



NEW SONGS BY KRISTIN ASBJØRNSEN

TRACES OF YOU – ALBUM RELEASE 2017

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Kristin Asbjørnsen - vocals

Ablaye Cissoko - kora & vocals

Olav Torget - guitars & vocals

Touched by the Senegalese griot Ablaye Cissoko's enchanting musical approach, the captivating Norwegian singer, Kristin Asbjørnsen saw the invitation from Global Oslo Music as a great opportunity to explore a new musical meeting. Kristin also wanted to invite, long-term collaborator, Olav Torget, a guitarist who has been important in enriching her musical landscape.

This new project commissioned by Global Oslo Music was performed for the first time at Cafeteatret in Oslo, in March 2016. The concert received outstanding response and is to be followed by more concerts in autumn 2016, as well as an album release in 2017.

The musicians have created a dialogue between diverse traditions and have explored new fields of music together - a mesmerizing presence - where vocals, kora and guitars are woven into a warm, intimate, organic sound.

The expression is tender with a quiet intensity, carried forward by a strong awareness in the way the trio approaches each song - with powerful musical performances and with deep

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beauty. The music soulfully flows and is touchingly grounded in Kristin's hypnotic vocals. The compositions show traces of West African dance rhythms, Nordic contemporary jazz and contemplative church music.

"Traces of you" embraces the complexity and beauty of belonging. The songs carry strong imprints of loss and love – a journey of transforming moments of life.

About the Musicians:

Kristin Asbjørnsen: One of the most distinguished artists on the vibrant extended music scene in Norway. She has been featured on a number of album releases, as well as a series of tours in Europe. Over the last decade, she has received overwhelming international acclaim among critics and public alike for her personal and unique musical expression. She has won several national Music Awards, including France's Mondomix Babel Med prize in 2009. Her solo albums "I'll meet you in the morning" (2013), "The night shines like the day" (2009) and "Wayfaring stranger" (2006) were released across Europe via Emarcy/Universal. "Wayfaring stranger" sold to Platinum in Norway. Kristin composed the score for the movie "Factotum" (Bukowski/Bent Hamer) in 2005 (Milan Records). During 25 years Kristin has been collaborating with pianist Tord Gustavsen, and she has been collaborated with Ladysmith Black Mambazo. For many years Kristin focused on work with her musical ensembles Kvitretten, DADAFON and KRØYT. She studied at the Trondheim Music Conservatory, Department of Jazz.

Ablaye Cissoko: Ablaye Cissoko is a part of new generation of artists from Senegal. A griot living in Saint Louis, Senegal, he incarnates the encounter between Mandinka traditions and contemporary musical creation. Experienced in performing in world music, jazz and classical or baroque music circles, Ablaye Cissoko is among the most creative, crossover African artists. A good example is his collaborations with the New York-based trumpeter, Volker Goetze, with the Persian music Constantinople Ensemble (co-founded by Kiya Tabassian) or the American bluesman Eric Bibb. www.ablaye-cissoko.com

Olav Torget: Olav is a key member in the Kristin Asbjørnsen Ensemble and he also performs many concerts with Kristin as a duo. Olav's distinctive expression and unique playing style has been cultivated through decades of specializing in Southern and West African music traditions (particularly wolof - griot music from Senegal). Olav is frequently used as a guitarist in various pop / jazz / world music contexts and he published his own acclaimed solo-album "Suburban Jive" in 2007. Olav has also produced a number of albums for various artists.

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