

# GUSHPANKA

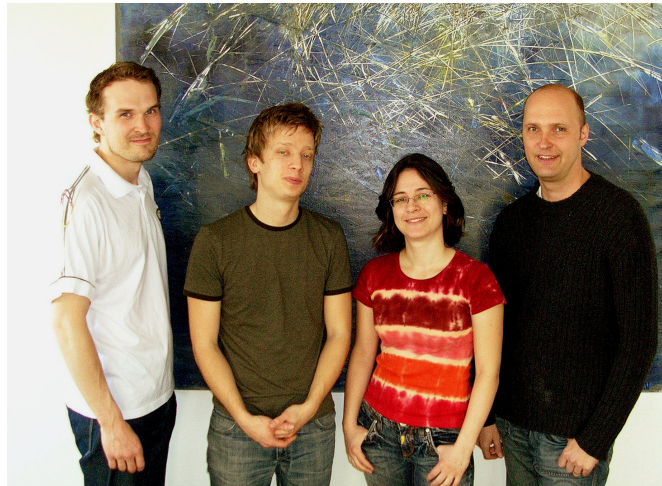
**/Sweden – Israel – Finland/**

**Jonas Knutsson – sax**

**Ira Mogilevsky – piano, composition**

**Clas Lassbo – bass**

**Tuomas Ojala – drums, composition**



***"... expressive and impassioned music for open ears..."***

***"...uttrycksfull och passionerad musik som ställer krav på öppna öron..."***

Nya Wermlands-Tidningen, [www.nwt.se](http://www.nwt.se)

***"...Melodic, but also complex and open-minded..."***

All About Jazz

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## Press release

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"Gushpanka" is an old Aramaic word that means "approval", "seal", "imprint".

The band has started by Israeli piano player Ira Mogilevsky and Finish drummer Tuomas Ojala. They discovered each other in Stockholm in 2002 and began to play together.

Before the band got its present shape and name Ira and Tuomas collaborated with such brilliant musicians as Fredrik Ljungkvist, Nils Ömedal, Mats Aleklind, Putte Frick Meijer. They performed during the years on number of jazz venues in Scandinavia, among them: Umeå International Jazz Festival, Kaamos Jazz Festival, Kallott jazz and Blues Festival and more.

In 2005 the saxophone player Jonas Knutsson and bass player Clas Lassbo joined the group. The contribution of these two wonderful musicians influenced the whole development of the band very much. The crystallization of the own musical "imprint" became more and more remarkable, so the new name "Gushpanka" matched it very naturally.

The source of Gushpanka's band unique "gushpanka" is not only in playing original compositions, but mostly in their belief in the timeless power of melody and rhythm. Disappearance of these two obvious "kings" in the ocean of nowadays music experimental tendencies often breaks a string between a musician and his audience.

Gushpanka's - vision modern jazz is keeping this string alive by combining a constant search for the new expressions with clear melodic and rhythmical statements. The own contemporary language of Gushpanka is based on organic mixture of music styles. It has absorbed the phrasing of be-bop and modal jazz, conceptual approach to the composition of modern classical chamber music, unpredictability of free improvisation and avant-garde.

The debut album of Gushpanka is built in the same way as their live performances. By gradually changing waves of different atmospheres it takes the listener up and down from expressive and "crazy" rhythmical pieces to melodic and lyrical ballads; from open free improvised places to very structured organized parts; from simplicity to complexity. This concept of "waves" is working on the general level for the whole album and on the sub-level for the stand-alone compositions. In some compositions of Gushpanka the structure of "waves" has also a function of setting esthetic proportions between an emotional flow and the general form of a composition. In other words it doesn't limit or diminish the flow, but makes it meaningful and directed.

The Gushpanka album was released in 2007 on Apart Records label in Sweden, produced by Joakim Milder.

Additional information and music examples on:

[www.mindoors.com](http://www.mindoors.com) or [www.myspace.com/gushpanka](http://www.myspace.com/gushpanka)

For the CD and booking, please, contact: [ira@minddoors.com](mailto:ira@minddoors.com) phone: 0046 73-7604722 Ira

## **release details**

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**CD Titel :** Gushpanka  
**artist:** Gushpanka  
**release date:** 2007-10-11  
**recode label:** Apart Records  
**released in:** Sweden  
**producers:** Joakim Milder and Gushpanka

**Catalogue number:** APCD009  
**ISRC code :** SEAPT07002  
**NCB/BIEM, STIM, SAMI registered:** yes

### **members of the band:**

Ira Mogilevsky, piano, composition (tracks 1-6,9)  
Jonas Knutsson, soprano and alto saxophone  
Clas Lassbo, bass  
Tuomas Ojala, drums, composition (tracks 7,8,10)

**number of tracks:** 10  
**total time:** 53:00

**recorded and mixed:** February 2007, by Göran Stegborn, SAMI  
**mastered:** Christofer Stannow, Cosmos mastering  
**original cover and photos by:** Ekaterina Sisfontes, [www.sis-ka.com](http://www.sis-ka.com)

### **distribution:**

**exclusive Swedish distributor:** [www.plugged.se](http://www.plugged.se)

### **contact info:**

**website:** [www.mindoors.com](http://www.mindoors.com)  
**my space:** [www.myspace.com/gushpanka](http://www.myspace.com/gushpanka)  
**e-mail:** [ira@mindoors.com](mailto:ira@mindoors.com)  
**phone from abroad :** 00 46 73 7604722 (Ira Mogilevsky),  
**in Sweden:** 073-7604722

press release PDF and pictures of the CD cover and the band are available to download from [www.mindoors.com/gushpanka.htm](http://www.mindoors.com/gushpanka.htm)

## About the musicians

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### Ira Mogilevsky (piano)

Born in Russia in 1975, Israeli resident since 1991. Ira lives in Stockholm since 2002. She is a graduate of both the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Stockholm Royal College of Music where she studied jazz-piano, composition, electro acoustic music and music for movies.

