



# B A L L R O G G

Saxophone player Klaus Ellerhusen Holm and bass player Roger Arntzen have joined forces and created the duo **Ballrogg**. The duo started out exploring the music of Eric Dolphy in a small format, stripped down to only bass and reeds in 2006. Songs from greats such as Paul Bley, Ornette Coleman and Jimmy Giuffre was soon also brought into the concept, aside with compositions by the group itself. The results was some free jazz-classics combined with spacy and energetic originals placed into an acoustic chamber setting.

The focus is now exclusively on original compositions. Trying to melt the two instruments into one sound **Ballrogg** is emphasizing sustained sounds, intervals and textures, and integrates it into clear and simple compositions.

**Klaus Ellerhusen Holm – alto saxophone / clarinet / feedback**

**Roger Arntzen – double bass**

**Ballrogg**, released their second album *Insomnia* in January 2010 on Bolage. Since their critically acclaimed self-titled debut album the duo has moved into significantly deeper water, drawing influences from European contemporary music as well as American avantgarde. On *Insomnia*, their influences are mixed with a cinematic sensitivity, creating soundscapes that are deeply disturbing and stunningly beautiful.

**Ballrogg** has since the debut been touring in Scandinavia, Europe and North-America.

**Klaus Ellerhusen Holm (sax, clar)** leads his own group Klaus Holm Kollektif, 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.

**Roger Arntzen (double bass)** is known from the piano trio In The Country, who was awarded "Young Jazz Musicians Of The Year 2004" in Norway. The trio has released three albums on the Norwegian cult-label Rune Grammofon to much acclaim. He is a regular together with Shining-leader Jørgen Munkeby with the noise-rock-jazz-quartet Chrome Hill and has teamed up with Chrome Hill-drummer Torstein Lofthus as two thirds of Håvard Stubø Trio. He has also worked with downtown NYC icon Marc Ribot and pedal-steel guitarist Bob Hoffnar, and other international artists such as Neil Metcalfe, Terry Day, John Russell, Sidsel Endresen, Susanna Wallumrød and Stian Carstensen.

### **Said about Ballrogg:**

*Cinematic landscapes.* **All About Jazz (US)**

*Unique Norwegian duo.* **Downtown Music Gallery (US)**

*A conception that strives for beauty without ever touching on anything conventionally lyrical.* **Cadence (US)**

*"Yet another potensial Norwegian export article, which challenge everone with open ears and sense all around the world."* **TV 2 Nettavisen (NO) 5/6**

*This is an excellent debut from a pair who have clearly not only set the bar high for themselves, but for the music as a whole.* **Bagatellen (US)**

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