

Ove Johansson (Dec 3rd 1936- Dec 25th 2015) tenorsax, EWI, electronics, composer

born in Alingsås, Sweden. First started to play the clarinet but after a year turned over to tenor saxophone. His parents ran a confectionary business and Ove's father imported Jazz records from USA. Ove as a small boy was playing those for the customers of the pantry - it was Lester Young, Coleman Hawkins, Charlie Parker, Buddy de Franco etc and Ove decided early on to be a musician. After having had his clarinet he left school and started practising more or less the whole day through. He was soon engaged to a group and since his early teens he has been touring and giving concerts.

Turning 20 years of age he decided just to concentrate on Jazz music. 1955 he participated with a group on Swedish TV presenting young Jazz. In the middle of the 50th Ove was inspired by John Coltrane and Ornette Colman and at the end of the 50th and beginning of the 60th by Archie Shepp, Art Ensemble of Chicago and New York Contemporary Five. Early 60th he was a leader of a group playing free jazz. They were collaborating with dancers, singers and performance artists and were doing experiments in the early electro acoustic music world with tape recorders and other devices.

Ove Johansson made a lot of concerts in the world of art museums, which was a common place for presenting this kind of music like Museum of Modern Art in Stockholm produced by Pontus Hultén, doing live recordings and in Gothenburg close to his home many musical experiments at the Art Hall produced by a famous Swedish Art gallerist Carl-Erik Hammarén. For a while he stayed in Copenhagen playing with other jazz musicians.

In Gothenburg he was active in Gothenburg Big Band and with his free jazz group a CD from the years 1963-65 was released 2005 on the Swedish label Anagram. During the 60th Ove also formed a sextet with two saxophones and trumpet. At the end of the 60th, beginning of the 70th the group was reconstructed to a quartet. This group, Göteborgs Musikkvartett, released 2 LPs.

During this time Ove was also collaborating with Gothenburg Chamber Choir and made some touring with them and with the Norwegian composer Alfred Jansson. In the beginning of the 70th Ove Johansson played with Lars Gullin, partly together with touring with Gothenburg Chamber Choir but did also a TV programme together with Lars Gullin and his music.

Beginning of the 70th Ove Johansson wanted to collaborate with some younger musicians and together with a guitar player and piano player Susanna Lindeborg he 1974 started the group Mwendo Dawa.

The first edition of Mwendo Dawa was working with inspiration of African music, here comes the origin of the name. The setting was saxophone, Fender Rhodes, guitar, electric bass and three drummers. Like in African folk music different rythmes was combined - 4/4, 12/8 and 18/8 (trio tempo on 6/4 beat). Each drummer kept his own rythme and each melodic instrument played together with one of the drummers. That is why you could find and hear any one of those beats at the same time. The American drummer Al Heath, who for a while lived in Gothenburg with his Swedish wife, was for a time member of the group. Ove now played both tenor and soprano saxophone and used some effects on the soprano.

Mwendo Dawa got from the start a lot of attention - touring in Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Poland with among other places the Polish Jazz festival in Wroclaw.

1978 Mwendo Dawa was reconstructed to a quintet, released the first LP on the SONET label and had a big break at the Jazz festival of Montreux 1979, a live LP was recorded there as well as a

video. At the time you could find bass player Anders Jormin och guitar player Ulf Wakenius in Mwendo Dawa. There was much touring during these years, first in Europe but from 1982 also in USA. But now the group was reduced to a quartet and on bass you could find the Swede Lars Danielsson.

1979-1984 there was a lot of international touring for Ove both with Mwendo Dawa for example Northsea Jazzfestival where a live LP was recorded.

1982 Mwendo Dawa made its first tour to USA, concerts in New York and several performances in Californien, recording in New York.

Mwendo Dawa continued during the 80th to develop its music with the blend of acoustic and electronic instruments - all the time in the forefront using midi, sequencers, samplers and later on sound design.

Until 1989 all LPs were released on the Sonet label and later Dragon label, but now Ove Johansson started his own record label together with Susanna Lindeborg, LJ Records, 1989 with CD production and started presenting modern acoustic and electronic improviserad music, partly his own but also with other Scandinavian groups and artists. Until now 59 titles.

