

**JazzSick Records Presents:**

**Elisabeth Lohninger Band Featuring Axel & Walter Fischbacher**  
*Christmas In July*  
Available 11/15/2011

Elisabeth Lohninger, voice  
Axel Fischbacher, guitar  
Walter Fischbacher, piano  
Johannes Weidenmueller, bass  
Ulf Stricker, drums



Vocalist Elisabeth Lohninger, in collaboration with guitarist Axel Fischbacher and pianist Walter Fischbacher, has chosen twelve songs from disparate corners of the world in nine different languages to create an international cornucopia of Christmas music. At times joyful, at times pensive but always hopeful, the set is firmly rooted in the jazz idiom.

“Christmas is a significant holiday in numerous parts of the world. In countries as far-flung as Japan and Brazil people celebrate Christmas with songs in their native language: folk songs, songs written for church and even pop songs,” says Lohninger. “I chose the songs on this CD because they resonate with me - especially around that time of year: they are a harbinger of light, hope and life.”

In a career that has taken her from the slopes of the Austrian alps, where she sang folk songs as a young girl, to jazz clubs, concert halls and the stages of international jazz festivals, vocalist **Elisabeth Lohninger** has proven herself to be a powerful and elusive talent. Growing up in a small Austrian mountain village (population 25), Lohninger started singing in school and church choirs. At the age of six, she joined her two sisters in what would become a nationally renowned vocal group specializing in the songs of her homeland. Driven by her musical curiosity, she soon ventured in other directions and studied classical music and jazz, finishing her studies with a Masters degree in music and English Language and Literature. In 1994, Lohninger relocated to New York and has released seven albums since then. Lohninger is a faculty member at the renowned New School Jazz University in New York, where she teaches voice and Ear Training.

*"Lohninger shapes an adventurous but accessible session that ideally showcases her voice. Dark and dense as blackberries yet lustrous as pearls, it is a stunning instrument that deserves smart, sympathetic support."* — Christopher Loudon, Jazz Times

Award-winning guitarist **Axel Fischbacher** has been a major player in the German jazz scene for many years. His career spans thirty CD projects as a side man, six as a band leader and numerous tours throughout Germany, the USA and Canada. He has worked with Danny Gottlieb, Mark Egan, Adam Nussbaum, Marc Johnson, Michael Urbaniak, Annie Whitehead and Ingrid Jensen, among others. In addition to his solo work Fischbacher has scored numerous TV shows and movies and, from 1993 to 1999, taught at the Swiss Jazz-School in Bern. He is the curator of two beloved concert series: Jazz Attack in Krefeld and Blue Monday in Hilden.

*"Axel Fischbacher is, what we call a "cleaner" in guitarist language; a guitarist who creates his solos with great force and consequence, who challenges himself to the utmost. This force is juxtaposed with a deep sensitivity towards playing ballads. An important ingredient in combining traditional jazz with modern influences."* — Roman Schwaller

New York-based pianist & keyboard player **Walter Fischbacher**'s most recent studio release "Proove That!" (2009, Lofish Music) has been called "inspired" and "super funky" by jazz reviews on both sides of the Atlantic. Fischbacher, who has worked with jazz luminaries such as Randy Brecker, George Garzone, Ingrid Jensen, Wolfgang Muthspiel, Chico Freeman, Tim Lefebvre, Joel Rosenblatt and the Vienna Art Orchestra, is originally from Austria. He studied classical piano in Vienna from 1985 -'90, and jazz piano and composition 1990 -'94 at the Conservatory of Vienna. Fischbacher relocated to New York in 1994, where he, in addition to his work as a musician, manages his own recording studio and leads his band, "Phishbacher". He draws from a vast musical background encompassing not only classical piano repertoire but also the music of jazz piano greats such as Herbie Hancock and Chick Corea.

*"Colorful and sci-fi influenced, dusted and ready for the future. Appealing, fluid fusion with a multitude of facets."* — Jazz Podium/Germany

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