

KRISTIN ASBJØRNSEN's new album release:

“I'll meet you in the morning”

Musicians:

Olav Torget – konting, guitars, lap steel and vocals

Gjermund Silset – electric bass, double bass and vocals

Knut Aalefjær – drums, percussion, vibraphone and balafon

Anders Engen – vocals, guitars, piano, keyboards and percussion

Monica Ifejilika – vocals

Produced by Anders Engen

Autumn 2013 will see the European release of Kristin's new enchanting solo album “*I'll meet you in the morning*” (via Emarcy/Universal), followed by an extended tour in Norway, Germany and France.

The music affectionately reveals her enduring passion for African American spirituals.

The new album glows with a shimmering dark heat, subdued yet raw, with hypnotic beats carried forward by the incredibly strong awareness in the way Kristin approaches the songs.

In 1990, Kristin inherited a number of sheets of relatively unknown African American spirituals from the Afro-American singer Ruth Reese. Kristin's interpretations of this material resulted in “*Wayfaring Stranger - a spiritual songbook*” in 2006.

“Over time, the richness of these songs has strongly moved me. They so greatly embrace the complexity of life. As strong expressions of life, these folk songs have changed and have also created change - independent of time, place and faith.”

The songs are arranged together with Kristin's musicians, and Anders Engen was invited as the creative producer and musician as well, in collaboration with sound-designer Ulf Holand (recording and mix).

The songs were recorded live, in the same room, and the album has developed a haunting, distinct and dynamic ensemble sound - where guitars, basses and percussions are woven creatively into a warm, organic vibration with dusty foot stomps, hand claps and call and response vocals.

The arrangements are coloured by the bare, acoustic expressions seen in “*Wayfaring Stranger*” as well as the quiet intensity from Kristin's last solo-album “*The night shines like the day*”. This new album shows traces of soul and old African American gospel hymns, West African dance rhythms, Nordic contemporary jazz and contemplative church music.

“*I'll meet you in the morning*” is about longing for movement, belonging and unification. The songs point to the changes in life - how we belong to each other yet how each of us must follow our own path alone.

Kristin says: *“These songs - religious folk songs, passed down in the oral tradition by African slaves in the U.S. – address life issues that are still relevant today. I have been in dialogue with the material both*

as a singer and songwriter. It has been a long journey with the songs, for some it's been 20 years. Sometimes I converted songs - interlaced fragments of various spirituals and wove in my own lyrics and music - thus transforming different spirituals."

"I'll meet you in the morning" has become a timeless and very personal album from this outstanding Norwegian singer. The music is a powerful, mesmerizing exploration of hope and reconciliation.

About:

KRISTIN ASBJØRNSEN

Singer Kristin Asbjørnsen is one of the most distinguished artists on the vibrant extended music scene in Norway. Over the last decade, she has received overwhelming international response from critics and the public alike for her personal and unique musical expression.

Kristin's roots lie in the singer-songwriter tradition and groove-based world music. Her trademark sound is rich with contrasts and dynamics, with melancholy and a feisty devilish energy.

The captivating Norwegian singer has featured a number of album releases, as well as a series of tours and festival performances in Europe. She has won several national music awards, including France's "Mondomix Babel Med prize" in 2009 and Norway's Spellemannsprisen (the Norwegian equivalent to Grammy Award) for her last album, "The night shines like the day" (based solely on her own lyrics and music). Both "The night shines like the day" and "Wayfaring stranger – a spiritual songbook" (2006) were released across Europe (Emarcy/Universal). Both albums, as well as her European tours, were met with outstanding reviews. "Wayfaring stranger" went Platinum in Norway.

In 2005, Kristin made her international debut as a film score composer for the American movie "Factotum", based on a novel by Charles Bukowski (Bent Hamer /Jim Stark Prod). The film and the soundtrack received international acclaim and Factotum was selected for the Cannes Film Festival. Kristin's soundtrack album was released on the French/American label, Milan Records.

For the past several years, Kristin has focused mainly on work with her permanent musical ensembles Kvitretten, DADAFON and KRØYT, where her own compositions have played a core role. Kristin has, also collaborated with internationally acclaimed pianist Tord Gustavsen, on a variety of projects including Tord Gustavsen Ensemble (Album: "Restored, Returned" 2010 ECM. In addition, she has collaborated on Nymark Collective's "Bessie Smith Revisited" 2008 and with the Malien singer Rokia Traore. In 2010, Kristin toured in South Africa with the worldwide renowned a capella group, Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

Kristin received her formal musical education from the Jazz Department at the Trondheim Music Conservatory in Norway.

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