

BALLROGG

Klaus Ellerhusen Holm, Roger Arntzen, Ivar Grydeland



Ballrogg began life as a duo: somewhere between Paul Bley and Eric Dolphy, on the one hand, and Morton Feldman on the other. The arrival of guitarist Ivar Grydeland (of the act Huntsville, formerly on Rune Grammofon but now also signed to Hubro) introduces a hint of Americana - also suggested in their latest album title and in "Swedish Country", the opening track. It might sound a strange mix, but bassist Roger Arntzen is also a member of In The Country, who themselves combine worship of Bley and Feldman with an equal love of Ryan Adams. Country music might be the home of the song, but there's no singing here; it's country on clarinet, less Taylor Swift than Nels Cline or BJ Cole. And Americana is only one influence at play: at other times, the record calls to mind neo-classical acts like Clogs, Yann Tiersen, Hauschka and Philip Jeck. This is panoramic music, restrained and expansive: maybe it doesn't matter if the landscape it overlooks is coated in sand or in ice. *Marcus O'Dair, Jazzwise*

Press quotes:

- "This is panoramic music" [Jazzwise \(US\)](#)
- "With their brilliant new album, *Cabin Music*, you'll actually want to go out and tell as many friends as possible." [Jazzwrap \(US\)](#)
- "*Cabin Music* is Ballrogg's best and (without compromise) most appealing record yet, and bodes well for future installments" [All About Jazz \(US\)](#)
- "The rustic minimalism of Norwegian trio Ballrogg [...] the beautiful long tones, frictive pops, and electronic-sounding swoops he can create with his reeds blend wonderfully with Grydeland's guitars. [Chicago Reader \(US\)](#)
- "Strong Norwegian innovation." [Aftenposten \(NO\)](#)

Klaus Ellerhusen Holm (sax, clarinet, field recordings) leads his own group Klaus Holm Kollektiv, who was awarded "Yong Nordic Jazzcomets 2003". He plays free-improvised music with the Norwegian trio Murmur and has worked with international artists such as Raymond Strid, Axel Dörner, Jim Denley, Mattias Ståhl, Ingebrigt Håker Flaten, Ingar Zach, Sture Ericson and Frode Gjerstad, and has done tours on festivals and jazzclubs in several countries in both Europe, America and Asia. The last years he has also composed music for various chamber music settings and also music for film and is also the director of the high-quality-download-shop-web-community Subradar.

Roger Arntzen (double bass) is known from the piano trio In The Country, who started out as being awarded "Young Jazz Musicians Of The Year 2004" in Norway. The trio has released five albums on labels such as ACT and Rune Grammofon, all of them to much critical acclaim. He is also a regular together with Shining-leader Jørgen Munkeby with the rock-jazz-quartet Chrome Hill. He has worked with international artists such as downtown NYC icon Marc Ribot, Bob Hoffnar, BJ Cole, Neil Metcalfe, Terry Day, John Russell, Frode Grytten, Sidsel Endresen, Susanna Wallumrød, Frida Ånnevik, Stian Carstensen among others. Arntzen has performed at festivals and clubs all over Norway, Europe, USA, Canada, Russia, Japan, China, Taiwan, Malaysia and Mongolia.

Ivar Grydeland (guitar, pedal steel guitar) has been a musician and a composer for a decade. He has been touring and recording with his own bands, ad hoc projects and project based ensembles at big festivals and clubs in Norway, Sweden, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands, Portugal, Austria, Germany, France, Canada, USA, Greece, Argentina, Spain, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia and Japan. Grydeland is currently most frequently playing with the quartet Dans Les Arbres (Wallumrød, Zach, Charles, Grydeland), who released their debut album on ECM in April 2008. He's also active with the trio Huntsville (two releases on Hubro and two on Rune Grammofon) and has a key role as a guitarist and pedal steel player with the Norwegian singer Hanne Hukkelberg. Grydeland plays his acoustic guitar, electric guitar, banjo and pedal steel guitar often in the direction of Country & Western.

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