“Michael Gregory Jackson has long been one of my favorite musicians. We came along around the same time and I have always considered him to be one of the most significantly original guitarists of our generation with his own distinctive sound and point of view. I am always curious to know what he is doing and where his inspiration has taken him next.” - Pat Metheny

"I first heard Michael Gregory Jackson in 1975 when I moved to Boston. He blew my mind and influenced me a LOT. I believe he's one of the unsung innovators.” – Bill Frisell

BIO INFORMATION: MICHAEL GREGORY JACKSON CLARITY QUARTET

MGJ's Clarity Quartet has evolved to a place of profound musical communication and camaraderie; they exhibit a high level of spirit and compositional and improvisational interplay. Each member of this group is an accomplished composer, improviser and leader in their own right. Together they deftly and rigorously explore many realms of sound, beauty and creative expression.

Michael officially formed the Michael Gregory Jackson Clarity Quartet in 2013. MGJCQ evolved naturally after many fruitful years of working with Danish bassist Niels Praestholm. Michael initially auditioned and hired Niels in 1979 for his premiere tour of Denmark. Throughout the years Michael and Niels have maintained their strong connection both as friends and musical collaborators, with MGJ travelling annually to Denmark to perform and collaborate.

In 2013, they co-produced and released the album Liberty by Art Ensemble Syd with Michael Gregory Jackson. Art Ensemble Syd, founded by Niels Praestholm, included saxophonist Simon Spang Hanssen and drum wunderkind Matias Wolf-Andreason. In 2015, the Michael Gregory Jackson Clarity Quartet released After Before on Michael’s label, Golden Records.

The newest recording with this Danish quartet, WHENUFINDITUWILLKNOW, was also released on Golden, on February 8, 2019.

MICHAEL GREGORY JACKSON (aka MICHAEL GREGORY)

http://www.michaelgregoryjackson.com | http://www.facebook.com/MichaelGregoryJackson/ |http://www.twitter.com/MGJMUSIC | http://www.michaelgregoryjacksonepk.com http://www.michaelgregoryjacksonclarityquartetepk.com

One of the most influential and innovative guitarists to emerge during New York’s avant-garde loft scene in the 70s, master guitarist, composer, and improviser Michael Gregory Jackson has spanned and at times defied musical genres. He has embraced everything from avant-garde, creative music, jazz, blues, rock and electronica soundscapes to harmonically rich and lyrically deep vocal tunes, with the complex arrangements and subtleties that are a signature of his music. In his early career, Rolling Stone magazine called Jackson "the most original jazz guitarist to emerge since the sixties."

Jackson’s brilliant technique on electric and acoustic, flavored with quicksilver runs, volume pedal swells and sudden shifts from crystalline melodic to fuzzy dissonance, has been name-checked as a critical influence on such 6-string greats as Bill Frisell, Vernon Reid, Brandon Ross, Elliot Sharpe and others.

Michael has worked and/or recorded with luminaries across the musical spectrum including Julius Hemphill, Oliver Lake, Wadada Leo Smith, Nile Rodgers, Anthony Braxton, Will Calhoun, Nels Cline, Nona Hendryx, Jack Dejohnette, Steve Winwood, David Murray, Walter Becker, Buster Williams, Carlos Santana, Marcus Miller, Henry Threadgill, Omar Hakim, Vernon Reid, and Patti LaBelle, to name a few.

Michael has been signed to Arista, Island, BMG, RCA, ENJA, and IAI Records. His recent credits as a producer include Pulitzer Prize finalist Wadada Leo Smith, for whom he produced two critically acclaimed discs on Cuneiform Records. Jackson has taught and led creative workshops in the U.S. and abroad, including faculty at the New England Conservatory of Music, visiting artist at CalArts (California Institute for the Arts), guiding artist at Woodstock's Creative Music Studio and visiting artist at The Copenhagen Conservatory of Music in Denmark.

