

# MTA Production

FOLK & WORLD AND MORE



NORDIC QUALITY MUSIC & ARTS  
**2020** & ONWARDS

# MTA PRODUCTION

## FOLK & WORLD AND MORE

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## NORDIC QUALITY MUSIC & ARTS

### **MTA IS A BOOKING AGENCY AND A COMPANY FOR CREATIVE IDEAS IN CULTURE, MUSIC AND ARTS.**

Since the very beginning, MTA, or Music Theatre Art, has constantly been on the move, always developing. For nearly 20 years we have promoted concerts, staged theater productions, worked with events, produced tours all over the world, worked with (and at) festivals, as well as creating and running our own.

### **BOOKING**

Curiosity, and a considerable interest in culture and society characterize MTA, where the word culture implies art forms as well as geography. MTA strive for equality, democracy, and diversity. Ever since its inception, MTA has worked actively to represent a gender equal roster, and we can help you to achieve that for your events.

### **EXPORT**

Our vision is to bring the world closer together. Music has no boundaries, and the interest in Swedish music keeps growing. MTA works closely together with Export Music Sweden, Music Finland, Music Norway and Iceland Music, and have booked tours in the Nordic countries for years. Through the project Nordic Highway, we develop the Nordics as our obvious territory and also increase our market share in the rest of the world.

### **CONTENT**

MTA wants to listen to those of you who arrange and promote concerts. We want to learn about your ideas, conditions, and needs. We enjoy trying to find the right acts for you, and your specific project, and maybe even help you find what you didn't even know that you wanted. Sometimes MTA works as a content agency, commissioned by municipalities, festivals and regional projects.



Our passion and drive is spurred on, and inspired by, the different collaborations with our fantastic acts. We have strengthened our ties with some of these and now work with other aspects of their careers. Through other collaborations and contacts, we can negotiate deals with more artists than those represented on our web page roster.

## **B2B**

Apart from concerts open to the public, we also book artists for plenty of private events every year. We have the ability to take an increased responsibility and offer bookings of technical staff as well as other suppliers. We have a unique network of artists, musicians, promoters, and other companies that provide the necessary means to create a successful event. Utilizing that knowledge, MTA have increased their part in curating and programming ideas and content, beyond our own roster.

## **ART**

MTA wants to forge different means of expression into something new and unique. Our latest concert production with Adolphson & Falk was built around artist Greg FitzPatrick's synth art. It was the foundation for the show's visuals and gave more depth to the band's scenic expression during their anniversary tour of 2018/2019. An exhibition was held in conjunction with every show.

MTA is also working with artists and their works. In 2018, we started selling the art of Johan Edlund, the front-man and founding member of Tiamat, one of the major bands of the 90's.

We create new ways and work within different frameworks for the arts to find a new audience, as well as using the art as a means to deepen the relation between a band and its fans.

## **SLOW MUSIC, HANDCRAFTED ARTS**

MTA's subsidiary Sally Wiola Music has released music under the banner of "slow music, handcrafted arts", where creative expressions plays a major part alongside the organic music – a music which has been recorded without unnecessary overdubs and excessive amounts of takes.

## **THREE ARTISTS, WITH A STORY TO TELL WITH THE HELP OF – AND ABOUT – THEIR RESPECTIVE INSTRUMENTS, ARE:**

Swedish pianist Martin Hederö (Tonbruket, The Soundtrack of Our Lives) with Part One "Piano Solos"; Part Two is LISAS acclaimed "Fiddle and Accordion Conversations" (featuring violinist Lisa Rydberg and accordionist Lisa Långbacka); Part Three is "Guitar Stories" by Sofia Karlsson, Mattias Pérez and Daniel Ek.

These releases also involve artists such as jewelry/accessories designer Isabelle Hällsjö, photographer AnnaReet Gillblad, and art director Malva Fürst.

This trilogy of musical, and other, artists will tour during 2020-2022, and will create the concept of a "Slow Festival", including other cultural expressions and local food vendors. The philosophy behind the concept is a slow movement idea encompassing music, arts, food, and slowing down the pace of life, in matters both big and small.





# ALE MÖLLER

© Thorn Ullberg

## ALE MÖLLER- CONSTANTLY EXPLORING

### Projects, periods and territories

- \* Avails opportunities with XENOMANIA for festivals in Europe. 2020/2021/2022
- \* Artist in residence projects and as a soloist in European concert halls. 2020/2021/2022/2023/2024
- \* Big and medium symphony orchestras, wind and chamber orchestras for already composed (traditional and Ale's own music) (2020 and onwards).
- \* Opportunities for Folk trio. (2020/2021/ 2022)

**MULTI-INSTRUMENTALIST, FOLK/WORLD MUSIC PIONEER**, and eight time Swedish Grammy winner Ale Möller (born in 1955) is constantly exploring.

Firmly anchored in traditional music, Möller has been a guiding light, expanding the borders of Scandinavian folk music in groups and/or projects such as Filarfolket, Nordan, Frifot, Stockholm Folk Music Big Band, Ale Möller Band, and Ale Möller Trio.

Ale, who has received several medals from His Majesty the King of Sweden, began in jazz. His favorite was Clifford Brown, and the trumpet his primary instrument.

Since then, he's embraced music from various origins and cultures, as well as instrumentation. After his initial trumpet period, he fell in love with Greek music – which evolved into collaborations with composer Mikis Theodorakis – and the Swedish folklore tradition, especially from the Dalecarlia province. Möller was a central figure in the search for new directions and sounds in Swedish folk music during the 80's and 90's. The 80's saw the release of five albums with Filarfolket, as well as several under his own name.

**Improvisation is an important component in Möller's musicianship**, exemplified by world music group Enteli (1985-1995). The same desire for freedom and improvisation in a folk music context, characterizes Möller's and Lena Willemark's two trend-setting and very successful "Nordan" albums. In the group Frifot, Möller and Willemark are joined by one of Sweden's most celebrated and respected fiddle masters, Per Gudmundson. Frifot's album "Sluring" (2003) was awarded the Manifest Prize and nominated for a Swedish Grammy.

In 1998, Ale formed the Stockholm Folk Music Big Band – a "world orchestra" made up of 14 musicians with roots in different parts of the globe. He later formed the Ale Möller Band, a multicultural sextet that won a Swedish Grammy award for their 2003 debut album, "Bodjal".

