

## AAMOS caravan

- Debut CD from the Shetland/Norway folk trio AAMOS

Every now and again a traditional folk band comes along that raises the stakes and takes the music a step further, not just putting old wine in new bottles, but actually subtly changing the infusion itself. Such is the case with **AAMOS**, the Shetland-Norwegian trio whose debut CD *Caravan* is now released.

The material is chiefly traditional Shetland fiddle tunes, with the addition of some memorable self-penned ones that, like the band itself, bridge the gap between these Nordic next-door neighbours. The fiddle-playing is top-notch – you would expect no less from a line-up featuring the likes of Kevin Henderson, globetrotting whizz kid of Shetland fiddling, renowned from such bands as **Boys of the Lough**, **Fiddler's Bid** and **Session A9**: and Mark Laurenson, a finalist in the Scottish Traditional Young Folk Musician of the Year 2003 and co-founder of Shetland's foremost "spree band", **Fullsceilidh Spelemannslag**. Together they are a powerhouse, able to ratchet up your heartbeat on the fast tunes – and stop it almost dead on the slow ones with their poise and passion.

But there's more to this than mere youthful virtuosity. Whether **AAMOS** are playing hell-for-leather reels or breathtakingly beautiful bridal tunes, there is a Scandinavian ambience here that makes even the familiar tunes sound like new discoveries. This is not least due to the exquisite guitar playing of the trio's Norwegian member, Vidar Skrede. One of Scandinavia's foremost young folk musicians, known from such bands as **Geitungen**, **Secret Carpet Club**, **Vidar Skrede DYNAMO BAND** and **the Great Norwegian Guitar Quartet**, Vidar is a gifted fiddler himself, and his DADGAD guitar, whether fast and furious or lyrically laidback, shows an inventive understanding of the tunes that makes the term "accompaniment" rather a misnomer. The guitar is upfront, calling the shots along with the fiddles.

"Aamos" is a Shetland dialect word meaning "a gift promised in the hope that a wish will be granted to the donor". With their debut CD *Caravan*, **AAMOS** have more than honoured their promise. We can only hope that it is their wish to regale us with more of their unique music.

- Richard Burgess



Artist: **AAMOS**  
Album title: **Caravan**  
Label: **Nordic Stomp**  
Catalogue nr: **NOSTCD002**  
EAN nr: **0013964616781**  
Official release date: **July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011**

Nr:	Title:	Time:	ISRC:
1	Green Grow Da Rushes	03:09	F18NS1100012
2	Doon Da Rooth	03:45	F18NS1100013
3	Eternal Lea	03:49	F18NS1100014
4	Da Westside Brides March	03:08	F18NS1100015
5	David's Waltz	03:13	F18NS1100016
6	Scallowa	02:05	F18NS1100017
7	Papa Hopsar!	04:07	F18NS1100018
8	Da Greenland Man's	03:09	F18NS1100019
9	Sandy	03:33	F18NS1100020
10	Vals	03:34	F18NS1100021

Total disc time: 40:55

**AAMOS** are:

Mark Laurenson (Shetland) – *fiddle and mandolin*

Kevin Henderson (Shetland) – *fiddle*

Vidar Skrede (Norway) – *guitar & stomp board*

## Short biography:

**Kevin Henderson** comes from the Shetland Islands, an island with one of the richest fiddle traditions in the world. He began playing the fiddle at the age of 9 and studied briefly with highly regarded Shetland fiddler, Trevor Hunter before receiving tuition with the late Willie Hunter, one of Shetlands finest ever fiddlers. He is a founding member of award winning Shetland group, Fiddlers' Bid, formed in 1991, has been a member of folk music legends, Boys of the Lough, since 2002, a member of Scottish super group, Session A9, since 2004 and recently helped co-found the Nordic trio, The Nordic Fiddlers Bloc. He has appeared on television and radio programmes worldwide, including the BBC and Garrison Keillor's American radio program, "A Prairie Home Companion." He has been featured on 15 albums to date.

**Mark Laurenson** (from Shetland) is a fiddle and mandolin player who started playing at the age of 8. His background is deeply rooted in the traditional fiddle music from the Shetland Isles. His most influential teachers were Willie Hunter and Davie Keith (one founder member of fiddlers bid). In 1999, Mark won the 'Shetland Young Fiddler of the Year' and in 2003 he was a finalist in the 'BBC Scottish Traditional Young Musician of the Year'. Mark is a founder member of the Shetland 'high-octane' party band Fullsceilidh Spelemannslag, member of folk rock outfit Drop the Box, and is much in demand as a soloist. Mark has also collaborated with Jenna Reid (Filska), Ewen Robertson (Brebach), Anna Massie, Erland Viken (Early Bird String Band), Andreas Berg (Vestlandsfanden), Åshild Vettrhus (Tindra) and Richard Burgess (foghorn and Doggerland). Mark has appeared on both Scottish TV and radio with bands and as a soloist. Mark also writes tunes and some of these were used as the musical soundtrack to the comedy DVD 'It's nice up North' by Graham Fellows aka 'John Shuttleworth'.

