



Frank Kvinge *Gaucho Batuta* with Johnny Frigo, Howard Levy, Paul Wertico, Larry Kohut and others

Frank Kvinge moved back home to Norway in 2002. However, he made sure he first finished recording "Gaucho Batuta" with some of the musicians that he had played with during his years in Chicago.

Frank moved to Chicago in 1989 on completion of his music education in LA. He was met with open arms amongst the city's musicians and he was privileged to play with some of the legends that we have heard playing with Charlie Parker, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and others.

Chicago's nr. 1 guitarist at the time, Bobby Roberts very much liked Frank and his playing and helped get him into Frank Sinatra's Orchestra where he got to play with Bob Hope, Patti Page and others (1989), but without a "green card" this work soon ended.

In 1990, Frank had his own jazz band touring around the Chicago area.

During the years he had about 500 blues gigs with Son Seals, Otis Clay and others. For a period he played country music in country bars, 4 sets per evening, 5 days a week. He got recognition in Nashville magazines for playing country as well as anyone in Nashville. To add to this, he even played with different rock bands with members from "Smashing Pumkins" to "Styx".

In 1994 Frank got fed up playing with the stars (they always ended up with all the money) and got in contact with an R & B band with members from "The Pat Metheny Band" and "Survivor". They played the big festivals and the stadiums in and around the Chicago area and finally Frank received good payment for his work. This made it possible for him to find time to work on his own arrangements and songs.

In 1995 by coincidence Frank discovered a music book with Brazilian Choro music. This book became his revelation and he describes the experiences as "seeing a beautiful flower for the first time". Choro (little cry/little lament) traditionally called Chorinho was Brazilian popular

music before Samba and Bossa Nova. The Choro composers were often classically trained like Ernesto Nazareth. Even Villa Lobos played with Ernesto Nazareth's Orchestra at the Odeon music theatre. The song "Odeon" from 1911 is a tribute to this theatre. Even though Choro is a kind of Brazilian blues, some of the music can be rather happy and played at full speed.

Frank was careful not to listen to the original music from this book. He wanted to stretch his talent, imagining what it could sound like. He spent hours upon hours learning the songs and making his own arrangements of some of them. One of these arrangements was picked up by a TV commercial that was broadcast for ten days during the festival "Taste of Chicago" on 30-40 TV channels.

Since 1997, every Thursday in a Tapas bar in Forest Park a little outside of Chicago centre, you could hear Frank and his musical friends playing this Choro music. It was these gigs with these musicians that led to the recording of Gaucho Batuta.

When he moved back home to Norway in 2002, Frank immediately asked Jan Erik Kongshaug at Rainbow Studio to mix the album. Jan Erik was so enthusiastic for the project that he wanted to perform it live. Jan Erik picked up his bass, they found a drummer and they played a lot of club dates in and around Oslo. This music had never officially been released, but on hearing it I really wanted to release it on Losen Records. When I asked Jan Erik to master the album he was happy and with the same enthusiasm as 10 years ago he is now encouraging Frank to get back into playing club dates.

Since his return to Norway, Frank has released Small Stories (2006) and Solo Guitar with the music of Grieg (2007) on The Ponca Jazz label and two CD's for Losen Records; Arctic Skyway (2011) and Wild Birds, collaboration with the singer Synnøve Rognlien (2012).

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MusikkLosen
 Tel. + 47 22 19 82 82
 Fax. + 47 22 19 81 82
 odd@musikklosen.no
 www.musikklosen.no
 www.loosenrecords.no