The 2010 project "Oerhörda röster" (incredible voices) also featured singers from different geographical places, as well as spaces of the musical world, performing together with Ale Möller and his band. These included Christian Zehnder (yodel), Wimme Saari (Sámi joik), Kristina Hansson (soprano), Hosoo (Mongolian throat singer), and Svante Drake (human beatbox).

**More recently**, Ale has formed the Ale Möller Trio together with pianist and keyboard player Mats Öberg and guitarist/percussionist Olle Linder – who continue to explore what they refer to as "folk fusion" and a musical laboratorium. Ale's contribution was seminal to the success of the Swedish Christmas folk tour production, "Jul i Folkton", which also included three albums (2006-2016).

Ale composes music for films and theater, and also for both symphonic orchestras as well as big-bands, chamber orchestras and wind orchestras, and has been working as Artist in Residence for the concert houses of Gävle and Vara. In 2015, Ale received the Sir George Martin Award. Ale has worked as the advisor for legendary Senegalese singer, and Polar Music Prize recipient, Youssou N'Dour. He is a professor in World Music in Sweden, Finland and Denmark. Ale Möllers most recently; 9-piece world/jazz group is XENOMANIA!





# XENOMANIA

© Olof Grind

## XENOMANIA

The grandiose line-up for XenoMania features dual percussionists and several horns!

Ale Möller (various instruments)  
Jonas Knutsson (saxophones)  
Per Texas Johansson (clarinets)  
Johan Graden (piano/keyboards)  
Kerstin Ripa (horns)  
Erik Rydwall (nyckelharpa)  
Felicia Westberg (bass)  
Liliana Zavala (percussion)  
Robin Cochrane (percussion)

### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC WITH INFLUENCES FROM THE WHOLE WORLD!

The band is a true “all star band” where every one of the nine members is a major name in their own right. This outfit plays the music of Ale Möller, and we get to hear his fascination with the rhythmic powers of these melodies. Therein lies what’s significant about Ale Möller’s great artistry. Ale’s music is never mainstream and he manages to combine the traditional with a new view of the musical content.

#### Ale Möller says:

– I know that there are people who get irritated and uneasy by being confronted with what they might not be used to. For me it’s the other way around. I get energized and happy, in particular in the musical world. That’s why this project was named XenoMania: the desire for the foreign. Everyone is different. Myself, I’m a incurable xenomaniac. I’ve always been stimulated, happy and excited when I meet the different. Others are another way, they get uneasy. I don’t believe in moralizing about it, these reactions are instinctual. What we should moralize about is whenever political forces exploit xenophobia.

### XENOMANIA – “four places, four players”

– It’s strange how certain places and certain musicians that I’ve met are alive, within me, in a very powerful way. This music is dedicated to four of them. None of them are alive, but their approach, energy and capacity for musical storytelling is a strong driving force for me, Ale says and continues:

– The village of Toubab Diayallow, a few miles south of Dakar in West Africa, was where Gibril Bah lived. He was an amazing master of the Serer people’s one-string fiddle, Riti. On a trip through Bengal, I met Tarak Das Baul, a guru within the ancient tradition that he was a part of, but at the same time with an incredible energy and presence in the current time. In the village of Kärvsåsen, north of Rättvik, in the Swedish province of Dalecarlia, lived Rōjås Jonas. His intense way of playing polska on his fiddle took my breath away. The village of Ambelas, on the island of Paros in the Greek Kikladhes archipelago, was where singer Barba Thodoros lived. I was just 20 and some years old, he was over 60. We became friends. The musical diversity is supposed to inspire and unite people.

## ALE MÖLLER BAND

The members of Ale Möller Band have different musical backgrounds. Together, they create world music, not necessarily rooted in each individual member’s background, but rather in the strength of their musicianship.

Ale Möller Band has worked intensely, touring the Nordic countries, as well as Portugal and Japan, and released the album “Argai” (2012) – which means “Welcome, come in!” in the West African Fula language.

Musically, the album contains each band member’s entire spectrum of musical influences. As with earlier albums, the material weaves new and traditional styles, from all over the world, together.

#### ALE MÖLLER BAND

Ale Möller (various instruments), Maria Stellas (vocal), Mamadou Sene (vocal), Magnus Stinnerbom/ Anna Möller (fiddle), Sebastian Dubé (upright bass) and Rafael Sida Huizar (percussion, drums).



# ERLEND VIKEN TRIO

© Johannes Selvaag

**NORWEGIAN FIDDLER ERLEND VIKEN** has teamed up with guitarist Marius Graf and cellist Leo Svensson Sander, creating an original expression that really stands out. This led to a long string of glowing reviews for their albums *Frie Tøyer* (Free rein) in 2014 and *Nykomlingen* (The newcomer) in 2017.

*"Spacious and rugged stuff from Norway. Nykomlingen is a truly collaborative, adventurous CD."*

– **Songlines**

*"One of Norway's hottest bands."*

– **Svenska Dagbladet**

*"This is music that hits home, whether you're a fan of folk, rock or blues."*

– **Adresseavisen**

*"The strength of the compositions and the power of interaction creates a music of pure genius."*

– **Bladet Folkemusikk**

*"There are tracks here that take their place on any best-of-playlist you can imagine."*

– **Lira**

**The trio is touring actively both in Norway and abroad**, and have gained many fans across the genre boundaries through their energetic live performances. Guitar and cello interacting with the fiddle gives the listener a raw acoustic experience based on Norwegian and Swedish traditional music, while also inspired by American old time music, rock, desert blues and improvisational music.

All the trio's members are sought after musicians, and have played with several of the biggest names in rock, pop, jazz, hip hop and folk music in Scandinavia.



**GJERMUND LARSEN ENJOYS A POSITION AS ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED AND ACTIVE PERFORMERS AND COMPOSERS ON THE CONTEMPORARY NORWEGIAN FOLK MUSIC SCENE.**

In 2002 he became the youngest fiddler ever to win the Norwegian Championship in traditional folk-fiddling, and in 2011 he was nominated for the Grammy Awards in the category "small ensemble performance" together with the Trondheim Soloists.

Together with double bassist Sondre Meisford and pianist/organist Andreas Utnem, Larsen formed the band Gjermund Larsen Trio. The three band members represent a wide range of genres, ranging from classical and contemporary to jazz and pop, as well as traditional folk music. A diverse background that results in a highly aesthetic and rewarding sonic landscape.

