

# KRISTIN ASBJØRNSEN

## NEW ALBUM RELEASE

### Traces Of You

Release dates:

Germany - February 16th  
Norway - March 9th  
Worldwide - March 16th

Spring 2018 will see the release of Kristin's long awaited solo album "Traces Of You".

Kristin's enchanting songs, based on her commissioned work "Traces of You" for Global Oslo Music in 2016, are already met with outstanding response. Kristin has written all music and lyrics.

#### NEW FIELDS OF MUSIC

Based on her assured melodic flair and poetic lyrics, Kristin has on "Traces of You" explored new fields of music. The songs have developed a haunting sound where vocals, guitars, kora, konting and hand claps are woven creatively into a meditative and warm vibration. The album's expression is naked and rich in details, with traces of West African music, lullabies and Nordic contemporary jazz.

"Traces of You" has a serene intensity, conveyed by the unique presence of Kristin's vocals. The album was made in close collaboration with her longtime guitarist Olav Torget and sound maestro Ulf Holand. The album also introduces a new musical encounter with the Gambian griot and kora player Suntou Susso. Lyrical African ornaments unite in a playful dialogue with a sonorous guitar universe. Kristin sings in moving chorus with griot Suntou, using excerpts of her poems translated into Mandinka language. "Traces of You" embracing the complexity and beauty of belonging. The songs are like delicate sensations: of life's imprints, presence and love's transformations.

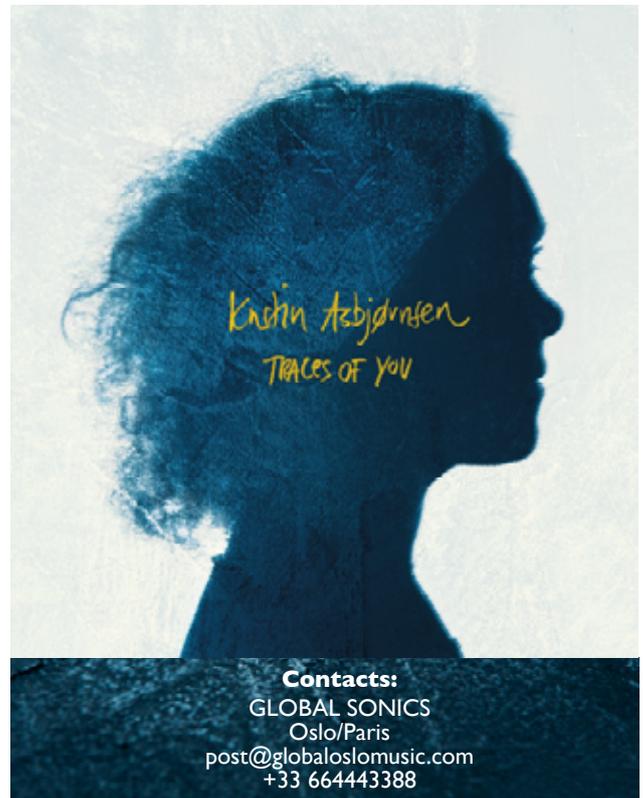
#### OUTSTANDING MUSICIANS

**Olav Torget** is a key member in the Kristin Asbjørnsen Ensemble and he also performs 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. Olav is frequently used as a guitarist in various pop, jazz, world music contexts (Karl Seglem, Diom de Kossa, Becaye Aw, Geir Lysne Ensemble). He published his own acclaimed solo-album "Suburban Jive" in 2007. Olav has also produced a number of albums for various artists.

**Suntou Susso** grew up in a griot family in Gambia, and melds his rich Mandinka tradition with new musical impulses. He has a strong, lyrical and groovy power, and is currently a popular kora player and singer in England. He contributed as a musician, actor and composer on the Swedish film "While We Live" (*Medan Vi Lever*), and he plays with Seckou Keita and in the Ghazalaw ensemble.

Traces of You is the first release from the newly established publishing platform **Global Sonics**, owned by curator and concert organizer **Global Oslo Music**. Global Sonics specializes in new creative collaborations between artists from all over the world. The album will be released in cooperation with Øra Fonogram/Rough Trade and Musikkoperatørene/Phonofile.

Recorded and mixed by Ulf Holand at HolandSound.no  
**Produced by Kristin Asbjørnsen with Torget&Holand**



**Kristin Asbjørnsen** - vocals  
**Olav Torget** - guitars, konting & bass  
**Suntou Susso** - kora & vocals  
**Anders Engen** - percussion & vocals  
**Monica Ifejilika** - vocals

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## ABOUT KRISTIN ASBJØRNSEN

Singer and songwriter Kristin Asbjørnsen is one of the most distinguished artists on the vibrating extended music scene in Europe. Over the last decade, she has received overwhelming international response from critics and the public alike for her personal and unique musical expression. The outstanding Norwegian singer has featured on a number of album releases, 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 Mandomix Babel Med prize 2009 and she won Spellemannsprisen (the Norwegian equivalent to Grammy Award) for her album "The night shines like the day", 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 she's approaching the songs.

In 2015 Kristin was commissioned by Global Oslo Music to compose new songs, the work named «Traces of you» premiered at Cafétéatret in Oslo, March, 2016, with Olav Torget & Ablaye Cissoko, followed by extensive touring. Kristin's new album release 2018 is based on these songs.

2013/2014 saw the release of Kristin's enchanting and critically acclaimed solo album "I'll meet you in the morning" (Emarcy/Universal) followed by an extended tour in Norway, Germany, Austria, Spain and France with Kristin Asbjørnsen Ensemble. The music affectionately reveals her enduring passion for African American spirituals as well as her own compositions; 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) and "Wayfaring stranger - a spiritual songbook" (2006) were also released across Europe (Emarcy). 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 with piano player Tord Gustavsen (including Tord Gustavsen's Ensemble "Restored, Returned" 2010 ECM). She has collaborated with the Malian singer Rokia Traore (2005). In 2010 Kristin toured 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.



## KRISTIN ASBJØRNSEN DISCOGRAPHY

Solo albums and releases by Kristin's ensembles

**Kvitretten:** "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 Music 2004)

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

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

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

**Kristin Asbjørnsen:** "Wayfaring stranger - a spiritual songbook" (Emarcy, Universal Music 2006/  
Germany 2007)

**Nymark Collective with Kristin Asbjørnsen:** "Bessie Smith - Revisited" (Emarcy, Universal Music  
2008/France 2010)

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

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

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

**Kristin Asbjørnsen:** "Promise" Single (Global Sonics 2017, from Traces of You)

**Kristin Asbjørnsen:** "You Hold Me While Leaving Me" Single (Global Sonics 2018, from upcoming  
Traces of You)

**Kristin Asbjørnsen:** "Traces of You" (Global Sonics/Øra Fonogram 2018)

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

### LISTEN TO « TRACES OF YOU »

1. By Your Side
2. You Hold Me While Leaving Me
3. She Holds My Hand
4. Promise
5. We Haven't Found Our Way Back Home
6. Goodbye
7. Finally
8. I Won't Leave The Room
9. Spring Reappears
10. Traces Of You
11. Vil Du Være Her Bestandig

Live videos: [YouTube Kristin](#)



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