

NUSPIRIT HELSINKI

= Biography =

Nuspirit Helsinki is a multi talented Finnish collective of DJ's, producers, and musicians that has ascended to the forefront of the forward thinking European music scene on the strength of their peerless music productions and compositions and more recently festival production. The group was conceived in 1998 by founding members Tuomas Kallio and Hannu Nieminen (a.k.a. DJ Ender) who enlisted a core group of Helsinki's finest musicians to develop a dynamic 21st century big band sound informed by a wealth of jazz, funk, soul, afro, and Latin influences. Equally inspired by cutting edge electronic sounds, Nuspirit's musical mission is to fuse live organic instrumentation with warm, dubby electronic textures to produce soulful and sophisticated music that can be enjoyed on or off the dancefloor.

Tuomas Kallio and Nuspirit Helsinki selected the music for the new compilation album *Our Favorite Things*, on ObliqSound's Backdrop imprint. The album marks Backdrop's second release and is the start of a brand new series tapping notable genre-bending artists to freely and thoughtfully curate their own selection of treasured favorites on one cohesive disc in the spirit of groundbreaking series like Back To Mine and Late Night Tales. The album releases September 16, 2008 in USA/Canada.

Nuspirit Helsinki's prior album, their self-titled debut, was released in 2002 and received a dazzling response among the international media. The live band of Nuspirit Helsinki toured actively in Europe for two years after the release of the album. Press highlights included reviews from Billboard Magazine ("NSH is well-poised to redefine northern soul by way of its 21st-century neo-soul/jazz soundscape"), The Wire magazine ("Finally, a Finnish group free their countrymen from the burden of meteorological determination"), XLR8R ("The jazz players have more weight here than in a lot of current hybrids, but the balance struck with sinewy electronic grooves is damn near perfect") and Straight No Chaser magazine ("The fruits of their labour are fully displayed on this stunning debut"), and MixMag ("An intensely beautiful and intriguing album").

After the success of the Nuspirit Helsinki album, main innovator Tuomas Kallio started a new musical journey with a new extension to the collective. The new project was named The Five Corners Quintet (www.thefivecornersquintet.com) according to a place in Helsinki where five streets meet. TFCQ is a jazz quintet that originally had many fictitious musicians onboard who in reality were created with samplers and sequencers. In musical terms the goal of TFCQ was to set an example of how dance floor-friendly contemporary production can fruitfully meet the musical craftsmanship of the past, creating music that sounds as hip as the classic jazz records but is at the same time structurally polished and easily accessible music of today. Not housey nu-jazz, but jazz in the classic modernist spirit.

The Five Corners Quintet debut album was released in 2005 on Ricky-Tick Records, a label founded by Antti Eerikäinen for the project. The sales of the album and TFCQ vinyl releases well exceeded 50,000 copies and thus the story will continue with a second album project due to be released late 2008.

A third recent major undertaking for the Nuspirit Helsinki posse is the annual Helsinki based Flow Festival (www.flowfestival.com) that was founded in 2004. Tuomas Kallio works as the artistic director of the festival with the aid and club scene knowledge of DJ Lil' Toni Rantanen. The managing director of the festival organization is Suvi Virtanen. Flow has been highly successful and has sold out many years in a row with a lineup that can hardly be regarded as very commercial in Finland.