

THE FIVE CORNERS QUINTET feat. MARK MURPHY: “HOT CORNER”

Artist: The Five Corners Quintet **Title:** Hot Corner **Format:** CD /LP **Label:** Ricky-Tick Records **Cat. No.** RTCD09/RT027 **EAN:** 6 430021 550095 (CD) / 6430021 550279 (LP) **Release date:** November 14, 2008 **Distribution:** Groove Attack, SonyBMG, Differ-Ant

In 2005, The Five Corners Quintet from Helsinki took the international dancefloor jazz scene by a storm. “Chasin’ the Jazz Gone By”, their debut for Ricky-Tick Records, a label that was initially conceived of as a vehicle for releasing the very first TFCQ vinyl single, proved out to be both an artistic and a commercial success story. For once and for all, the album proved that it is possible to look back while moving forward. The touch of producer-composer Tuomas Kallio was true to the golden era of modern jazz, and his vision in updating form rather than feeling resulted in music that is truly “postmodern jazz”, if there ever was some.

Three years, some 50 000 sold records, and 100+ international gigs later, The Five Corners Quintet are set to return with their sophomore effort. The album, due to be released in Europe on 14 November 2008, is entitled “Hot Corner”, and everything about it indicates that the scene-leading Finnish ensemble isn’t going to settle for re-doing their debut album. Rather, theirs will be the task of taking 2000 Century dancefloor jazz into another level.

Some things remain, of course. The sports axiom about not changing a winning team reigns true here, with a guest appearance by jazz vocalist par excellence, Mr. Mark Murphy, who also lent his golden voice to three tracks on the debut. This time around, however, it should come as no big surprise that a bunch of Finns manage to lure a living jazz legend to take part in their production, for TFCQ face high expectations when it comes to their return in recorded form.

The enormously successful live band consisting of Teppo Mäkynen (drums/bandleader), Timo Lassy (sax), Jukka Eskola (trumpet), Mikael Jakobsson (piano), and Antti Lötjönen (double bass), also remains. On “Hot Corner”, however, the band takes a larger role in comparison to the first album. Tuomas Kallio is the “commander-in-chief” once again, but there’s a stronger sense of community also in the studio.

The new sound of TFCQ could be described as leaning towards the “Hot” of the album title more than the cool of their previously recorded work. Here, the impact of the live band is evident. Kallio’s compositions also move away from standard jazz into fresh new territories, where even the occasional flirt with genres such as rockabilly is to be expected. The EP preceding the album release already showed marks of the band “rocking” rather than “swinging”, and those directions are further explored on the upcoming album.

One thing is certain: The Five Corners Quintet have a knack at searching and finding new directions instead of following paths trampled by others. Of this, their new album “Hot Corner” is an ample piece of evidence.

The Five Corners Quintet "Hot Corner" EP feedback
(Ricky Tick Records 2008, RT024)

"By whatever standards they are judged, The Five Corners Quintet are a class act."
Stuart Nicholson, The Observer

"Finland's Five Corners Quintet are back with more verve than anyone has right to expect... Classy modern jazz sounds" 4/5
Update Magazine

"Top of the list for my hall pass from Drudgery would be Hot Corner ep, the latest from Finland's finest, the Five Corners Quintet. 'Hot Rod' kicks things off with some fried chicken guitars, easy going handclaps and loosey goosey piano giving modal jazz a shuffling, entirely different flair. 'Shake It' is the stormer with the tight interplay of Jukka Eskola on trumpet and Timo Lassy on tenor sax riding roiling rhythms from Antti Lotjonen and Teppo Makynen. Tuomas Kallio of Nuspirit Helsinki fame does all the arrangements and he should be especially proud of this one"
XLR8R (USA)

For more information please visit www.ricky-tick.com