At the end of the 80th and the years to come there was a lot of touring in USA and Canada. In Canada tours all over the continent from Nova Scotia in the east to Vancouver in the west. Ove now started to play the electronic instrument EWI.

1991 Lindeborg/Johansson Duo starts, which also focuses on acoustic piano, saxophone and sound design. In the middle of the 90th among other things touring in Sweden with another duo in older style - alto sax player Lee Konitz/piano player Peggy Stern.

At the end of the 90th and beginning of 2000 computers had become powerful enough and programming useful for live performance, so now Ove starts to work with computers live. Now it is possible to make live and improvised music in a more electro acoustic way.

2001 the trio Natural Artefacts is formed (Per Anders Nilsson, Ove Johansson, Susanna Lindeborg) first as a research project at the Academy for music and drama at Gothenburg University with Per Anders Nilsson as research leader. Here Ove uses live electronics together with the others using programmes like MAX/MSP and Ableton Live. The music develops into a more free direction and mixes acoustics with live electronics and live sampling. They collaborate also with video artist Jim Berggren with live control of computer animated art, where the sounding material controls the movements and changes of the video art. Here the computer acts like a wholly intergrated and improvising musical instrument and they use different algorithmes and blocks as a base for improvisation with compositions, loose structures, sound files that create ambient room, real time sampling of free improvisations etc.

Natural Artefacts has since then toured a lot internationally, USA; Cuba, France, Portugal among other places and performed both in Jazz och New Music contexts.

The development of Mwendo Dawa (Susanna Lindeborg, piano, laptop, Ove Johansson tenorsax, EWI, laptop, Jimmi Roger Pedersen, bass, laptop, David Sundby, drums) has also gone more towards free improvisation where computers act in an improvisational way together with the acoustic instrumentens. Sound files with sounds designed like over tone series sampled down to listenable area, live electronics mixed with free improvisation of acoustic instruments and

computers. Whenever they use compositions as a base for improvisation Mwendo Dawa started to use twelve tone technique to get away from a harmonic center. After a performance in Edmonton, Canada, a listener approached and said: But you are improvising with twelve tone technique! He showed to be a music professor specialised on twelve tone technique.

Since 2001 Ove Johansson has shared his time between Mwendo Dawa, Natural Artefacts, Lindeborg/Johansson Duo and his own solo performances. Tours in USA, Germany, UK, France, Portugal and Sweden.

To the contrary to a lot of other musicians Ove has been concentrating on his own groups. All to be able to have time to develop his music and concentrate on experimenting with new forms and expression with the mix of acoustics and electronics.

2010 Ove wanted presented his fifth solo album, where the music was acoustically totally improvised with free electronics and electro acoustic sound files mixed. September 2010 "Coast" was released with tenor sax, EWI and electronics. A lot of good reviews in Sweden in newspapers like SvD, Music magazines like Musikindustrin and Lira, French Jazz Hot, German JazzPodium, Finnish Jazzrytmit, Hungarian Gondola.

In October 2010 a CD with Lindeborg/Johansson Duo, "Thoughtful World", was released also praised in several of these papers. Duon has also moved into a completely free improvising concept together with electro acoustics. The CDs you can find on playlists like: SRs Jazzlandet, Mitt i Musiken, Kalejdoskop/Sweden, Musikradion/DR New Jazz, Danmark/Polish Jazzradio/BRF, Belgium, Germany/Tarans freejazz, Radiojazz 34, France/UKJazzradio, Australia, UK/Radio Unerhört, Radio T, Germany/WMPG, Portland, WNUR, Chicago, USA etc etc....

Since 2009 Ove Johansson has collaborated with regional music organisations for presenting concerts with new and improvised music with his own group as well as other invited groups and artist. Several of those have been streamed live over Internet. A tour to China with Mwendo Dawa 2009 and a performance at Nine Gate Jazz festival in Beijing.

Concerts in Sweden during 2010 with Natural Artefacts, Mwendo Dawa and the duo.

During 2011 concerts with Lindeborg/Johansson duo in Sweden, as well as a couple of concerts in New York and Portland. Mwendo Dawa has also been touring, recorded a couple of video concerts and went into studio recording a new CD "Mwendo Dawa Music" released 2012.

