

Artist: D'SOUND
Current album: MY TODAY

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D'Sound

"Universally, send your body and your soul, send it on to me, send your body through!"

The wah wah guitar twangs in the Disco chorus and casts the first stone that sets off a groovy avalanche! Beats roll, the bass slams and the keyboards stir up a cloud of retrospective dust.

D'Sound's new album MY TODAY blend the pure elements of their characteristic pop style with fine traces of jazz, bossa, 70s funk and glittering discobeats. Musically tight as always, the new D'Sound production rolls over us and claims the right to funk with the help of musicians like Till Brönner and Incognito's Tony Momrelle. The impressive live band has already toured with Roachford and The Brand New Heavies, and played support for Incognito for their tour of Germany last year.

MY TODAY is the sixth album by the Norwegian pop trio. Since 1996, Simone (voc.), Jonny (bass) and Kim (drums) have been exciting international audiences with their catchy mix of Acid Jazz, R&B and Drum 'N' Bass. Their discography has brought them gold awards and countless nominations, especially in their home territory Norway. Internationally acclaimed musician Nils Petter Molvær plays on their debut album "Spice of Life". They won the Norwegian Grammy with the album "Beauty Is A Blessing" in 1998, and were officially crowned Norway's best pop group. On the following album "Talkin' Talk" (2001) they worked with Serban Ghenea, who has mixed for Janet Jackson, Prince, Blackstreet, Jill Scott and helped them make their R&B album. While they on their fourth album separated from the major companies, started their own company and released the album through license with a small Norwegian indie label and sold very well not only in Norway, but also in Korea and The Philippines.

With MY TODAY, the trio goes right back to the beginning of their career together. Jonny and Kim had already formed a solid rhythm section at the Boston Berklee College of Music when they met Simone in Oslo, born in Freiburg/Breisgau. The freshly emigrated singer had just lent her voice to the A-HA worldwide hit Velvet, and had a large repertoire of her own texts and music. When they combined Simone's wonderfully smooth songs with the hard-hitting funk of the boys, they created the debut album "Spice Of Life" (1997), clearly drawing from the 80s pop of Wham, Duran Duran and Michael Jackson, together with the 70s funk of James Brown, Chaka Khan and George Duke. By using the exact same musicians in the studio for MY TODAY as they did for "Spice Of Life", they are really going back to their roots - in more senses than one.

Since Simone produced her solo album, and Kim and Jonny produced the very successful Norwegian soul act Sofian, the band did without the help of a producer on MY TODAY for the first time. MY TODAY is recorded live in the studio and it presents the exuberance and energy of all the participants. It includes the keyboarder Stein, who creates jazzy spheres with his Fender-Rhodes and lifts his Moog up to the sky. The guitarist Børge uses the wah wah to throw in funky licks and background jazz riffs. Bassist Jonny treats his chord changes, slides and slaps both elegantly and progressively, producing a driving force that is solid and versatile. And right beneath, between and even above them, the drummer Kim lays down his outrageously elaborate funk beats.

On MY TODAY, the studio musicians manage the essential further development of their arrangements that allows them to break out of the groove, but never lose the audience in an attempt to prove their skill. They introduce versatility into pop music that hardly any of today's pop productions dare to include. The jazz trumpeter Till Brönner knows all about that successful balance – and performs a dreamy duet with Simone on the jazz samba "Sigh".

"Just give me one more kiss and concentrate on this: don't say no cause it's a shame, we've had so many drinks that we could blame," Simone whispers in Mr. Brönner's ear, after he coolly blows his horn. Their voices warmly entwine around each other, while the Wurlitzer creates glittering stars and the acoustic guitar recalls Jobim. It is an authentic approach – and so Till Brönner, who is not usually willing to perform vocal duets, also whispers right back to Simone: **"That's why, I sigh, when I'm in your arms."**

And rightly so. Simone has given the trio complex, strong and vulnerable lyrics for joint arrangements. Gaining Back My Faith, Rainy Days and Feel Again on MY TODAY are not as melancholy as they may sound – quite the opposite in fact. For D'Sound an up-tempo song doesn't always mean an up-beat lyric. Simone has strong stage and vocal presence, and has given the band friendly, fiery flair over the last ten years. Power, charm and inspirational interaction with the audience are D'Sounds hallmark. It is a very organic album that presents 11 down-, mid- and up-tempo numbers in an equally riveting style:

"Small change, can't find my shoes, credit card's just not a lot of use on a broke day. It's more than this time of the month, hands are cold and heart that jumps, it's like a replay of yesterday..."

"I wish it was my birthday!" is sung by the Incognito singer Tony Momrelle in the refrain of the radio single with the same title. It is a straight disco-pop song that could have been written by Rod Temperton, since it is so reminiscent of George Benson. The up-tempo number is a modern Soul duet with an extremely catchy hookline. Simone and Momrelle is clearly at home with the fresh refrain, and the exuberant vocal outro by the two top singers is like a birthday and Christmas all in one for fans of crossover pop-funk: Its harmonic structure is the best possible example of the music and warm-heartedness on the entire MY TODAY album.

Discography:

"Spice of Life": (1997): Gold award + nominated Norwegian Grammy

"Beauty Is A Blessing": (1998): Gold Award + Norwegian Grammy, best pop album

"Talkin' Talk": (2001): nominated Norwegian Grammy

"Doublehearted": (2003): Gold award + nominated Norwegian Grammy

"Smooth Escapes - The Very Best of D'Sound": (2004)

"My Today": (2005)

20 Music control hits in Norway since 1997