**Vidar Skrede** (from Haugesund, Norway) is a freelance Nordic folk musician on guitar, harding fiddle, fiddle and bouzouki. He has a background in the traditional music from Rogaland (South West of Norway) and has a master degree in Nordic folk music at the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm. Vidar is known from bands like Vidar Skrede DYNAMO BAND (with Pilvi Talvitie and Jani Kivelä from Tsuumi Sound System), Geitungen, The Secret Carpet Club (with Emma Johansson from Eter, Seaquins, and Carl Nyqvist), The Great Norwegian Guitar Quartet (with Tore Bruvoll, Annar By and Øystein Sandbukt), og NOMAS. He has also performed with artists like Vegar Vårdal, Patrik Andersson, Frode Haltli, Stian Carstensen (from Farmers Market), Kristian Bugge (from Baltic Crossing), Niklas Roswall (from Ranarim), Zar (DK), Bodega (UK), and Sver (NO). Vidar has appeared on national television in Norway and Iceland, and been heard on radio in all the Nordic countries and USA, which includes two live radio concerts at NRK P2 in Studio 19. Vidar has released CD's like "Geitungen – Vaniljesaus" 2001, "Geitungen – Bra Kast" Grappa 2005 (awarded at the Norwegian Folk Music Awards), "NOMAS – flow" 2009, "Vidar Skrede DYNAMO BAND – Organic Polska" EP 2009, "The Secret Carpet Club – Popular Music from Scandinavia" EP 2009, "Geitungen – Langt Ute" Grappa 2010 (nominated at the Norwegian Folk Music Awards). Vidar is a coveted musician on the Nordic folk music scene and a popular tune writer – his compositions are played and recorded by bands like Fiddlers' Bid and Blazing Fiddles besides with his own projects.

## Selected reviews:

### Trio of excellent musicians make their own luck with fine album

#### *Caravan* by Aamos on Nordic Stomp.

*Excerpt from review of the album Caravan - October 20th, 2011 by Shetland Times*

"... One of the many positive things that strikes you on a first listen to the CD is the quality and clarity of the recording (in Oslo) and final mix (in Helsinki). Excellent musicians in their own right, these three are very tuned in to each other's playing — to coin a cliché, the final product is greater than the sum of the individual parts. The mood can swing from deliberate and delicate to thoroughly energetic, while still keeping a lovely clean sound, with every sign of enjoyment as well.

Although Mark and Kevin now live outwith Shetland, they are living musical proof of the old saying "you can takk da man oot o' da isles, but you canna takk da isles oot o' da man". A large majority of the tracks are Shetland tunes, mostly traditional, with titles carefully researched and credited in the sleeve notes. However, Mark chips in with a couple of his own tunes, Eternal Lea and Karen's Fancy, and there's a track fast becoming a modern Shetland classic, David's Waltz, by Debbie Scott. I'm sure she'll have no quibbles about how these guys perform it. På Fetlar's Topp, a rollicking good tune from Vidar, is a tribute to a good gig and copious late-night hospitality in Fetlar.

I guess it's an open secret that I enjoy a good old-time Norwegian waltz, so when I spotted that track 10 was another of Vidar's tunes simply titled Vals, my thumb got busy on the CD player's skip button. Vals certainly isn't a "gamaldans" style waltz, and could have been written in a number of different countries, but it's plaintive, bonnie and addictive – my thumb still gets busy on the skip button, every time I put the disc in the player! A nice tune to finish the album.

Now, decision time. Are you feeling lucky? If so, you can simply wait, in the hope that someone lays an aamos on you, and lays a copy of Caravan secretly in your back door, when your luck rubs off on them. Or, if you don't believe in that old custom, head for one of the shops stocking Caravan, and cross their palms with silver, notes or major credit cards."

Maurice J Smith

"...music of high class"  
*www.hit.no, 2011-01-20*

---

**AAMOS** press, info & booking:  
[www.aamos-music.com](http://www.aamos-music.com) – [aamos.music@gmail.com](mailto:aamos.music@gmail.com)  
+44 7980574115 / +358 45 2344180 / +47 9927 5539

**Nordic Stomp** promo & distribution:  
[www.nordicstomp.com](http://www.nordicstomp.com) – [info@nordicstomp.com](mailto:info@nordicstomp.com)  
+358 45 2344180 / +47 9704 3178