

# Kristin Asbjørnsen

www.kristinsong.com

Singer and songwriter Kristin Asbjørnsen is one of the most distinguished artists on the vibrating extended music scene in Europe. During the last decade, she has received overwhelming international response among critics and public alike for her unique musical expression.

2018 saw the release of Kristin's *Traces Of You*. Based on her assured melodic flair and poetic lyrics, Kristin has on this critically acclaimed album explored new fields of music. Vocals, kora and guitars are woven creatively into a meditative and warm vibration, showing 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 the Gambian griot Suntou Susso, using excerpts of her poems translated into Mandinka language.

During 2019 Kristin will be touring in Europe in trio with the kora player Suntou Susso and guitarist Olav Torget, performing songs from *Traces Of You*, as well as songs from her afro-american spirituals repertoire.

Kristin is well known for her great live-performances and she is always touring with extraordinary musicians.

The Norwegian singer has featured on a number of album releases, as well as a series of tours and festival performances in Europe. 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). She has also performed with artists like Ablaye Cissoko, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Ketil Bjørnstad and Rokia Traore. During many years Kristin focused on work with her musical ensembles Kvitretten, Dadafon and KRØYT.



## Discography

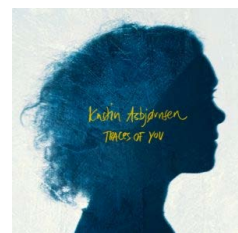
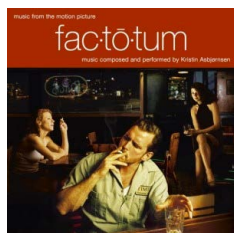
2018 *Traces of you* (Global Sonics/Øra Fonogram/Rough Trade)

2013 *I'll Meet You in the Morning* (Universal Music/Emarcy - Europe)

2009 *The Night Shines Like the Day* (Universal Music/Emarcy - Europe)

2006 *Factotum* (Soundtrack Album - Milan Records Europe/USA)

2006 *Wayfaring Stranger - A Spiritual Songbook* (Universal Music/Emarcy - Europe)



Kristin released 13 albums with her own ensembles KRØYT, DADAFON and Kvitretten between 1996-2005, including Dadafon's "Harbour" & "Lost Love Chords" released via Emarcy/Universal, Europe. With the band Nymark Collective, Kristin released "Bessie Smith - Revisited" via Universal Norway/Milan France in 2008. Kristin is part of Tord Gustavsen's Ensemble on "Restored, Returned" (ECM 2009) and Ketil Bjørnstad's "A seafarer's song" (Emarcy, Universal Music 2004).



# Previous concerts in Germany, Austria & Switzerland

25.04.2019 Jazzahead at Schlachthof, Bremen  
23.02.2018 Unterfahrt, Munich  
18.02.2018 Kultur l'm Esel, Einbeck  
17.02.2018 ODEON Im Alten E-Werk, Göppingen  
16.02.2018 Tonne Jazz club, Dresden  
30.09.2017 Nordhäuser Jazzfest/Jazzmeile  
Thüringen, Nordhausen  
29.09.2017 Nordlys, Küsten  
15.10.2016 Moods Jazzclub, Zurich  
30.04.2016 Jazztime Ravensburg, Ravensburg  
10.10.2014 Norwegische Seemannskirche, Berlin  
09.10.2014 Sargfabrik, Vienna  
08.10.2014 Colos-saal, Aschaffenburg  
28.03.2014 KFZ, Marburg  
27.03.2014 Heidelberg, Karlstorbahnhof  
10.11.2013 A-Trane, Berlin  
30.10.2013 Stadtgarten, Cologne  
29.10.2013 Unterfahrt, Munich  
28.10.2013 Treibhaus, Innsbruck  
27.10.2013 Burghof Lörrach, Lörrach  
25.10.2013 Zeche Carl, Essen  
09.07.2011 Stimmenfestival, Arlesheim  
31.03.2011 Mindelheim Jazztage, Mindelheim  
30.03.2011 Ravensburg Jazzclub, Ravensburg  
14.07.2010 Stimmenfestival, Lorreach  
29.11.2009 Brandenburger Tor, Berlin  
09.10.2009 Stimmenfang Festival, Nurnberg  
08.10.2009 Enjoy jazz, Heidelberg  
25.09.2009 Ulrichskirche, Jena  
24.09.2009 Münsterlandfestival, Münster  
23.09.2009 Stageclub, Hamburg  
22.09.2009 Stadtgarten, Cologne  
19.09.2009 Schlossneuhardenberg, Berlin