She performs with her music on many jazz venues and festivals around Israel and Scandinavia and also composes music for movies and theater. Among the musicians Ira played with:

Fredrik Ljungqvist, Nils Ölmedal, Christian Spering, David Wilzchevsky, Lars Göran Ulander, Jair Rohm Parker Wells, Vlad Nedelin and many others.

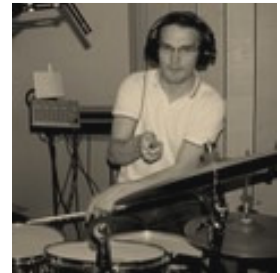


### Tuomas Ojala (drums)

Was born in Finland. Studied drums at Sibelius Academy of Music in Helsinki, Copenhagen Rhythmic Music Conservatory, Stockholm Royal College of Music and Berlin Conservatory.

Among his teachers Ed Thigpen, Ronaldo Silva, Adam Nussbaum, Raymond Strid.

Performed at the Copenhagen Jazz Festival, was touring in Lithuania with Cit Bike Trio and in Germany with The Audio Vandals. Played with "Gosh" trio in Copenhagen and "Los Cocodrillos" on Swedish Jazz Celebration, in Stockholm with Fredrik Ljungqvist trio, performed in North Europe with WAIT and many others.



### Jonas Knutsson (saxophones)



Was born in 1965. He studied in the late 70s with the American saxophonist Sahib Shihab who was then living in Denmark. Later he worked with the Indian tabla player Fazal Querishi, the American bassist Tom Kennedy and the fusion bands Cabazz and Mynta.

He started his own group Jonas Knutsson Band and worked together with pianist Bobo Svensson and keyboard specialist Mats Öberg.

He has also been one of the leaders for world-music projects such as the Stockholm Folk Big Band and the World Music Laboratory.

In France he is known as a member of drummer/composer Bertrand Renaudin's project "l'arbre voyage", a group which plays French jazz with influences of folk music. He has also written a Festival Suite on commission from the Gothenburg Jazz Festival as well as chamber music.

Jonas to date has recorded five CDs as leader and taken part in around 100 CDs as a sideman together with Scandinavian jazz, folk and pop artists.

### Clas Lassbo (bass)



Was born in Falun, Sweden 1983. In spite of his young age he quickly became one of the most requested bass players in Stockholm in the field of jazz, pop and folk music.

Clas studied at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm. He plays different bands with Jonas Knutsson, Nils Berg, Alberto Pinton and others.

Have performed at several clubs, concert halls and festivals in Sweden and Scandinavia for example FORUM, New Sound Made Festival, Nya Perspektiv Festival, Swedish Jazz Celebration, Jazzkaar in Tallinn.

## **Swedish press about Gushpanka**

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**Olle Hernegren, NWT.SE, Sweden, Publicerad: 2007-11-09**

Gushpanka - namnet är hebreiska och betyder ungefär varumärke - bildades 2002 av israeliska pianisten Ira Mogilevski och finske trumslagaren Tuomas Ojala. Sedan 2005 finns också saxofonisten Jonas Knutsson och basisten Clas Lassbo i det multikulturella bandet.

Musiken, komponerad av Mogilevski och Ojala, ger stor frihet för improvisatörerna. Det pendlar mellan stämningar som är lyriskt meditativa, kaotiskt fria eller gungande svängiga. Jonas Knutsson har en bakgrund i den folkmusikinfluerade jazzen, och han har här en bärande roll på tenor- och sopransaxofon tillsammans med Mogilevskis kraftfulla pianospel. Det är uttrycksfull och passionerad musik som ställer krav på öppna öron.

## **International press about Gushpanka**

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“All About Jazz”:



“.....impressive evidence of the talents of this quartet and its composer. Melodic, but also complex and open-minded.”

“...album features the quartet in flowing, developing modes. The music moves between the rhythmic explosion of “Algo-Rhythm,” through the caressing “South Of The North” and on to the almost Latin-tinged “Counter Reset,” back to the cerebral and chamber-like austerity of “Prelude V” and on again to the sweetly emotional “Fantaskig...”

by Eyal Reuveni

link to a complete article: [www.allaboutjazz.com/php/article.php?id=28511](http://www.allaboutjazz.com/php/article.php?id=28511)

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**Steve Arloff, Musicweb International (UK)**

read the whole review on : [www.musicweb-international.com/jazz/2008/Gushpanka\\_APCD009.htm](http://www.musicweb-international.com/jazz/2008/Gushpanka_APCD009.htm)

"Jazz has a great future when it resides in hands like these. I recommend this disc wholeheartedly."

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**Pascal Ansell, DISKANT (Scotland)**

read the whole review on : [www.diskant.net/blog/2008/05/24/gushpanka-gushpanka/](http://www.diskant.net/blog/2008/05/24/gushpanka-gushpanka/)

"Even after many, many listens, there are still plenty to explore in 'Gushpanka' - a remarkable album of original compositions with tons of depth. It's endlessly diverse: ballads, songs bordering on free-jazz, pumped-up rhythmic pieces... An aural joy for tired-out modern ears."