In 2008 they received the Norwegian Grammy for their debut-album *Ankomst*, and their second album, *Aurum* (2010), was nominated in two categories. Gjermund Larsen Trio's last album *Salmeklang*, released in 2016, was also nominated for the Norwegian Grammy, and Gjermund Larsen won the award for "composer of the year" in 2017.

# GJERMUND LARSEN

© Geir Dokken





# ILARIA GRAZIANO & FRANCESCO FORNI

## A SHOW MADE OF FOLK, BLUES AND DOLCE VITA.

An amazing duo singing in English, French, Spanish and, of course, their own native language, Italian. Their performance is a fascinating journey across Mexico and Texas, deftly mixing blues, folk, Argentinian tango and Neapolitan songs. The sound is full of different influences, and they like to connect the songs they compose with traditional folk, from the south of Italy or Eastern Europe as well as from the American music treasures.

Francesco's and Ilaria's performance together is a very interesting mix of languages, from Italian to English as well as southern Italian dialect, with some influence from Eastern Europe too. The result is a continuous playful role exchange between the soft, warm and fascinating sound of Francesco's guitar – which sometimes seems to be close to catching fire – and the evocative, hypnotic voice of Ilaria, which could be coming from another time and space.

They have performed all around Europe and in the United States. Their repertoire includes original songs from Francesco's and Ilaria's respective solo albums, as well as from her well-known movie soundtracks.

The experience of one of their performances can hardly be forgotten, on the contrary, it will stay in your heart and mind for a long time, leaving you surprised with its originality and uniqueness.

### LINE UP

**Ilaria Graziano** vocals, ukulele, tamburello, stomp-box, keyboard

**Francesco Forni** vocals, guitar, stomp-box



# KOLONIEN

© Olof Grind



Official showcase artist at  
Folk Alliance International 2018  
Mundial Montreal 2018  
NERFA 2018  
Folk Music Ontario 2019

## TEN YEARS ON THE FOREFRONT OF THE SWEDISH FOLK MUSIC SCENE!

*"The most uplifting protest music I've ever heard."*  
– **Lira Music Magazine** (Sweden)

Kolonien is a four piece family band from Sweden, reinventing their roots with rich vocal harmonies, fierce melodies and rhythms.

Fiddle-star Anna Möller and her cousins; the string plucking brothers Arvid and Erik Rask, together with their neighbour and percussionist Mischa Grind, all grew up with the traditional folk music deeply embedded in the family.

Their musical journey started in their teens, when they left their countryside home to travel around Sweden as protest singers in the Swedish Green movement. After more than 500 concerts in 14 countries and several collaborations with high-profile Swedish, as well as international, artists they have established themselves as one of the most prominent bands in the new wave of Swedish folk.

*"Kolonien creates their own world on the folk music map. A generous world that is both playful and serious. They want their music to go beyond the usual stories."*  
– **Jury Swedish Folk & World Music Awards** - Newcomer of the year 2013

In 2012 they released their debut album *Clockwise* (Nataraj Records) for which they were awarded as newcomers of the year at the Swedish Folk and World Music Awards, and the follow-up album *Drömmarnas Land* was released in 2015.

In 2018 the band took a huge step onto the international world music scene. Sparked by a successful showcase at Folk Alliance International in January 2018, Kolonien now frequently tours the folk music circuits in the United States and Canada and is steadily building a following around the world. In 2020 they will celebrate ten years as a band with the release of their third album (through the new Swedish label Supertraditional) and tours in Scandinavia, North America, Italy, Germany and Great Britain. Kolonien is surely a band to keep an eye on in the years to come!

*"Future stars of Swedish folk"*  
– **Lira Music Magazine**

# LISA MISKOVSKY

© Andreas Nilsson



## LISA MISKOVSKY IS ONE OF SWEDEN'S PREMIERE ARTISTS AND SONGWRITERS.

She has sold in excess of 200,000 albums, won two Swedish Grammy awards, five Rockbjörnen awards (by the country's leading newspaper Aftonbladet) and participated in Melodifestivalen, the Swedish branch of the Eurovision Song Contest.

Beside her own artistry, she's enjoyed massive success as a songwriter for others, and has taken part in collaborations in all possible – and impossible – contexts. Lisa Miskovsky is now back with her new album *Bottenviken*, and following up an extended spring and summer tour with new dates for the fall and a Christmas show.

Lisa Miskovsky has often channeled the nature of the Swedish region of Västerbotten in her songwriting, which also is the main theme of the new songs, and not least the title of the album.

*"I can never escape it. The might of the nature, the forests, the sea and everything in between. A long journey of seven years eventually led me here. I've had to call it off and start over many times, but now I/we have arrived. In this moment I'm sitting here looking out over Bottenviken, the Bay of Bothnia. The place of origin for my new songs... and my bay. Thanks to all that have joined this journey."*

**The preparation for the Bottenviken album** started already this spring, with singles and the EP *Home*, which was a taste of the upcoming album. Large parts of the album were recorded together with producer Mattias Eklund (Farkosten) in his studio, just north of Umeå, where Lisa has been able to feel completely confident and comfortable. It's given her the opportunity to challenge herself and to play the majority of the instruments on the recordings, as well as producing herself.

On the album *Bottenviken* – which was released September 6th by the label Despotz Records – Lisa collaborates with Theo Kylin (Sabina Ddumba, Hov1), Christoffer Göthberg (Sabina Ddumba), Daniel Berglund (Säkert!) as well as brothers Anders and Peder Stenberg from the Deportees, amongst others.

# LÅNGBACKA/BÅDAGÅRD

**Långbacka/Bådagård are Swedish singers and multi-instrumentalists Maja Långbacka and Matilda Bådagård. Together they create music that they describe as "pop with a folk soul".**

The duo has created quite a buzz in Sweden since the debut album *WAKE US UP* was released last year, for their bold and unique blend of Swedish traditional folk music and singer/songwriter-pop. Beside their strong, well harmonized voices and traditional fiddle playing, they use live electronics, samplers and loop stations to enhance their sound. From minimalistic arrangements with only handclaps and voices or violins to big pop productions and cinematic landscapes.

