

THE FIVE CORNERS QUINTET TAKING JAZZ BACK TO DANCE FLOORS

The Helsinki-based jazz sensation, The Five Corners Quintet has successfully updated the modern jazz of the 1950's and the 60's.

The debut album from **The Five Corners Quintet** is the appropriately titled "Chasin' The Jazz Gone By" that was released in September 2005 and is featuring – alongside the cream of young Finnish jazz musicians – the hippest male jazz voice on the planet, Mr. **Mark Murphy**. The Seven-time **Grammy** nominee and four-time **Downbeat** readers poll winner is featured on three of the 12 tracks. Also featured is the gorgeous voice of Paris-based **Okou** who opens the album with a graceful blues.

The debut album spent 11 weeks in the Finnish album TOP-40 chart and has been released in Europe (SonyBMG and Ricky-Tick Records/Timewarp), USA (Milan Entertainment/WEA) and Japan (Columbia International), where TFCQ won the "New International Star of 2005" award of **Adlib**-magazine, one of the most important music magazines in Japan. "Three Corners" was a **BBC Radio One's Gilles Peterson All Winner Track** of 2004 and "Chasin' the Jazz Gone By" has received numerous international nominations for best album of 2005. The album and the vinyl singles preceding it have already sold more than 40 000 copies. Not bad for a jazz record in 2005.

For this is pure unadulterated jazz. Not housey nu-jazz, or jazz fused with hip-hop or rock, but jazz in the classic modernist spirit. Jazz that resonates with early sixties straight-ahead and Latin. As one critic claimed of the first single, "*Trading Eights snaps like a classic bit of Blue Note soul jazz... a soaring little groover with great rhythms that hooks the tune up nicely for the dancefloor. Real jazz played by a hip little quintet*". **John Bungey** stated in **The Times**, "*In Britain it's thought that to sell a serious number of albums you have to jumble up your jazz with soul, hip-hop, pop or Radiohead. Elsewhere they think differently.*"

The mission of TFCQ is to *boldly go where no jazz has gone before*: this means performing – in addition to traditional jazz venues – at rock clubs, big festival venues and before dance floor club audiences all alike. The aim is to reintroduce jazz to new audiences and set an example that people can still dance to real jazz music in the 21st century. In October 2005 TFCQ performed at the Flow05 – Nuspirit Helsinki Festival in Finland in front of an ecstatic audience of 1,500 people. As critic **Stuart Nicholson** comments in **The Observer**: "*...they have the potential to become a major draw in the European jazz circuit. Their set at Flow05 was surreal – a jazz group going down big time at what was a rave in all but name and coming back for five encores.*" **Straight No Chaser** Magazine commented, "*The Five Corners Quintet, Mark Murphy and Okou stole the show with a crowd 1000 + – singing, dancing and causing mayhem.*"

In the studio TFCQ is a postmodern project dictated by the producer and musical director **Tuomas Kallio** who is gathering musicians, track by track, for the different combinations and instrumentation he visions. Utilizing both the analogue and digital domain, he draws on tools from tape recorders to samplers and sequencers, so, while the sound of TFCQ is similar to the jazz of the mid 20th century, the studio setting is entirely different. Live, TFCQ tell another story. On stage they are a real band featuring real musicians: no machines, no samplers, no DJ's but instead energy, interaction and world class level of musicianship. Interestingly, Tuomas Kallio is not part of the live set-up, instead he passes the responsibility of successfully interpreting the studio sound to drummer **Teppo Mäkynen**.

The Five Corners Quintet live band will perform at the opening gala of Midem 2006 on January 22nd at Palais des Festivals / Mediterranee stage at 8.30PM. From there on the live band will continue to European (UK & Mainland Europe) tour, Blue Note tour in Japan in February, Italian tour in April and Scandinavian tour in April/May.

As **Jack Massarik** suggests on **Evening Standard**, "Catch them!"

Check out: www.thefivecornersquintet.com for more information.

European tour

22.01.2006	Cannes, France
27.01.2006	Antwerp, Belgia
28.01.2006	Kortrijk, Belgia
02.02.2006	Cologne, Germany
03.02.2006	Vienna, Austria
04.02.2006	Budapest, Hungary
05.02.2006	Amsterdam, Netherlands
07.02.2006	Norwich, UK
08.02.2006	Plymouth, UK
09.02.2006	Bristol, UK
10.02.2006	London, UK
11.02.2006	Brighton, UK

Japanese tour

18.02.2006	Motion Blue, Yokohama
19.02.2006	Blue Note, Tokyo
20.02.2006	Blue Note, Nagoya
21.02.2006	Blue Note, Osaka

Italian tour

05.04.2006 - 08.04.2006