

## **About Kristin Asbjørnsen (c.v.)**

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

The captivating Norwegian singer has featured on a number of album releases (including three solo albums), as well as a series of tours and festival performances in Europe. She has won several national Music Awards. In France, Kristin became the winner of the *Mondomix Babel Med prize* 2009 and she won Spellemannsprisen (the Norwegian equivalent to Grammy Award) for her album "*The night shines like the day*" (totally based on her own lyrics and music).

Kristin has a unique voice and her trademark sound is rich with contrasts and dynamics, with strong melancholy and a feisty devilish energy. Known for her very personal approach to song writing, Kristin's roots lies in both the singer/songwriter tradition and the groove-based world music. Her music is a powerful, mesmerizing beautiful exploration; quiet and intense, with an incredibly strong awareness in the way Kristin is approaching the songs.

2013/2014 saw the 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. Many new concerts are now confirmed during Autumn 2014. The music is based on her long term work with African-American spirituals; warm, intimate and soulful interpretations that flows, touchingly grounded in Kristin's unique voice and with a haunting and distinctive ensemble sound.

Kristin's previous solo albums "*The night shines like the day*" (2009/2010) and "*Wayfaring stranger – a spiritual songbook*" (2006) were also released in many countries across Europe (Emarcy/Universal). All the albums, as well as extended touring in Europe, were met with outstanding reviews. "*Wayfaring stranger*" sold to 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 a lot of international acclaim and Factotum was selected for the Cannes Film Festival. Kristin's soundtrack album is released on the French/Am label Milan Records.

During many years Kristin focused mainly on work with her permanent musical ensembles Kvitretten, DADAFON and KRØYT, where her own compositions played a core role.

Kristin collaborates in different formats with piano player Tord Gustavsen (including Tord Gustavsen's Ensemble "*Restored, Returned*" 2010 ECM) and she has collaborated with the Malien singer Rokia Traore (in Norway and in France). In 2010 Kristin was touring in South Africa with the worldwide known accapella group *Ladysmith Black Mambazo*. Together they did the Opening Concert at Molde Jazz Festival 2014.

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

[www.kristinasbjornsen.com](http://www.kristinasbjornsen.com)

## Kristin's Discography:

**Kvitretten (Kristin's vocal quartet from 1995-2000):** "Voices" (Curling Legs, 1996)

**Krøyt:** "Sub" (Curling Legs 1997)

**Coloured Moods** "Coloured Moods" (Rim Records, 1998)

**Kvitretten:** "Everything turns" (Curling Legs, 1999)

**Krøyt** "Low" (Bp, 1999)

**Krøyt** "Body Electric" (MNW, Ep 2001)

**Dadafon :** "And I cant stand still" (Rim Records, 2001)

**Krøyt** "One heart is too small" (MNW, 2001)

**Kvitretten:** "Kloden er en snurrebass som snurrer oss" (Curling Legs 2002)

**Dadafon:** Release Me (Via Music, 2002)

**Dadafon:** "Visitor" (Via Music 2002)

**Dadafon:** "Harbour" (Emarcy, Universal 2004)

**Dadafon:** "Lost Love Chords" (Emarcy, Universal 2005)

**Factotum:** Movie (US/Norway – IFC Films 2005)

**Factotum Soundtrack:** "Factotum" (Milan Music, France/USA 2006)

**Kristin Asbjørnsen:** "Wayfaring stranger – a spiritual songbook" (Universal music 2006/Germany 2007)

**Nymark Collective with Kristin Asbjørnsen:** "Bessie Smith – Revisited" (Universal 2008/France 2010)

**Kristin Asbjørnsen:** "The night shines like the day" (Universal music 2009/2010)

**Tord Gustavsen Ensemble** (including Kristin Asbjørnsen) "Restored, Returned" (ECM 2009)

**Kristin Asbjørnsen:** "I'll meet you in the morning" (Universal music 2013)

Kristin also appears on numerous album releases, among them Ketil Bjørnstad's "A seafarer's song" (Universal 2004).

## Press cuttings:

"The night shines like the day" is one of this season's biggest surprise!." (*Le Point, France*)

"One of Europe's most original voices of today!" (*France Inter – Radio France*)

"Snowflake is the very best song to play on cold winter days"( *Télématin – France 2 TV*)

"A unique voice, with melancholy and energy. A new atmosphere that touches you" (*Fip Radio France*)

"Kristin Asbjørnsen interprets the material on its own terms, performing songs with unrivalled passion, presence and character. Recommended cuts: All of them." (*VG about Wayfaring*)

"Her interpretations are so finely rendered, so tender and powerful they almost cause pain. The feeling is of being held in an embrace, following lines of history and of arriving in a safe haven. Held by Asbjørnsen's warm yet keenly textured vocals and the metallic timbre of the guitar, these African-American spirituals come with a keen intimacy that both moves and stuns., If anything is going to get roots back into the charts or on the radio, this has to be it." *Dagens Næringsliv*

«Die heisere, bluesige Stimme der 36 Jährigen Norwegerin passt perfekt zu den kraftvollen Klagelidern» (*STEREOPLAY Audiophile pop CD of the Month!*)

«Samtgoldene Gottesanbeiterin.. Aussergewöhnlicher Abend.. In dieser unwirklichen Atmosphäre wirkt die Sangerin wie ein freundlicher Erdgeist, der uns einlädt, ihm in seine fremde Welt zu folgen. (*Hamburg Zeitung*)

«Asbjørnsen is talented at conveying deep meaning and emotion through her vocals.. I applaud her on her great accomplishment with this collection. It expresses deep sadness and extreme loneliness. She will go far if she keeps performing like this and I look forward to her solo album. I would recommend this to everyone. Though it is hard for foreigners to become music sensations in America, I think Asbjørnsen will be the next big thing.» (*TheCelebrityCafe*)

« the good news for music fans is the important larger discovery of the incredibly diverse and captivating Scandinavian jazz composer and vocalist Kristin Asbjørnsen. Even without images, the soundtrack functions quite well by itself as a haunting, complex atmospheric work with varied moods and instrumentation.» (*Billboard about Factotum*)

«I have no reservations to recommend this original jazz-pop hybrid score that showcases not only Asbjørnsen's breathtaking vocals, but her undeniable talent as musician.» (*Scoretrack.net*)

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