

# KRISTIN ASBJØRNSEN

## *Traces Of You*

*Release concerts 2018*

**Kristin Asbjørnsen - vocals**

**Olav Torget – guitars**

**Suntou Susso - kora & vocals**

**Asle Karstad – sound design**

Spring 2018 will see the international release of Kristin's long awaited solo album *Traces Of You*, followed by release concerts in Europe (via Global Sonics/Øra Fonogram/Rough Trade)

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 and kora are woven creatively into a meditative and warm vibration. The music shows traces of West African music, lullabies and Nordic contemporary jazz.

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.

The songs are like delicate sensations: of life's imprints, presence and love's transformations.

Kristin's enchanting songs are based on her commissioned work *Traces of You* for Global Oslo Music in 2016. The music is already met with outstanding response, performed at festivals like St. Olav Festival in Trondheim, Oslo World Music Festival and Vossa Jazz Festival.

Kristin Asbjørnsen is of the most distinguished artists on the vibrant extended music scene in Europe. She is well known for her great live-performances and she is touring with two extraordinary musicians.

About **Kristin Asbjørnsen**: 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 piano player Tord Gustavsen. During many years Kristin focused on work with her musical ensembles Kvitretten, Dadafon and Krøyt.

**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 also produced a number of albums for various artists.

*Traces of You* introduces a new musical encounter with the Gambian griot and kora player **Suntou Susso**. He grew up in a griot family in Gambia, and melds his rich Mandinka tradition with new musical impulses. Suntou 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.

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