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Varre Vartiainen with Mike Stern: Miked Up! (single)  
Genre: jazz, jazz fusion  
Release Format: digital  
Release Date: 16.8.2024

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[www.eclipse-music.net](http://www.eclipse-music.net)

[varrevartiainen.fi](http://varrevartiainen.fi)

Album release date: 8.11.2024

[mikestern.org](http://mikestern.org)



*"This guy is an amazing guitar player. Varre from Finland - incredible. I've known him for a while now. Especially recently we've got a chance to play a lot together and he plays his ass off!"*

- Mike Stern

### Head & Heart album lineup:

Varre Vartiainen, guitar, vocal  
Mike Stern, guitar, vocal  
Leni Stern, ngoni, vocal

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Visa Oscar, keyboard

Timo Hirvonen &amp; Juho Kivivuori, bass

Jukki Uotila &amp; Jussi Lehtonen, drums

Mongo Aaltonen, percussion

**Promotional copies by request!**

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## HEAD & HEART : VARRE VARTIAINEN WITH MIKE STERN

***Head & Heart* album is a surprising collaboration and friendship of two guitarists, which is a living example of the fact that jazz music is an universal language that unites players around the world.**

*Mike Stern, a living legend of fusion jazz and jazz guitar, is featured on guitarist Varre Vartiainen's new album. The joint album 'Head & Heart' by Vartiainen and Stern will be released in November 2024, preceded by three singles, the first of which, 'Miked Up!', will be available on streaming services on August 16.*

The upcoming album is a follow-up to Vartiainen's critically acclaimed 2021 release 'Almost Standards' (ECD-2021142) and will be available on vinyl, CD, and digitally. The album is being released by the Tampere-based label Eclipse Music. The music, which leans strongly towards the golden years of 1970s fusion jazz, is almost entirely composed by Vartiainen, but Stern also contributes significantly to the overall artistic vision of the album. Expect, of course, dazzling guitar performances from both lead musicians.

**Mike Stern** (b. 1953) hardly needs an introduction to jazz enthusiasts. According to Downbeat magazine, Stern is one of the greatest jazz guitarists of all time. He has had an illustrious career, playing with jazz icons such as **Miles Davis and Billy Cobham**, as well as **Blood, Sweat & Tears**. His list of collaborators includes the **Brecker Brothers, Jaco Pastorius, Steps Ahead** and **David Sanborn**, not to mention Stern's own extensive solo work. Throughout his career Stern has received six Grammy nominations, won the Orville W. Gibson Award in 1997 and was named 'Guitarist of the Year' by Guitar Player magazine in 1993.

Varre Vartiainen, on the other hand, has performed with numerous international stars, including **Angelique Kidjo, Thomas Ledin, Ed Motta, and Jim Beard**, as well as with high-profile orchestras such as **Espoo Big Band, UMO Helsinki Jazz Orchestra, Dallapé, Nylon Beat, and Leningrad Cowboys**.

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Hasselhoff Show, Idols, and the Plan Gala's

Vartiainen's prog / jazz fusion outfit Husband, together with drummer Anssi Nykänen, bassist Harri Rantanen and a fellow guitar slinger Marzi Nyman, has been actively performing at clubs and festivals for over 20 years and has released four albums. The latest of which was called 'Lauma', created in collaboration with Espoo Big Band, and released under the famed **Blue Note** label.

### **Varre Vartiainen with Mike Stern: Miked Up! (single version)**

**ISRC: FIECL2400188**

Composed by Varre Vartiainen

Varre Vartiainen, guitar, vocal

Mike Stern, guitar, vocal

Leni Stern, ngoni, vocal

Joonatan Rautio, saxophone

Severi Pyysalo, vibraphone

Visa Oscar, keyboard

Timo Hirvonen, bass

Jussi Lehtonen, drums

Mongo Aaltonen, percussion

Recorded by Jyri Sariola, Mimix Studio, Helsinki & Moto Fukushima, Little Shoes Studios, New York City

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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