The members of the acoustic trio Monkey Plot have been playing together for five years. With acoustic guitar, double bass and drums, they have carved out an expressive idiom which evokes other musical references, but which is at the same time unique.

Monkey Plot's style is intimate and often unpretentious. It would seem more accurate to call it “music for small spaces” rather than the more formal-sounding “chamber music”. There is namely something straightforward and “grounded” about the band's music. Although dramatic effect has been abandoned, their music has become neither boring nor lifeless. Monkey Plot is an improvisational band, in the sense that improvisation is the tool used by the trio's members to make music. They describe it themselves as a simple method that gives a varied and organic result. The music is always pressing onwards. Nevertheless, it would be wrong to categorise their music as belonging within the improvisational genre.

Awarded "Young Jazz Musicians Of The Year" in 2014 at Molde Jazz Festival.

I am used to the loud music when playing with my trio. This is the complete opposite. And I like it very much! I am really struggling to be in balance with them. but that’s what I like about it! I have to admit that sometimes I lose myself, listening to what they do. But at my age I allow myself to do so because what they do is worth listening to…” Frode Gjerstad

Frode Gjerstad with Monkey Plot!

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“Monkey Plot manages to find a remarkable balance between the experimental, the melodic and lyrical, and manages also to mix these elements in an organic manner.” Eyal Hareuveni, AllAboutJazz.com