2014, PLAY!GROUND LIVE played a concert at the asylum centre in Vipperød, Holbæk. A asylum centre for unaccompanied children. It was a great experience for the musicians and the young refugees since they were roughly the same age group and in a way could relate to each other.

PLAY!GROUND LIVE activities in 2014

Jan 12	try-out	Herning Musikskole
Jan. 26	try-out	Gentofte
Apr. 17-21	Workshop + rehearsals	Nørgaards Højskole in Bjerringbro
Apr. 19	Concert	Herning Museum of Contemporary Art
Apr. 21	Concert	Nørgaards Højskole
Apr. 22	Concert	Ikast Gymnasium
Apr. 22	Concert	Produktionsskolen
Apr. 22	Concert	Familiehøjskolen
Apr. 23	Concert	Den Rytmiske Efterskole
Apr. 23	Concert	Kolding MGK
Apr. 23	Concert	Brandbjerg Højskole
Apr. 24	Concert	Rosengårdskolen
Apr. 25	Concert	Tjørnegårdskolen
Apr. 25	Concert	Center Vipperød
Apr. 25	Concert	PH Caféen
July 13	Concert	CPH Jazz Festival, PH Caféen
July 14	Concert	Aarhus Jazz Festival, Bispetorvet

PLAY!GROUND LIVE musicians 2014

Vocal	Anna Kirkegaard Pedersen
Vocal	Cecilie Maria Kornum
Vocal	Iris Poparic
Bass	Jonathan Wøhlk-Christensen
Guitar	Frederik Fog Bruun
Guitar	Jeppe Gottlieb
Drums	Rasmus Bak Vorm
Drums + Percussion	Martin Thomsen Engström
Piano	Signe Kyhl Michno
Piano	Julius Georg Jensen
Soprano Saxophone	Magnus Sørvin Wiinblad
Trumpet	Carlo Becker

International activities

Work in east and west

There was a meeting with the partners of European Circuit of interludes in Brussels from 19-22 of February.

European Circuit of Interludes

Swinging Europe's newest initiative is European Circuit of Interludes. The aim of the project is to promote 500 talented musicians and producers in the European and international music environment by building bridges between existing musical networks in Europe and by establishing new network. In order to realize the project, Swinging Europe seeks support from EU, however, the application was declined but only just. Encouraged by how close it was to succeed, Swinging Europe will again try to make the project a reality in 2015.

The project has 16 members:

Fondazione Fitzcarraldo	Italy
Bass Culture SRL	Italy
Brussels Jazz Orchestra vzw	Belgium
Handelsbeurs Concert Hall	Belgium
JazzDanmark	Denmark
Helsinki Arts Initiative Ltd.	Finland
Pluto Finland / Sodapop Oy	Finland
music:LX	Luxembourg
Norrbottensmusiken	Sweden
RF Sweden AB	Sweden
Witold Lutosławski Philharmonic in Wrocław	Poland
New York Direct v/Marc Music	Denmark
Casa da Música	Portugal
Europe Jazz Network	France
Mad In Belgrade / Pinata, ltd	Serbia
Improvised Music Company	Ireland

European Jazz Orchestra (EJO)

Since 1998, DSI Swinging Europe has been responsible for European Jazz Orchestra. Every year we have selected new musicians between the age of 18-30 from all over Europe and a conductor and arranged tours. However, in 2013, EJO ended when the support from EU stopped. On May 8, 2014, EJO 2013 was reunited in Ankara at the annual EU-Day. They were invited by the EU-delegation in Turkey to play at Europe Day, which is an annual advertising campaign for EU in Turkey. This year's EJO was composed by 19 musicians from 15 EU-countries and is a great example of that collaboration between culture, which DSI Swinging Europe has made its trademark.

The concert took place in a sold-out ATO Congressium Concert Hall in Ankara.

