

PROBABLY THE BEST MUSIC IN THE WORLD

EN | For the fourth year in a row, the Ancienne Belgique – in collaboration with the Danish showcase Spot Festival – is presenting Spot on Denmark, featuring a number of Danish bands. Top of the bill is Efterklang, backed by a couple of Efterkids. TOM ZONDERMAN

We do actually know more about Denmark than just Lego, Carlsberg, and Roskilde, but we're not going to start giving you lists here. Of the number of good bands per square kilometre, for example. The Raveonettes! Trentemøller! Aqua! OK, only joking. And Efterklang, a band from the likeable city of Copenhagen, who, not entirely coincidentally, will be bringing the fourth Spot on Denmark festival to a close at the AB on 24 November, when the line-up will also include Chimes & Bells, Cody, and The Kissaway Trail.

Over a number of records Efterklang seemed to have achieved a perfect blend of rock, electronics, and classical music. On *Magic Chairs*, however, which was released early this year, they changed tack, in the direction of pop. No more thousands of layers, but tracks with clear refrains and sing-along melodies.

A commercial move? We tend to believe Rasmus Stolberg, Efterklang's bassist and manager, who also runs their own label, Rumraket: "Our ambition is to make the music we want to make and not to worry about what other people want. The average Efterklang fan, I believe, also wants us to just do our own thing."

In the past you weren't really setting out to get into the hit parade.

RASMUS STOLBERG: We were really scared of pop music; we wanted to stay as far away from it as possible. But now we realise that we do actually like it. When I go through my favourite albums, however weird they may be, I do really think the hits are always the best songs.

From what we have heard, you were fed up of working with 30 guest musicians and three choirs, like on *Parades*, your previous album.

STOLBERG: We spent a year and a half working on *Parades*. We just kept on experimenting and coming up with ideas, it took us way too long. After that, we toured for one and a half years and we really fell



From left to right:
Rasmus Stolberg,
Casper Clausen, Mads
Brauer, Thomas Husmer

in love with playing live. We wanted to carry over that live aspect into the next album. The new songs were thoroughly tested live first and only then recorded. We looked at the album in terms of our live band and not of guest musicians.

At the AB you will be reinforced by Efterkids. Who are they?

STOLBERG: Efterkids is part of a larger project through which we want to focus attention on good, freely accessible musical education at school. New research has shown that in half the schools in Denmark there is de facto no music taught any more – mostly for lack of time. We want to combat that trend. We want more rock bands! There are already lots of rock bands around, of course, but there's surely room for a few more. [Laughs] When you learn music you don't just devel-

op yourself: school becomes more enjoyable, you enhance your social skills, and often you do better in other subjects too.

How do you become an Efterkid?

STOLBERG: For the moment, you have to have some musical experience, but in the future we want to open it up to everyone. In Brussels we hope to find six kids who play violin, cello, or viola. We have two songs for which we have written additional string arrangements for children: "Natural Tune" and "Full Moon".

Your music often sounds as if you yourselves have been classically trained.

STOLBERG: Lots of people think that, but nobody in the group ever had any musical education at an advanced level. We just had the good luck to have a few good teachers who encouraged us to be creative. That's what it's all about. **A**

NL | Voor het vierde jaar op rij organiseert de Ancienne Belgique – in samenwerking met het Deense showcasefestival Spot – Spot on Denmark, waarin enkele Deense bands hun kunnen mogen tonen. Top of the bill is Efterklang, dat er voor de gelegenheid versterking krijgt van een zestal Efterkids.

FR | Pour la quatrième année consécutive, en collaboration avec le showcase festival danois Spot Festival, l'Ancienne Belgique organise «Spot on Denmark», lors duquel quelques groupes danois viennent montrer leur talent. Tête d'affiche de taille: Efterklang, renforcé par quelques Efterkids.



SPOT ON DENMARK

24/11 • 19.00, Chimes & Bells, Cody, The Kissaway Trail, Efterklang, €12
ANCIENNE BELGIQUE bd. Anspachlaan 110, Brussel/Bruxelles
02-548.24.24, info@abconcerts.be, www.abconcerts.be