

For over thirty years, Helge Albin has been working hard to turn the the small Swedish city of Malmo into an international destination for the best in forward-thinking jazz music. And he has a lot to show for it—The Tolvan Big Band, an award-winning 18-member ensemble dedicated to performing new music by Albin and others has toured in Europe, Australia and South America, and worked with jazz masters Dizzy Gillespie, Dave Liebman, and Michael Brecker, among many others.

The ensemble has released twelve recordings, four of them featuring Albin's music. All About Jazz said the most recent album of Albin's music, *Effortlessly*, released in 2013 by the Swedish label Kopasetic, tells a "nuanced story full of twists and suspense" through the intricate details of the compositions. "I've always wanted the big band to play with the flexibility of a quartet," Albin says about how he leads the band, "So, I chose players who play creatively even as they are reading sophisticated parts." And it has paid off. The Tolvan Big Band performs polished ensemble music with the personality of a small group—they are light on their feet even when the band's 18 members are playing at full power.

This veteran saxophonist, composer and bandleader is not slowing down. Since retiring from his professorship at Malmo Academy of Music, Albin has renewed his commitment to his creative work and continues to initiate new projects. And as he does, his warmth of personality, his finely-honed skill, and his enthusiasm for his art form will be at the core of everything this creative musician undertakes.