
Turkis: Refined Jazz Violin

Bjarke Falgren's *Turkis*, released June 26, 2026, positions itself as a work of openness and horizon, yet its true strength lies in a disciplined refinement of language rather than in boundless exploration. The title refers to the color turquoise, for Falgren, a symbol of the line where sea meets sky, of possibility, movement, and the moment when control is relinquished and something unforeseen can emerge. It is also a personal marker: the color of his vintage 1963 Citroën ID19 and a gemstone traditionally associated with freedom, optimism, and wisdom.

A four-time Danish Music Award winner, Falgren has established himself as one of Scandinavia's most distinctive violin voices. Playing a nearly 300-year-old instrument, he approaches the violin with an almost vocal sensibility, privileging tone production and phrasing over virtuosic display. His concept of "breathing in the bow" is not merely poetic rhetoric, it translates into a supple, grain-rich sound that carries a distinct Nordic melancholy.

Falgren's lineage within jazz violin is notable: the legendary Svend Asmussen named him his musical heir and selected him as the first recipient of the Ellen & Svend Asmussen Prize in 2017. Yet *Turkis* looks less backward than inward. The melodic writing is direct and often disarmingly simple, supported by rhythmic undercurrents that draw from both jazz swing and folk pulse.



In ensemble passages, Falgren frequently relinquishes the spotlight, allowing the violin to function as texture or countervoice rather than dominant lead, an approach that subtly subverts the instrument's traditional role in jazz. Where the album convinces most is in its restraint. Falgren resists the temptation to dramatize, instead cultivating a slow-burning intensity that accumulates through repetition, silence, and micro-variation.

The quieter pieces, in particular, reveal a musician attentive to timbre and space, capable of sustaining tension without resorting to overt climaxes.

Turkis will be released both digitally and physically on Vinyl and CD through the label Zacks Talent. His first single *Rossignol* is already rotating weekly on danish radio.