

KRISTIN ASBJØRNSEN

NEW ALBUM RELEASE

Traces Of You

Spring 2018 saw 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, were 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.

Kristin Asbjørnsen is one of the most distinguished artists on the vibrant extended music scene in Europe. During the last decade, she has received overwhelming international response among critics and public alike for her personal and unique musical expression. Kristin has won several national Music Awards. In France, Kristin became the winner of the Mondomix Babel Med prize in 2009. Her previous 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 made the score for the movie *Factotum* (Bukowski/Bent Hamer) in 2005. Kristin collaborates with the jazz pianist Tord Gustavsen (ECM) and the South-African accapella group Ladysmith Black Mambazo. During many years Kristin focused on work with her musical ensembles Kvitretten, Dadafon and KRØYT.

Recorded and mixed by Ulf Holand at HolandSound.no

Produced by Kristin Asbjørnsen with Torget&Holand



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GLOBAL SONICS:

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Traces of You was the first release from the newly established 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.

www.globaloslomusic.com

www.kristinasbjornsen.com

The album was released in cooperation with Øra Fonogram/Rough Trade and Musikkoperatørene /Phonofile.



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



During 2019 Kristin will be touring in trio format with the koraplayer Suntou Susso and guitarist Olav Torget, performing her Traces Of You songs, as well as songs from her spirituals-repertoire.

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, to rave reviews. Olav has 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.

PRESS CUTS - TRACES OF YOU

"What a voice! [...] A masterwork so fine it leaves you in tears!" (Nurnberger Nachrichten, Germany)

"Each song is unique; an album you can lose yourself in." (Hamburger Abendblatt, Germany)

"A magical mix of rhythm and poetry, melody and song, African and Scandinavia" (Dresdner Neueste Nachrichten, Germany)

"Music that connects souls from north and south in an open room where an universal spirituality shines, free from dogma. Little by little, it reaches us, cradles us and strengthens us in our love for a candid web of vibrant and delicate cultural expression." (Qobuz, France)

"A gigantic concert with a grandiose soundscape and an insanely good voice" (SüdwestPress, Germany)

"This is World Music pop with flair and charm." (Gaesteliste.de, Germany)

"It's possible that Kristin Asbjørnsen has never been better. A tender, beautiful and stirring celebration in which loss, various life impressions and changing love are sung with an embracing warmth." (Aftenposten, Norway)

"A fabulous mix of Norwegian and African." (Dagbladet, Norway)

"When everything is right. Kristin Asbjørnsen is back with an album in which voices, songs and string instruments come together in a perfect whole." (Dagsavisen, Norway)

"Traces of the world. It is right here, in these small moments, that the world becomes a little easier to understand." (Klassekampen, Norway)

"Kristin Asbjørnsen's new album is not only timeless, it is also placeless, and will likely become a landmark in her musical universe." (Vårt Land, Norway)

"A gorgeous recording from one of Norway's great vocalists!" (Salt Peanuts)

"Barrier breaking. Kristin Asbjørnsen is moving in a compelling, finely tuned and beautiful frontier." (Hamar Arbeiderblad)

"Kristin has never let herself get caught up in Scandinavian clichés... And in her new album, "Traces of You," the songwriter with the formidable voice explores new musical territory, travelling all the way to West Africa. (Volkstimme.de, Germany)