## LÅNGBACKA/BÅDAGÅRD IS MORE THAN AN ARTIST DUO

and a production collective. They're also a sisterhood; a power source that creates music beyond borders. Lyrics with, often, social criticism hidden behind poetic formulations, and a musical landscape that is Nordic Noir at its best.

Sprung from different angles of the music scene (Maja Långbacka from traditional folk music and Matilda Bådagård from jazz and pop), Långbacka/Bådagård has astonished both critics and the audience with a new kind of music, that goes beyond borders.

The duo's take on the matter is simply that they love composing music. What comes out is a melting pot of mixed references and experiences. Pop and jazz blend with Irish folk, Americana and Brazilian beats, and of course traditional Scandinavian folk music.

Långbacka/Bådagård's debut album has been described as "the soundtrack of a fairy tale" and "as if Regina Spektor had moved to the Scandinavian mountains and learned how to play the fiddle". Or, simply, as pop music with a great portion of Swedish folk music. It's intimate and suggestive, but at the same time edgy and bombastic. If you like Ane Brun, First Aid Kit or Susanne Sundfør, you are bound to like this.

© Johannes Ferm Winkler







© John Resborn

# LOUISIANA AVENUE

## **LOUISIANA AVENUE IS THE ORCHESTRA OF JOY THAT OFFERS CARNIVAL VIBES LIKE NO OTHER!**

Regardless of weather, time and place, the band manages to transport their audience to New Orleans and Mardi Gras. In January 2019, the band released their debut album, 2107 Delachaise. This was celebrated with a sold out concert at jazz club Fasching in Stockholm, where the band gave such an incomparable concert that music magazine Lira's reviewer named Louisiana Avenue Sweden's best live band.

**In the summer of 2019**, Louisiana Avenue set off on their everyone-is-welcome-tour, with new member Jamila Ouahid, who is a deaf sign language artist. To have her on stage, along with a live band, is something very unique, and it will be an ongoing collaboration.

*"We are a band that stands up for love, community and inclusion. To manifest this, we have chosen to include a deaf sign language artist as a member of the band, to show that even if you don't hear, you are welcome aboard. It will also be a new dimension with Jamila's incredible sense of expression",* says the band's frontman Pär Stenhammar.

*"No matter who you are, you can come along on this ride! It's a challenging but totally unique and historic project that I'm proud to be a part of!"* Jamila Ouahid says.

## **Inspired by New Orleans and Mardi Gras, Louisiana Avenue gives an exhilarating live experience that is impossible not to dance to. It is carnival, it is joy and everyone is welcome!**

For over 40 years, Pär's father, Bosse Stenhammar, has visited New Orleans Jazz & Heritage festival to find inspiration and get to know agents and artists he could book to his own International Jazz Festival at Skeppsholmen in Stockholm, or Mosebacke. Two veritable Swedish institutions that he ran for over 30 years, and which became internationally recognized music venues for artists like James Brown, B.B. King, Ella Fitzgerald, Nina Simone, Etta James, Sarah Vaughan and pretty much all of the iconic New Orleans artists at the time like The Meters, Professor Longhair, Champion Jack Dupree, Dr. John, Irma Thomas etc.

It's obviously made a huge impact on Pär, since he himself has been going to the New Orleans Jazz Fest for the last 10 years, each year bringing along a group of 20-30 Swedes who want to experience New Orleans and its magic. For the last five years, Pär has also been starting a new tradition – in-between the two weekends of Jazz Fest – at Professor Longhair's old house where he, together with Longhair's daughter Pat Byrd, throws a block party to celebrate the legacy of her father with some of the best local musicians in the city.

**New Orleans celebrated its 300th anniversary during 2018**, and Pär was not late to make the most of it in his hometown of Stockholm. He rented the Scala theatre in Stockholm, with a 600 plus capacity, which sold out weeks prior to the event, with both local and international acts to showcase their mutual love for the city of New Orleans. To continue the cultural exchange between our countries, Louisiana Avenue is already planning on bringing several New Orleans musicians and Mardi Gras Indians to Stockholm during their 2020 tour.



A black and white portrait of Lena Willemark, a woman with long, wavy blonde hair and bangs, smiling slightly. She is wearing a dark, high-collared garment. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting.

## PROJECTS, PERIODS AND TERRITORIES

\* Avails opportunities with **Blåferdi** for festivals in Europe/Canada/Asia. 2020/2021/2022

\* Avails opportunities for **Älvdalens Elektriska Trio**. Europe/Canada/Asia 2020/2021/2022

\* Artist in residence projects and as a **soloist** in European concert halls. 2020/2021/2022/2023/2024

\* **Big and medium symphony orchestras**, wind and chamber orchestras for already composed (traditional and Lena's own music) 2020 and onwards.

\* Opportunities for trio project Svenska Låtar. 2020/2021

\* **I Vinterskrud**, choir project with Christmas songs. 2020 and onwards

# LENA WILLEMARCK

## LENA WILLEMARCK – DEEP TRADITION AND INNOVATION

© Thorn Ullberg

Lena Willemark has a unique ability to grab the listener – whether she is in front of a symphony orchestra, an jazz improv trio, a glass harp artist, a rock band, or if she is performing all by herself.

For decades, Lena Willemark has been a central figure on the Swedish folk music scene, constantly crossing boundaries between musical genres as a vocalist. She brings unique musical treasures that have been handed on to her by her masters in her native village in Dalecarlia.

After studies at the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm, Willemark has, alone or in collaboration with others, constantly expanded her expression. She has become one of Scandinavia's most diverse and multi-faceted artists, mainly due to her ability to mold different influences and expressions into one homogenous whole.

**As a singer, musician and composer**, Willemark has worked with a number of musicians within different genres: Frifot, Elise Einarsdotter, Karin Rehnqvist, Anders Jormin, Ale Möller, Marilyn Mazur, Kirsten Bråten Berg, Norwegian Chamber Orchestra, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, to name a few.

She has also received many awards, among them five Swedish Grammys, and Litteris et Artibus. Willemark has been nominated for the Nordic Council's Music Prize, she is a member of the Royal Music Academy council, and a Riksspelman (a generally recognized badge of mastery for Swedish folk musicians). In 2017, she received an honorary doctor's degree at Dalarna University, and was awarded newspaper Expressen's prestigious prize Spelmannen (founded in 1957 and Sweden's oldest culture prize still in existence). Willemark is in good company, as previous recipients include a variety of legendary names from composer Allan Pettersson and opera star Anne Sofie von Otter, to jazz veteran Georg Riedel and pop legends ABBA. Lena's contribution was seminal to the success of the Swedish Christmas folk tour production, "Jul i Folkton", which also included three albums (2006-2016).

