

## Friends & Neighbors

**André Roligheten** – saxophones/clarinets/flute

**Thomas Johansson** – trumpet

**Oscar Grönberg** – piano

**Jon Rune Strøm** – double bass

**Tollef Østvang** – drums

*"Call it a neo-"New Thing" sensation"*  
(Josef Woodard/DownBeat Magazine)

<https://www.tollefostvang.com/project/friends-neighbors>

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsandneighborsmusic/>

<https://cleanfeed-records.com/product/the-earth-is/>

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The Norwegian/Swedish quintet Friends & Neighbors was formed in 2008 in Trondheim, Norway. Since their first record, "No Beat Policy" in 2011, they have released four more powerful albums, and established themselves as a force to be reckoned with on the Scandinavian jazz scene. The band is clearly defined by the five members' strong individual voices as players and composers. Their long experience playing together gives the music a clear and distinct sound. Stretching from melodic ballads to hard swinging free-bop and powerful free jazz, they keep the collective sound intact, showing influences from a wide spectrum of jazz history. The band has been touring extensively for years, including concerts in Europe, USA, Japan, New Zealand and Australia.

Their album "What's Next?" on Clean Feed (2018) received great critical praise, from both Norwegian and international press.

"They have consistently released excellent music and What's Next" (following 2016's What's Wrong?) is, I believe, their best album yet."

Nick Metzger — Freejazzblog.org (4½ out of 5 stars)

"Friends & Neighbors expressed Ornette's affection for the people who lived near his Prince Street loft; these guys write and play like they like each other, which results in a chemistry that's hard to resist."

Bill Meyer — Dusted Magazine

"The spirit behind the phrase suits the quintet beautifully, and in terms of both historical stylistic precedent and a certain, strong and palpable ensemble identity...call it a neo-New Thing sensation."

Josef Woodard — DownBeat Magazine (4½ out of 5 stars)

The quintet's latest album "The Earth is #" was released in [Clean Feed](#) on October 15<sup>th</sup> 2021.

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*Link to music:*

<https://open.spotify.com/album/5h5qi1iMFAhdhihiPPcCNX?si=QH9JbDExQrKTaxqnggTegA>

<https://music.apple.com/no/album/the-earth-is/1588903649?l=nb>