Line up in Ankara

Composer & Chief Conductor	Ann-Sofi Söderqvist
Vocal	Kristin Amparo Viktoria Sundberg
Guitar	Andreas Tausch
Piano	Joel-Rasmus Remmel
Double Bass	Matthias Flemming Petri
Drums	Carl Rasmus Svensson-Blixt
1st Alto Sax	Michael Joseph Fletcher
2nd Alto Saxophone (ss, cl, bcl)	Michal Wróblewski
Bass trombone	Robert Hedemann
Vibraphone	Jean-Lou Treboux
1st Trombone	Richard Anthony Leonard
2nd trombone	Roberto Lorenzo Elekes
3rd trombone	Francesco Di Giulio
1st Trumpet	Darko Sedak-Bencic
2nd trumpet	Bastian Philipp Stein
3rd Trumpet	Gerhard Ornig
4th Trumpet	Tomaž Gajšt
Bariton sax	Linda Lotta Fredriksson
1st Tenor Sax	Paulo Augusto Gazzi Lucena
2nd Tenor Sax	José Maria Barreto Gonçalves Pereira
Sound Designer	Per Giöbel
Tour Manager	Marie Lilholt

Melting Pot

Melting Pot is an initiative, which was started in 2013 with DSI Swinging Europe as one of the operators. It is all about European musicians getting together and improvising and playing each other's compositions.

Guitarist and composer Gorm Askjær describes the year's first meeting in Wroclaw as follows:

I arrived in Wroclaw on a Monday where we got together with most of the other participants in the afternoon. For the next two days we had rehearsals, primarily with the other musicians but also with a dancer. It was a mix of free improvisation and playing each other's compositions, among others a composition I had made especially for this occasion, which had its first performance at the concert on Thursday. It was interesting to meet the other musicians from Poland, Germany and Belgium and we got to play lots of great music. The project has simultaneously provided me with good contacts from these countries – including organizers (festival and venue) from Poland and Belgium, which I have made a direct contact to. The concert was held in Wroclaw's philharmonic hall and was well visited in terms of attendance. The music was accompanied by a dancer and scenography with light and sculptures by an Polish artist. What were really rewarding for me were the trials, the social, the meeting with new musicians, new contacts and new experiences.

Bilal Irshed participated at the second meeting in Wroclaw. He is mentor for the multi-cultural band Grænseløs and he has gained experience in mixing musical traditions and describes the value of Melting Pot as follows:

Taking part in the Melting Pot project has been a great experience for me.

The rehearsal sessions, leading up to the performance was very interesting and furthermore, it was a process that I definitely learned a lot from.

For example, in the piece written by Kristian Blak called Water and Stone, a combination of written music and improvisation was combined with filmed scenes from the Faroe Islands, creating a very unique and challenging musical situation.

The intercultural meeting with musicians coming from different places and having musical backgrounds different from mine, was both very challenging and inspiring at the same time.

The compositions and the way the composers worked and interacted with the band was a totally new experience for me and it showed me a whole new way of looking at music. At the same time, I could see that my personal contribution to the project was noticeable, especially given the fact that I play an instrument that is almost never to be found in such projects. I feel that it helped to give the band a more unique sound.

The performance took place in Impart/the Chamber Hall in Wroclaw and was attended by a large audience. In fact, it was nearly a full house and I would estimate that 160 people came.

Activities in 2014

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| April 28 – May 1 | 1. Session with Gorm Askjær Wroclaw |
| October 5-8 | 2. Session with Bilal Irshed Wroclaw |

Documentaries

Documentary about Grænseløs

The documentary about the multi-cultural band Grænseløs' beginning happened on the initiative of DSI Swinging Europe who contacted photographer Anita Beikpour and editor Nushan Roshani. They used the first band camp where the musicians got to know each other and where the musicians were selected to be a part of Grænseløs and also the two first concerts in Kongelunden and Spillestedet Stengade as a backdrop for the documentary. It is a documentary in four episodes and together lasts around 30 minutes and is targeted for Internet use.

Nushan Roshani (editor) and Anita Beikpour (photographer) are both a part of DSI Swinging Europe's network.

Documentary about Blood, Sweat, Drum + Bass

When Blood, Sweat, Drum + Bass in April filled a bus in Aarhus with musicians and instruments that were going to JassAhead! in Bremen it was wit documentarian Ida Marie Gedbjerg on board. On the way to Bremen and especially from the concert, she is documenting through interviews and images how a concert becomes reality seen from the musicians' points of view. This way, you get a glimpse of the many logistic and practical difficulties that goes when the music the music must go beyond the stage edge.