The journey continues, but folk music remains Lena Willemark's wanderer's staff.





## BLÅFERDI

Lena Willemark (violin, viola, vocals)  
Emma Reed (violin)  
Sandra Martelur (viola)  
Mia Marin (violin)  
Tina Quartey (percussion)  
Leo Sander (cello)

# BLÅ FERDI

© Peter Bothén

### **BLÅFERDI (THE BLUE JOURNEY) IS A MESMERIZING ALBUM FROM THE, ALWAYS ADVENTUROUS,**

Swedish singer and violin player Lena Willemark. She was inspired to write music for a Euroradio Folk Festival commission, after reading Siri Hustvedt's book *The Shaking Woman*.

Hustvedt (a Norwegian studies professor) wrote about a recurring neurological condition which, when it occurred, would leave her shaking. As she undergoes treatment, Hustvedt wonders about her condition. Is it physical? Solely 'mental'? Both? Or a manifestation of memory?

In short, what Willemark seems to have taken away from Hustvedt's work is the concern for the outward life, and the submerged inner life. Willemark includes a quote from Hustvedt in the liner notes:

*"Around and beneath the island of that self-conscious storyteller is a vast sea of unconsciousness, of what we don't know, will never know, or have forgotten."*

The listener, then, is bound to be caught up in this crucial tension: We hear the stories brought to life by the musician, but who can say what the words and music will stir in each person, or in the next moment?

To realize *Blåferdi*, Willemark wrote a series of poems, in Swedish and in Älvdalska (also called Elfdalian, an ancient Swedish language) which she set to the sounds of a quintet consisting of Willemark, vocals and violin; Emma Reid, violin; Mia Marin, 5-string violin; Mikael Marin, 5-string viola; and Leo Sander, cello, plus a percussionist (the wonderful Tina Quartey, on numerous drums and bells).

**Everywhere nature interacts with human questing.** Lyrically, this is elemental, organic material. Symbolically, Willemark is taking us into shadow worlds where human emotions grow and die. And that's just one example of the craft displayed on *Blåferdi*. Willemark also includes two instrumentals, *Swartpolsk* (*The Black Polska*), and *Wiss-walsn* (*Waltz of Certainty*), both clearly derived from the Swedish instrumental tradition of magical, swirling strings and melancholy.

An easy contender for album of the year, Lena Willemark and her "wish list of folk musicians" have created an outstanding artistic statement. Incredibly, *Blåferdi* feels as if it has always been there.

*"The unconscious music of dreams, waking up"* – **Lee Blackstone**



© Ferhat Deniz Fors

## AN ENJOYABLE MUSICAL SLAP IN THE FACE!

Sallyswag is a colorful, visual live band and collective. Flashy solos, heavy grooves and feminist messages form the basis of the band, and together they make up a unique act unlike any other in Sweden. Its members have their roots in dancehall, R&B, hip hop, pop/jazz, balkan/oriental, afro beat and Swedish folk music.

It all started in the winter of 2013, when violinist and riksspelman Erika Risinger (a generally recognized badge of mastery for Swedish folk musicians) decided to form her dream band. She located the coolest and best musicians she could find. The result: the nine-piece band Sallyswag. They got together in Gothenburg and started writing music together. After a few weeks of jamming and writing, a fresh and unique repertoire was ready to move those who attended the Folk & World Music Awards in Umeå in February 2014.

Since then, Sallyswag have performed around 60 shows to great acclaim, all over Sweden, performing everywhere from small, intimate stages to huge amphitheaters. Sallyswag also performed at cult festival Urkult in the summer of 2014, where they managed to spellbind the entire audience.

That same winter, they also floored Femtastic's audience at the club Debaser in Stockholm with their feminist lyrics.

In March 2015, Sallyswag won "Newcomer of the year" at the Folk & World Music Awards. The motivation was as follows: "Norms and rules don't apply to the newcomer of the year. A spicy and unexpected mix that doesn't just challenge the taste buds when they explode. Music with roots, music that stir things up – here's a really cool slap in the face".

October 2016 saw the release of their self-titled album, which was followed by a club tour of ten cities.

*"Everyone should check out Sallyswag and if they're this good after a year, then they will be able to create magic in the future."*

– **Tilla Andersson, Music Stage**

*"Beyonce goes Balkan"*

– **Harriet Ohlsson**

### MEMBERS

Sanna Eriksson – vocals / Aurelia Dey – vocal, toast, rap / Erika Risinger – fiddle  
Nadia Hamouchi – trumpet / Paulina Moberg – trombone / Anna Malmström – clarinet,  
bass clarinet / Ebba Wigren – drums / Sanna Sikborn Erixon – electric guitar



**Sara Ajnnak's biggest break so far came with the critically acclaimed album *Gulldalit – Can You Hear Me*, which was released in the fall of 2018. The album was nominated for a **Swedish Grammy award** in the folk music category and won album of the year in the "World Traditional" category of the **Independent Music Awards** in New York.**

– I would never have thought that the album would be nominated for a Grammy. When I submitted the album to the Independent Music Awards, I thought that I'm one out of thousands of productions. When I heard that I won the "best World Traditional" it felt like a big thing, that my music had made an impact.

**After the breakthrough of the album**, Sara Ajnnak finally hits the road along with her band. The big push is the tour *Can You Hear Me*, a dreamy concert where Sara's clear voice mixes with oriental strings, hangdrum and kalimba by the multi-instrumentalist Stein Austrud, who also produced the record.

SARA AJNNAK



© Carl-Johan Utsi

She has captured the soundscape of the arctic village on the album: snow crashing under her shoes, reindeer hooves thundering against the ground. In between all of these sounds, you can almost hear the expanses of the Västerbotten mountains, where she has her roots. This, along with the live music and the joik, creates a soundscape that surges into your soul.

