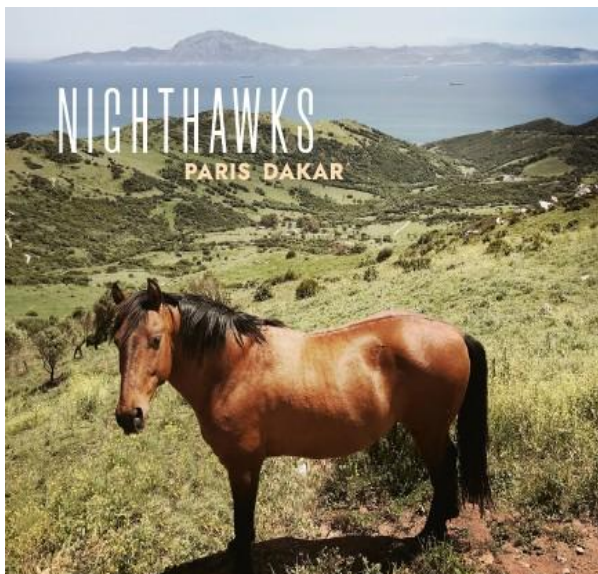


Nighthawks

"Paris Dakar"



Artist: Nighthawks

Album Title: Paris Dakar

Release Date: 24.10.2025

*Please do not discuss/use
the album before its release date..*

Label: Spinner Ace Records

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Kindness is a quality rarely linked to music. Yet benevolence is essential in the exchange between those who make music and those who listen. **Paris Dakar**, the new album by Cologne-based band **Nighthawks**, turns this mutual act of giving and receiving into a virtue on multiple levels.

The instrumental opener ***Finally Timeless*** immediately breaks down barriers. Apparent opposites (programming and acoustic instruments) fuse seamlessly, tapping directly into the emotional core. Finely sculpted synth and Hammond textures set the stage for a noir-like guitar strutting over a hip-hop groove. Soon after, the trumpet assumes the role of a regal storyteller, guiding the warm soundscape. Within just over four minutes, ears and hearts are wide open, ready to step into the Nighthawks universe – a world that welcomes without reservation, a world continuously surprising us with uplifting ambivalence. **Nighthawks'** music is approachable on the surface yet rich in depth. The band effortlessly disproves the assumption that quality music must always challenge the listener. Instead of intellectual over-complication, they present an expansive, unrestrained musicality – one that carries a subtle, playful humour.

The title ***Finally Timeless*** embodies a contradiction: finiteness can never truly be timeless. Yet this paradox highlights the role of humour, which never undermines the sincerity of making music. Playing the "hapless fool", especially in jazz and rock, is in fact a right of artistic freedom. Why shouldn't the Nighthawks, rooted though they are in jazz, use that figure to open new doors? For too long, jazz bore second names like "coolness" and "untouchability," labels that weighed down an otherwise free-spirited art form.

Across its 11 tracks, **Paris Dakar** breezes past genre boundaries with refreshing ease. The production recorded by **Dal Martino**, stretched to an almost epic length due to pandemic breaks, resulted in a vast amount of material. For some pieces, up to 100 tracks of sound were available. In alchemical fashion, Martino distilled these into what was essential. True to form, grooves lead throughout the album. A few chords or melodic sketches are never enough for this band – first, there must be movement. On the title track Paris Dakar, that movement is driven by a rock pulse. Ironically, Martino, **Jörg Lehnardt** (guitar), **Thomas Alkier** (drums), and **Jürgen Dahmen** (keys, percussion) have little history with rock. Only trumpeter and co-founder **Reiner Winterschladen** pushes into improvisation here, far from jazz-rock clichés – and with rare intensity. Energy, though rarely emphasized in descriptions of the jazz-gold-award-winning band, is one of Nighthawks' signatures.

Initially formed as a duo by Martino and Winterschladen, the group was mistakenly classified as "lounge jazz," a label soon replaced by "nu-jazz." The soft, embracing quality of the Nighthawks sound remains present on **Paris Dakar**, as Vapor Bega demonstrates. Yet this warmth now stands alongside a clear desire for full-band interplay. The West Africa-inspired **Manu Dibango** arises from pure group improvisation and also tells the story of Martino's journey to Dakar years ago while composing a soundtrack. Guitarist **Dominic Miller** (Sting, Phil Collins) joins in with the band in the mysteriously soaring song **Young**.

Taken as a whole, Paris Dakar appeals to the imagination. Its 11 tracks can easily be heard as musical stages of the rally that gives the album its name, though the band never insists on such an interpretation. Instead, they encourage listeners to trust their intuition, letting their own images emerge from the finely woven interplay of sounds and rhythms.

Setting impulses for movement has always been central to the Nighthawks, who stem from Hamburg and Cologne. And since water, like music, is a global connector, the album cover photo was taken at a symbolic location: the Strait of Gibraltar, where Europe and Africa are separated by only a few kilometres of sea. The connecting spirit of Nighthawks compositions brings together what belongs together in both art and life: memories, experiences, and cherished influences that shape the present and future of music. Herb Alpert, with his eternally youthful Tijuana Brass, waves warmly into the world of Paris Dakar, embodying an openhearted jazz era. Nighthawks, with **Paris Dakar**, affirm with generosity and openness just how innovative and adaptable their music remains.

Reiner Winterschladen	– Trumpet, Flugelhorn, Cornet
Dal Martino	– Bass, Keyboards, Guitars, Vocals
Jürgen Dahmen	– Rhodes, Synth, Hammond, Percussion
Jörg Lehnardt	– Electric and Acoustic Guitars
Thomas Alkier	– Drums

Guests:

Dominic Miller	– Acoustic Guitar on 4
Bernd Winterschladen	– Saxophone on 2, 8
Zdzisław Marcinkiewicz	– Keyboards on 4
Elva La Guardia	– Vocals on 7
Thomas Gutermann	– Percussion on 7
Kellie Rucker	– Vocals and Mouth Harp on 10

Music written by Martino/Winterschladen except:

Alamo	– Lyrics by Jasmin Levy. Music: traditional.
Back To You	– Rucker/Vaessen/Winterschladen
Sleep	– Marianne Faithfull/Angelo Badalamenti/ Frank McGuinness

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Text(s) are also available in electronic form upon request; please inquire about photos and/or interview appointments if interested. Thank you.

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