16.09.2009 Unterfahrt, Munich  
15.09.2009 Moods, Zurich  
13.09.2009 Beeflat, Bern  
21.05.2009 Radio Bremen, Bremen  
16.11.2008 Herdecke Jazzclub, Herdecke  
27.09.2008 Folkshaus, Jena  
24.09.2008 Alter Feuerwache, Mannheim  
08.03.2008 Nürnberg Jazzclub, Nürnberg  
07.03.2008 St. Ingbert Jazzfestival, Ingbert  
10.02.2008 Herne Jazzclub, Herne  
09.02.2008 Women in Jazz-festival, Halle  
08.02.2008 Quasimodo, Berlin  
06.02.2008 Beeflat, Bern, Switzerland  
10.11.2007 Ingolstadt Jazztage, Ingolstadt  
09.11.2007 Moods, Zürich  
08.11.2007 Unterfahrt, Munich  
07.11.2007 Treibhaus, Innsbruck  
06.11.2007 Porgy & Bess, Vienna  
03.11.2007 Domicil, Dortmund  
02.11.2007 Tollhaus, Karlsruhe  
01.11.2007 Martinskirche, Langenau  
30.10.2007 Schwäbisch-Hall Jazzclub, Schwäbisch-  
Hall  
28.10.2007 Kulturladen KFZ, Marburg  
27.10.2007 Jazz Cologne, Stadtgarten, Cologne  
25.10.2007 Hannover Kulturscheune, Isernhagen  
24.10.2007 Monami, Weimar  
23.10.2007 Fabrik, Hamburg  
22.10.2007 Radio Bremen, Live in Concert, Bremen  
15.09.2007 Amazon-gig Cafe Atomic, Munich  
10.09.2007 A - Trane Club, Berlin  
20.06.2007 Spindler and Klatt, Berlin



## Other international concerts by Kristin Asbjørnsen last years:

Catania Jazzfestival (Italy 2019), Nomos Jazz (Italy 2019), Dromos Festival (Italy 2018/2016), Dølajazz (Norway, 2018), Oslo World Festival (Norway 2016), Vossajazz (Norway 2016), Madrid Jazzfestival (Spain 2016), Jazzkaar festival (Estonia 2016), Riga Ritmi Jazz Festival (Latvia 2016), Gümüslük Chamber Festival (Turkey 2016), Bjørnson Litterature Festival (Norway 2016), Olavsfestdagene (Norway 2016), Bari In Jazz (Italy 2015), Molde Intern Jazzfestival (Norway 2014), Peperoncino Jazz Festival (Italy 2014), Aste Nagusia Festival (Spain 2014), San Sebastian Jazzfestival (Spain 2014/2011).



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

## Other

- "The night shines like the day" is one of this season's biggest surprise!. " (Le Point, France)
- "One of Europe's most original voices of today!" (France Inter – Radio France)
- "Snowflake is the very best song to play on cold winter days"( Télématin – France 2 TV)
- "A unique voice, with melancholy and energy. A new atmosphere that touches you" (Fip Radio France)
- "Kristin Asbjørnsen interprets the material on its own terms, performing songs with unrivalled passion, presence and character. Recommended cuts: All of them." (VG, Norway about Wayfaring)
- "Her interpretations are so finely rendered, so tender and powerful they almost cause pain. The feeling is of being held in an embrace, following lines of history and of arriving in a safe haven. Held by Asbjørnsen's warm yet keenly textured vocals and the metallic timbre of the guitar, these African-American spirituals come with a keen intimacy that both moves and stuns., If anything is going to get roots back into the charts or on the radio, this has to be it." Dagens Næringsliv
- "Die heisere, bluesige Stimme der 36 Jährigen Norwegerin passt perfekt zu den kraftvollen Klagelidern" (STEREOPLAY Audiophile pop CD of the Month! – Wayfaring Stranger)
- "Samtgoldene Gottesanbeiterin.. Aussergewöhnlicher Abend.. In dieser unwirklichen Atmosphäre wirkt die Sangerin wie ein freundlicher Erdgeist, der uns einlädt, ihm in seine fremde Welt zu folgen." (Hamburg Zeitung)
- "The good news for music fans is the important larger discovery of the incredibly diverse and captivating Scandinavian jazz composer and vocalist Kristin Asbjørnsen. Even without images, the soundtrack functions quite well by itself as a haunting, complex atmospheric work with varied moods and instrumentation." (Billboard about Factotum)
- "Asbjørnsen is talented at conveying deep meaning and emotion through her vocals.. I applaud her on her great accomplishment with this collection. It expresses deep sadness and extreme loneliness. She will go far if she keeps performing like this and I look forward to her solo album. I would recommend this to everyone. Though it is hard for foreigners to become music sensations in America, I think Asbjørnsen will be the next big thing." (TheCelebrityCafe about Factotum)

# Line-ups

## Kristin Asbjørnsen - Traces Of You:

Kristin Asbjørnsen – vocals  
Olav Torget – guitars  
Suntou Susso – kora & vocals  
Asle Karstad – sound

## Additional:

### Kristin Asbjørnsen Duo with Olav Torget

Kristin Asbjørnsen – vocals  
Olav Torget – guitars/vocals  
Asle Karstad/David Solheim – sound

### Kristin Asbjørnsen Ensemble

Kristin Asbjørnsen – vocals  
Olav Torget – guitars  
Gjermund Silset – bass  
Rune Arnesen – drums  
Asle Karstad/David Solheim – sound

### Kristin Asbjørnsen/Tord Gustavsen Duo

Kristin Asbjørnsen – vocals  
Tord Gustavsen – grand piano /electronics  
Asle Karstad/David Solheim – sound

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

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

## 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

## Watch video teaser "Traces of you"



VideoTracesOfYouAlbumKristinAsbjornsen2019Teaser

Watch Live Concert at San Sebastian Jazz Festival - with Kristin Asbjørnsen Quartet, recorded for the Spanish TV2 2014

Watch more videos by Kristin

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