**Sara's enormous commitment to Sami music and indigenous music has brought her over the Atlantic and back again. This fall, she will take part in WOMEX in Tampere, Finland as a speaker where she – together with ShoShona Kish and Māmā Mihirangi – will talk about "the global sounds of indigenous resistance and resurgence, songs of ceremony and survival".**

Sara Ajnnak also participated in the **North Sweden delegation in Brussels**, together with Oskar Östergren (producer of the 2016 movie *Sami Blood*), where they discussed the importance of strong producers of culture in the northern region. Sara also played a concert in Brussels, in connection with this event.

### **Joik workshop – kids & youth**

What is joik, what's the difference between joik and singing? Can you joik a rabbit? In this workshop, children get to meet Sara Ajnnak, who has reclaimed an almost extinct cultural heritage with her hell-bent stubbornness and patience.

*"When I learnt joiking, it was already long gone from my family. I spent hours listening to old recordings, while I was mimicking the sounds of the old voices. I tried to teach myself how to form my mouth and used the voice to bring forth the different sliding tones that I heard in the joik. The process of learning takes more than an hour, but to create an understanding of the art form, the philosophy and technique can be done within an hour."*

### **Sara Ajnnak quotes:**

*"Hailing from Sweden, Sami artist Sara Ajnnak brought the crowd to an ethereal musical landscape by way of her traditional joik mixed with oriental strings and electronic treatments."* – **Marc Fournier, CBC/Radio Canada**

*"Sara was a revelation at Folk Alliance International. Her music is enchanting and she's a wonderfully charming storyteller and performer. I'm so grateful to be introduced to Sara's culture and artistry and look forward to the next time I see her in concerts."*

– **Andrea Warner, the author of The Authorized Biography: Buffy Sainte-Marie & associate producer at CBC Music.**

*"Like the fragrance that accompanies a spring rain, the music of Sara Ajnnak connects you to the natural world in a way that is at once ineffable but so powerful that it cannot be resisted. The heartbeat rhythms combine with tonalities that come straight from the indigenous roots that ground her music. Once you hear it, you only want to hear more."* – **Gerald Torres**



**MULTIPLE AWARD-WINNING SENEGALESE/SWEDISH DUO**, crossing borders in their music just like in their life together – constantly on the move, with musical and human meetings as their principal driving force. Maher was born to play kora and Sousou is one of very few female kora players in the world.

Sousou & Maher Cissoko, from the south of Sweden and the south of Senegal, is one of Sweden's most appreciated world music groups. They have been touring in Canada, USA, Africa, Asia and various countries in Europe and performed at jazz, folk, world and city festivals, concert halls, clubs and schools.

**Both Swedish television and the Swedish radio have done documentaries about Sousou & Maher Cissoko and when Youssou N'Dour received the Polar Music Prize they sang him to tears, performing two of N'Dour's songs together with the Swedish hip hop star Timbuktu.**

Sousou and Maher both grew up in families of musicians and it was the interest in and love for the West African kora (a harp lute) that brought them together. An important guideline for the troubadour culture – which the kora is part of – is the preservation of the musical heritage through its musicians continuously finding new ways. In the interpretation of Sousou & Maher Cissoko it means magnificent kora playing and soulful singing, combined with a rhythmic energy and influences from reggae, folk, soul and jazz.

**As follows from the heritage of the Cissoko family of West African storytellers**, the songs bring about an important message of coming together and creating links instead of boundaries between countries and people. This is further stressed by the duo singing in five different languages. Their music is just as borderless as the life they live together.

– We are constantly working on finding and developing our expressions, creating our own songs, opening our hearts and finding our own voices. Times change and we are living in a global world where everything is connected. We want to continue to give comfort, share hope and love around the world!

#### **Press quotes**

*"This is the third album by the creative couple Cissoko, a follow-up to the record Stockholm-Dakar from 2011. Sousou is from Scania and Maher from Senegal. Together with musician and producer Andreas Unge, they create airy and soft music inspired by the Africa they both love. The character instrument that gives the album its shimmer is the harp-like kora. There's a tranquil feel-good vibe all through this album. A soft groove with sparkling sounds."* – **Bo Levander**

#### **What does the audience say?**

*"Thank you for a terrific release concert. Your music, your earnestness and the interplay of the ensemble is moving. You offer courage, creativity and loving joy. It was fun, beautiful, and gave me a sense of belonging – solidarity."*

*"Your music is an open channel of love and presence, you convey so much warmth."*

*"Ca fait vibrer le coeur!"*

*"To listen to Sousou & Maher Cissoko and band is liberating, like a journey. It's like a breeze from a larger world, full of hope and trust. The soulful combination of the kora and voices convey joy and vitality, but also sorrow. I don't believe it left any listener indifferent."*

#### **Sousou & Maher Cissoko – for children**

In West Africa, stories are being told accompanied by the beautiful sounds of the kora. Maher Cissoko from Senegal was born into a famous family of kora players and Sousou, from the Scania region of Sweden, is one of few female kora musicians in the world. Together, they perform two concerts for children and youths:

In one concert, for children from the age of five, the duo throw us straight into a mesmerizing world of songs and stories, with roots from the Middle Ages. A family concert for both young and old, that has been touring for several years in concert halls and schools.

In a storytelling concert for 6th-9th grade students, the duo play songs about leaving one's homeland and family, with expectations of succeeding abroad, about plight and poverty, but also about the strength in believing in oneself, to dare to love and to devote oneself, beyond all prejudice and fear.





# VÄRLDENS BAND

© Olof Grind

*"Sweden's most exciting folk band"*

– **Songlines Magazine (UK)**

**FEW BANDS, IF ANY, CAN COMPETE WITH VÄRLDENS BAND** when it comes to diversity on stage: thirteen musicians from six countries and three continents. Together they have toured Europe for the past five years, released an acclaimed debut album (2015) that gave them the epithet "a Frankenstein's monster of world music" (Songlines magazine, 2016) and are beating all odds solely by existing.

*"Five stars just aren't enough"*

– **Maverick Magazine (UK)**

Indian percussion, Senegalese kora, Swedish fiddles, Galician bagpipes and Scottish flutes are just some of the flavours blending into the unique sound, self-branded as "Transglobal Roots Fusion".

In this all-star band of the new folk generation, one can find members of BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award winners Last Orders, BBC Radio 2 Horizon Award nominees Rura and Swedish Folk Award winners Kolonien and Sallyswag, alongside winner of the All India Radio Competition Carnatic Devotional singer Charu Hariharan and rising star of the Senegalese Griot tradition Abdou Cissokho.