2012 -2015 Ove has been a curator together with Susanna Lindeborg in cooperation with med Culture in Halland for the music series INES to present new music. 2014 a tour to California, Bay Area with Natural Artefacts and CD release with the quartet Sudden Meeting and one with Natural Artefacts. The last concert was with Mwendo Dawa on Umeå Jazz festival in October 2015. The concert was recorded live and broadcasted by SR P2 Live.

A CD box of 7 CDs presenting his work with sounddesign, improvisations and compositions with tenorsax and EWI released 2015 just before his passing away.

Some important performances with Mwendo Dawa:

Montreux Jazzfestival, Schweiz (video recording, LP recording)

Northsea JazzFestival, Den Haag (LP recording)

Montreal Jazzfestival (radio)

Mardel Jazz, Buenos Aires (radio, TV)

Middelheim Jazzfestival, Belgien (radio, TV)

Prag Jazzfestival (radio, TV)
Jazz nad Odra, Wroclaw, Polen twice
Ljubljana Jazzfestival (TV)
Kongsberg Jazzfestival, Norway
Vossa Jazz, Norway
Nattjazzen, Bergen, Norway
Umeå Jazzfestival, Sweden
Coutance Jazzfestival, France
Leverkusen Jazzfestival, Germany
Barbican Centre, London
S:t Peters Church, New York (video recording)
Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium FN building, New York
Keystone Korner, San Francisco
Stanford University, CA, USA
Sweet Basil, New York
New York Jazz center
Jazz Times Convention, New York
Musée de l'Art Modern, Paris
RadioFrance concert + live radio, Paris
Berlin Jazzfestival (radio, TV)
Vilnius Jazzfestival, Lithuania (TV)
S:t Petersburgfestival, Russia (TV)
Höchst Orgelsommer, Frankfurt (CD recording)
Nine Gates Jazzfestival Beijing (radio, TV)

Tours or concerts in concert halls, jazz clubs, smaller festivals etc in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Faroe Islands, Russia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Tjeckia, Slovakia, Holland, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Canada, USA, Argentina, England, Portugal, China.

Some important performances with Natural Artefacts:

ICMC Primavera la Habana, Cuba
CNMAT, Berkeley University, CA
Sonic Circuit festival, Berklee Boston
CARMA, Stanford University, CA
Electronic Music Foundation, (Judson Church), New York
Universitetet i Aveiro, Portugal
Buffalo University
ICMC Gothenburg
Swedish Jazz Celebration, Stockholm (radio recording)
Cobis Place, New York twice, once with Lindeborg/Johansson Duo

Tours or concerts in Sweden, Portugal, France, Cuba, USA.

Other activities:

End of the 60th-1972 teacher of saxophone and ensemble at Ljungskile Music School.
1972 -2004 professor of saxophone, ensemble and harmony at the Academy of music and drama in Gothenburg. Several workshops and master classes with Mwendu Dawa, with the duo and with Natural Artefacts especially at some American Universities and Berklee School of Music in Boston.

Arts grants:

Has received several arts grants from STIM and the Swedish Arts Grants Committee. Gothenburg City Art grant 1983, in his home town he has received the Arts grant 2001 from the news magazine Hallandsposten, 2013 Region Halland's Culture price.

Radio performances:

SR/Sweden, NRK/Norway, DRK/Denmark, Radio France, Hilversum/Netherlands, Radio Berlin/DDR, WDR/Germany, Radio Bremen/Germany, Radio i Poland, former Checkoslovakia, former Yugoslavia, radio in Montreal and Vancouver, Canada, radio in Buenos Aires Argentina, NDR/Germany, Deutschlandfunk/Germany, Hessischer Rundfunk/Germany, Tjeckia.

TV performances:

SVT/Sweden, NDR/Germany, Belgien TV from Antwerp, former Yugoslavia, former Checkoslovakia, former Sovjet -Leningrad, TV/DDR, Lithuania TV, Switzerland TV, France TV, TV in Montreal Canada, TV in Buenos Aires Argentina, WDR/Germany, Berlin West TV/Germany. + a lot of interviews in local and national radio stations.

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A TV film is made about Mwendo Dawa 1997-1998 in Sweden. Both documentary and live.