NIELS PRAESTHOLM

http://www.nielspraestholm.dk | http://www.facebook.com/nielspraestholm

Niels Praestholm is a bassist, visionary composer, adventurous improviser, and a strong organizational force on the Danish jazz scene. With his groups Embla, The Gyroscope String Trio and Art Ensemble Syd (South), Niels has toured extensively throughout Denmark, Scandinavia, Europe, USA and in the Caribbean Islands.
The music journalist Boris Rabinowitch stated in Denmark's leading newspaper, Politiken, that "Bassist and composer Niels Praestholm employs a genuine, delightfully off, sound, which he creates with his instrumentation. There is no trace of the reverence and solemnity often heard in the so-called Nordic sound. There is a vivid energy in the up tempo tracks that makes the music burn...the music has a down to earth timbre of life."

Praestholm has worked and/or recorded with Kenny Drew, John Tchicai, Horace Parlan, Michael Gregory Jackson, Rakalam Bob Moses, Lee Konitz, Django Bates, Dave Liebman, Doug Hammond, Teddy Wilson, Kresten Osgood, Richard Boone, Ed Thigpen, Clark Terry, Rudy Smith, Simon Spang-Hanssen, Pierre Dorge, The New Jungle Orchestra, Ernie Wilkins, Benny Waters, Sahib Shihab and many more.

SIMON SPANG-HANSSEN

http://www.twitter.com/CatoSpang | http://www.facebook.com/simon.spanghanssen

Simon Spang-Hanssen began his career in the mid-seventies in Copenhagen, Denmark as a member of the famed John Tchicai and "Strange Brothers", which included bassist Peter Danstrup and drummer Ole Roemer. He also performed with bassist Johhny Dyani, Jesper Zeuthen, The New Jungle Orchestra, the Brazilian drummer/composer Doug Raney, Nenê and with his own groups that included Ben Besiakov, Jesper Lundgaard and Alex Riel.

Simon also lived and worked in Paris, and played with Andy Emler Megaoctet, The Quintet of Francois and Louis Moutin, Nguyên Lê "Tales of Vietnam", The Orchestra National de Jazz, Bojan Z., Denis Badault, Anouar Brahem and with his personal projects featuring musicians such as Richard Bona, Xavier Desandre, Mariane Bitran, Mario Canonge.

Returning to Denmark, Simon formed several groups including "Rainbow Spirit", with Gambian kora-player Dawda Jobarteh, an octet "Alisio Ensemble", the Paris-based "Ear Witness" with Emil Spányi, Linley Marthe and Felix-Sabal-Lecco and the S.S.H. 5-tet with a.o. Bob Rockwell.

Since his tenure with John Tchicai, Simon has experimented in many directions both as a player and composer and has developed a personal mixture of his many roots in jazz and across the musical spectrum.

MATIAS WOLF ANDREASON

Wunderkind drummer Matias Wolf Andreason – whom The New York City Jazz Record called a “revelation” – graduated from the Copenhagen Conservatory of Music in 2014.

The recipient of numerous international awards, he has won Germany’s Jazz’it’Up and Jugend Jazzt Soloist prizes in 2009; received an Uffe Wolffs Fond Scholarship in Denmark; was a 2010 finalist for Denmark’s Stjerneprisen; and was awarded Poland’s Jazz Nad Odra Grand Prix in 2011.

Despite his young age, Matias has already worked with a wide range of internationally acclaimed musicians, touring Sweden, Poland, Germany, Egypt, Palestine and South Africa. He is a member of the bands Michael Gregory Jackson Clarity Quartet, The Magnetic Eagle, Kentaur and Art Ensemble Syd. He’s played and/or recorded with such musicians as Al Agami, Django Bates, Aaron Parks, Marilyn Mazur, Pierre Dørge, Lennart Ginman, Kresten Osgood, Anders "AC" Christensen, Andrew D’Angelo, Michael Gregory Jackson, Chris Stover, Jamaladeen Tacuma, Stephan Meinberg, Don Immel, Tomasz Dabrowski, Richard Andersson, Daníel Friðrik Böðvarsson, Ned Ferm, Mothomoni Mapela-Mphatja.