**The band first joined forces in Stockholm in 2012** to share the music and to create new sounds, under the guidance of Swedish folk legend Ale Möller. They have since been nominated twice for Band of the Year at the Swedish Folk and World music gala, in 2016 and 2017.

In 2018 they released their second album *Dadjalo*, which was recorded live, to fully capture their high-energy live approach – now with more original compositions but, as always, deeply rooted in their variety of traditions.

*"I'd urge anyone with an interest in hearing something truly groundbreaking and different to go out and see this band!"*

– **NE:MM Magazine (UK)**



# SALLY WIOLA SESSIONS

A Slow Motion Festival includes all three artists, photos by Photographer Anna Reet Gillblad and jewelry from jewelry designer Isabelle Hällsjö and food from the Slowfood movement. This trilogy of musical, and other, artists will tour during 2020-2022, and will create the concept of a "Slow Festival", including other cultural expressions and local food vendors. The philosophy behind the concept is a slow movement idea encompassing music, arts, food, and slowing down the pace of life, in matters both big and small.

## GUITAR STORIES (PART 3)

### SOFIA KARLSSON, MATTIAS PÉREZ & DANIEL EK

Sofia Karlsson is, without a doubt, one of Sweden's most beloved singers. With a catalogue filled to the brim of her own self-penned material, as well as interpretations, her music has gently found its way into the hearts of many thousands of listeners around Sweden.

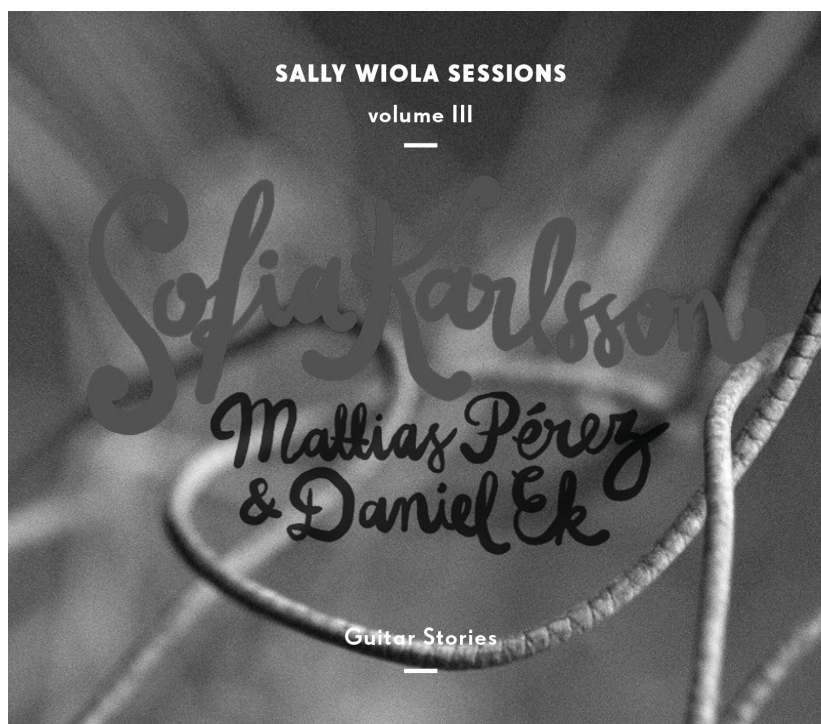
She has been working on the project *Sally Viola Sessions* since 2016, along with a group of talented musicians. An album trilogy that started with *Piano Solos* by Martin Hederö, followed by *Fiddle & Accordion Conversations* by Lisa Rydberg and Lisa Långbacka, now finishes with Sofia Karlsson's *Guitar Stories*. The album was released on September 27th, 2019, and brings the *Sally Viola Sessions* cycle to a close.

*Guitar Stories* is an album that does not follow conventional patterns. The album moves through both instrumental stories, as well as sung ones, in an exuberant narrative tempo. Along with the guitar virtuosi Daniel Ek and Mattias Pérez, Sofia Karlsson has created a tribute to the instrument that sits at the album's very core.

Sofia Karlsson says:

– *Guitar Stories* is a tribute to the guitar, both the regular and the unusual. All the tracks are separate stories about something from our lives; a journey home, an abandoned man, a dying child, a love being born, and an unending desire of running barefoot and stealing apples.

*Guitar Stories* is handmade, organic music and was recorded live, without overdubs. Singer Jakob Algesten is also featured alongside Sofia Karlsson, Daniel Ek and Mattias Pérez.





# SALLY WIOLA SESSIONS

## FIDDLE & ACCORDION CONVERSATIONS (PART 2)

### LISAS

The duo LISAS is a rising star with their touching sound. In February 2017, they released their album *Fiddle & Accordion Conversations* at the prestigious festival Folk Alliance International in Kansas City (SWS Records/Playground). At home in Swedish folk music, they are equally at ease experimenting with new forms and inspiration genres such as Baroque, Swedish and Celtic folk music, jazz and tango.

LISAS has represented Sweden in the EBU (European Broadcasting Union) folk music festival in Croatia; performed at the International Festival Carrefour Mondial de l'Accordeon in Quebec; at Glogerfestspillene in Kongsberg, Norway; MAFestival in Bruges, Belgium; at Musikfestspiele in Potsdam, Germany and has given many concerts around Sweden. They have collaborated with violinist Gjermund Larsen, string trio Zillicus/Persson/Raitinen and Danish Radio Chamber Choir.