The documentary was the initiative of DSI Swinging Europe who generated the contact between BSD+B and Ida Marie Gedbjerg, who are a part of DSI Swinging Europe's network.

Documentary about Ann-Sofi Söderqvist and EJO 2013

The documentary "klangen af et år" (the timbre of a year) by RF Sweden AB RedFilm follows the Swedish composer and arranger Ann-Sofi Söderqvist in 2013. In the documentary you see how much it takes to be a creative artist, who wishes her music to be heard through a big band. When you are a big band leader and your name is Ann-Sofi Söderqvist then you are also a record producer, roadie, producer and mixer. Apart from this, you will also have to work as a booker, CD-distributor, musicians, composition teacher, lecturer, be an artistic leader of a composition competition, use lots of time to seek money and be a leader of other big bands – e.g European Jazz Orchestra.

In this way, the film also documents European Jazz Orchestra's last tour. The hour-long documentary was broadcast the 19th of April on Swedish television (TV2) and foreign countries have shown great interest for the film.

Other activities

Culture Action Europe in Newcastle

Since Swinging Europe is a member of Culture Action Europe, we participated in their general meeting in Newcastle on the 9th of October and subsequent in their conference Beyond the Obvious on October 10-11. The name covers the ambition to get the 180 cultural leaders from all over the world to look past the borders and conventional opinions about cultural disciplines. With this in the back of our minds the goal was to think how cultures develop social capital on an international, European and national level.

EU-day in Ankara

Swinging Europe and European Jazz Orchestra was present at the EU-day in Ankara, May 9.

Europe Jazz Network in Helsinki

Swinging Europe participated in the annual Europe jazz Network, which took place in Helsinki, September 17-21. The meeting had 300 participants of whom half was representatives from different jazz-organizations while the rest was musicians and organizers. The meeting was the largest of its kind and is therefore an important place to be networking and Swinging Europe presented its new initiative “European Circuit of Interludes”.

Fund fair on Mors, DK

The fair was held on October 30, 2014 and more than 600 participated to hear about the opportunities of fundraising by a wide section of the largest Danish funds.

The conference was a mix of inspirational presentations from different visionaries and presentations from funds and public subsidy schemes and also discussion on the market place where you could test your ideas. Per Kap Bech Jensen contributed a presentation about the cultural collaboration in Central and Western Jutland.

Rethink Cultural Tourism

Regarding the Aarhus-2017 project, where Aarhus is chosen to be the cultural capital city of Europe, there has been a range of meetings, which should strengthen the regional opportunities to create cultural tourism. Swinging Europe has participated in these meetings and achieved inspiration and networks.

JazzAhead!

Swinging Europe participated at JazzAhead! in Bremen, April 24-26, as a part of the Danish booth, which JazzDanmark had arranged. Marie Lilholt and Mathias Mygind Andersen participated on behalf of Swinging Europe.

JazzAhead! is both a jazz-fair and a showcase-festival, which every year is focusing on jazz in a new country. In 2014, it was Denmark's turn to be in the spotlight, which resulted in eight concerts of 30 minutes on one night.

The eight orchestras who played at the showcases was chosen by an international jury and one of the chosen orchestras was Blood, Sweat, Drum + Bass who delivered a fantastic concert in a sold-out venue.

Subsequently, contacts were made with among others a jazz-festival in Kairo, networking was made in the international jazz environment and filmmaker Ida Marie Gedbjerg filmed a documentary about the band and the performance in the northern German city.

There were a total of 708 entries from 50 nations at the fair and the number of professional participants was 2,811. In total there were approximately 16,000 attendees and 100 concerts.

Cultural meeting on Mors, DK

Nybøbing Mors was transformed into Denmark's cultural center for 48 hours, from 21st-23rd of April. Close to 40 debates and more than 120 cultural players, artists, politicians and businesspeople were on stage.

One of the cultural players was Swinging Europe who also contributed a concert with three members from Grænseløs – Jamile Alfer, Maher Mahmoud and Mette Marie Jensen Ørnstrup.

NordMatch Tampere

January 28-29, Swinging Europe took part in NordMatch, which is a Nordic/Baltic meeting for cultural players. At the meeting you get the opportunity to be inspired by presentations about different projects, ideas and potential investors. Besides working with other participants you have the opportunity to move forward with one's own ideas.