

# KRISTIN ASBJØRNSEN

## *Traces Of You*

*Concerts 2019*

**Kristin Asbjørnsen - vocals**

**Olav Torget – guitars**

**Suntou Susso - kora & vocals**

**Asle Karstad – sound design**

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.

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

### **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 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 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.

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

## **Press cuts**

### **Kristin Asbjørnsen**

#### **Album Traces Of You 2018 (Global Sonics/Øra Fonogram/Rough Trade):**

“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 a 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](http://Volkstimme.de))

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