Interviews in OrkesterJournalen/Sweden. Gränslöst/Sweden. Jazz Hot/France,

Discografics with Mwendo Dawa:

"Basic Lines"	Sonet SLP2634	(1978 rec Göteborg)
"Live at Montreux"	Dragon DRLP28	(1979 live rec Montreux)
"Mwendo Dawa80"	Dragon DRLP30	(1980 rec Stockholm)
"Free Lines"	Dragon DRLP33	(1981 rec Stockholm)
"New York Lines"	Dragon DRLP41	(1982 rec New York)
"Four Voices"	Dragon DRLP47	(1983 rec Kungälv)
"Street Lines"	Dragon DRLP72	(1983 rec Stockholm)
"Street Lines"	Move Records, UK	(licenced 1984)
"Mwendo Dawa at Northsea Jazzf"	Dragon DRLP78	(1984 live rec den Haag)
"City Beat"	Dragon DRLP92	(1985 rec Getinge)
"Dimensions"	Dragon DRLP123	(1986 rec Sollentuna)
"Human Walk"	Dragon DRLP155	(1987 rec New York)
"Live is here again"	LJ Records LJCD5203	(1991 rec Denmark)
"The New Scene"	LJ Records LJCD5208	(1993 rec Göteborg)
"Enter the outloop"	LJ Records LJCD5211	(1995 rec Halmstad)
"Breathing Clusters"	LJ Records LJCD5217	(1998 rec Halmstad)
"Live in Göteborg"	LJ Records LJCD5225	(2001 live rec Göteborg)
"time sign"	LJ Records LJCD5234	(2003 rec Göteborg)
"Live at Fasching"	LJ Records LJCD5244	(2006 live rec Stockholm)
"Mwendo Dawa Orgelsommer 2007"	Infraserve Europeischer Jazz CHM1042	(2007 live rec Frankfurt)
"A taste of four free minds"	LJRecords LJCD5248	(2009 rec Mölndal)
"Mwendo Dawa Music"	LJRecords LJCD5256	(2012 insp Göteborg)

with Lindeborg/Johansson Duo:

"Bright Openings"	LJRecords LJCD5204	(1992 rec Getinge)
"Structures"	LJRecords LJCD5222	(1999 rec Göteborg)
"Lines"	LJRecords LJCD5240	(2006 rec Steninge)
"Thoughtful World"	LJRecords LJCD5253	(2010 rec Steninge)

with Natural Artefacts:

"Natural Artefacts"	LJRecords LJCD5228	(2001 rec Göteborg)
"Like Jazz"	LJRecords LJCD5241	(2006 rec Steninge)
"California Connection"	LJRecords LJCD5258	(2014 rec Berkeley, CA)

with Sudden Meeting:

"Sudden Meeting"	LJRecords LJCD5257	(2014 rec Göteborg)
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solo:

"Ove Johansson solo"	LJRecords LJCD5202	(1989 rec Getinge)
"In a different World"	LJRecords LJCD5214	(1997 rec Getinge)
"Logic steps"	LJRecords LJCD5231	(2002 rec Steninge)
"Music from Steninge"	LJRecords LJCD5239	(2005 rec Steninge)
"Coast"	LJRecords LJCD5251	(2010 rec Steninge)
"Ove Johansson Tenorsaxophone Solo 7CD"	LJRecords LJCD5259	(2015 rec Steninge)

with Enar Jonsson group:

Enar Jonsson grupp	Anagram CD09	(2005 rec 1965-69)
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with Göteborgs Musikkvartett:

"Göteborgs Musikkvartett"	SJR LPS-3	(1974 rec Göteborg)
"Aftara"	LIM LP75-2	(1975 rec Göteborg)

with Göteborgs Kammarkör:

"Röster i mänskligt landskap"	Proprius 250402-008	(1971 rec Göteborg)
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Home pages:

www.lj-records.se/ove.html

www.youtube.com/artelljay

Home page Mwendo Dawa:

www.lj-records.se/mwendo.html

www.youtube.com/user/MwendoDawaClassic

Home page Lindeborg/Johansson Duo:

www.lj-records.se/duo.html

Home page Natural Artefacts:

www.myspace.com/naturalartefacts

All of LJ Records CDs lies on Naxosclassiconline. If you want to listen, search for Ove Johansson:

www.classiconline.com/LJ_Records/

Complete concert with Natural Artefacts July 2010 Mjellby Art Museum on:

<http://vimeo.com/13109511>