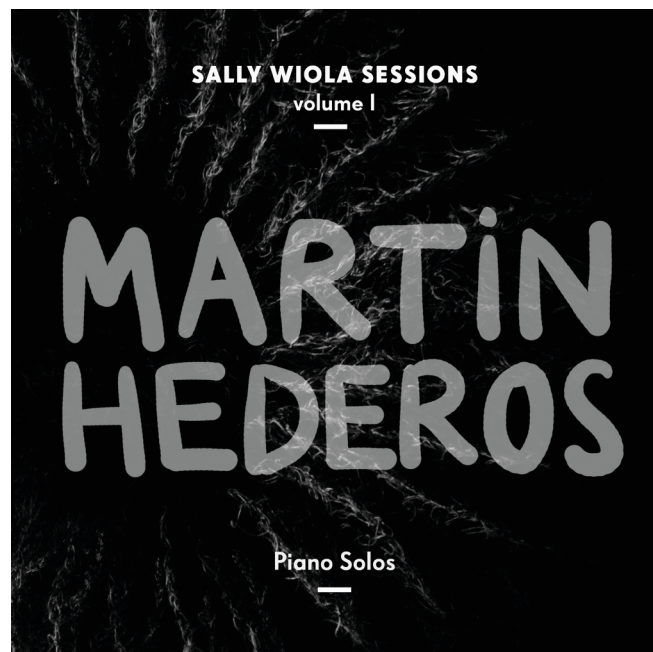
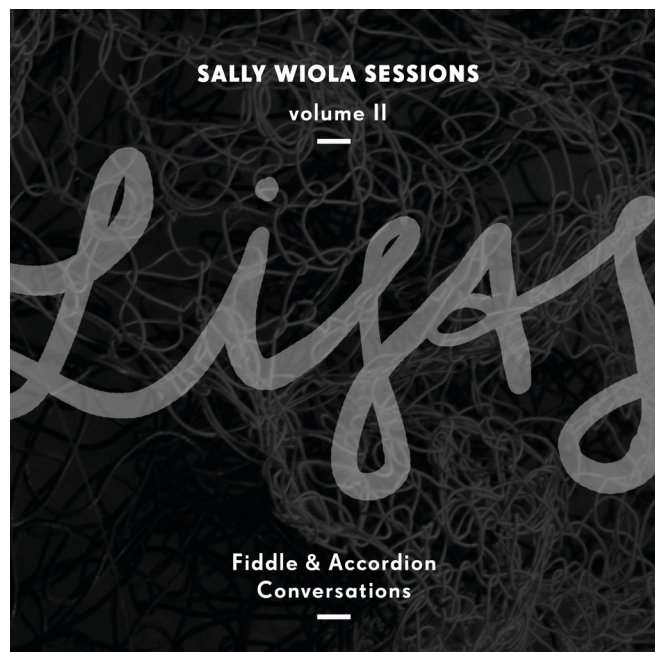
Lisa Rydberg is a Baroque violinist and Riksspelman (National Folk Musician of Sweden). She obtained her diploma in Baroque violin and is now a freelance musician with a wide range. She has released five albums on her own, including *Bach in Swedish* with organist Gunnar Idenstam.

Lisa Långbacka's exploration of the free-bass accordion is unique. She enjoys finding new ways of arranging traditional music, bringing her harmonic ideas and influences together in her compositions. She was the bandleader in Édouard Lock's performance *11th Floor* with the Cullberg Ballet and has played *Cabaret* at The Royal Theatre in Copenhagen. Lisa was elected accordion player of the year by SDR (Swedish Accordion Association).

## PIANO SOLOS (PART 1)

### MARTIN HEDEROS

Few musicians possess the ability to cast themselves between roles, styles and contexts as Martin Hederos does. From world-renowned rocker in Soundtrack of Our Lives, to progressive jazz pianist in one of the country's biggest jazz exports Tonbruket, to the magnificent orchestra thunderstorm Fire! Orchestra, to the most notable duo projects with names such as Mattias Hellberg, Nino Ramsby and Sofia Karlsson. Now Martin Hederos is performing in a concert with music from Martin's first real solo album, Piano Solos. The album is a "diary record" curated by Sofia Karlsson.





# DIGGING ROOTS

## WOMEX SHOWCASE 2019

© Digging Roots

*"Luminous musical statements..."* – **Winnipeg Free Press**

*"Kish's sultry and powerful vocals complement Kanataкта's bombastic guitar, rising and falling in harmony from smokey wails to whispered intimacy."* – **CBC**

### DIGGING ROOTS – roots, rock, soul and blues

Imagine an AK-47 that shoots love. The notion is audacious, to say the least. But audacity is Digging Roots' stock-in-trade. Juno winning First Nations power couple Shoshona Kish and Raven Kanataкта have built their sound on a unique musical marriage of unvarnished truth and unconditional love. Digging Roots' new song and video *AK-47* has both, in spades. *AK-47* packs the punch of Digging Roots' live anthem *Hwy 17*, adding the romantic optimism of *For the Light*, the title track of their most recent album. Like the latter video, *AK-47* articulates an aesthetic deeply rooted in human love, but takes the approach to a new level.

Reminiscent of Beyoncé's *Lemonade* in its evocative visual language, *AK-47* intertwines scenes of struggle and revival with colourful symbols of peace, love and connection. Collaborator Sarain Carson-Fox appears throughout, in alternating avatars of jingle dancer, warrior and activist.

Timed to coincide with Carson-Fox's Vice documentary on Shoal Lake 40, *AK-47* coincidentally arrived in the wake of the Pulse nightclub tragedy in Orlando, Florida, and just prior to a much anticipated appearance at Toronto's world-famous Pride festival. The synchronicity simmers.

"I just figured out the world's problems", begins the track. "People don't make out enough."

Echoing throughout with the beat of the grandfather drum, burning with the fire of renewal, *AK-47* engages Kish's lilting vocal and Kanataкта's searing guitar against the forces of darkness – and wins.

**Shoshona Kish is very immersed in the cultural work, aligned with the International Indigenous Music Summit at WOMEX.**





# KOBOTOWN

© Paul Wright

## -Calypso, Roots & Rock-

Founded and fronted by émigré Trinidadian songwriter Drew Gonsalves, Kobo Town's music has been described as a "unique, transnational composite of rhythm, poetry and activist journalism." (Exclaim!) From their home in Toronto, the Juno nominated group has brought their distinct calypso-inspired sound to audiences across the world, from Port-of-Spain to Paris and from Montreal to Malaysia.

At once brooding and joyous, intensely poetic and highly danceable, Gonsalves' songs betray deep roots in Caribbean folk music, while the band delivers them with an indomitable energy that has earned them a considerable following far beyond the niche of world music enthusiasts and calypso fans.

On *Where the Galleon Sank* (2017), Gonsalves continues to explore 500 years of history through his post-colonial, Trinidadian lens, armed with his trademark wit and gift for melody. Maverick producer Ivan Duran has once again manned the console, creating a warm, percolating, richly layered sound. The making of the record, in Montreal, Toronto and Belize, was delayed when Gonsalves and Duran became involved in one of the biggest musical comeback stories of 2016. Along with Manu Chao, they co-wrote and produced one of their childhood musical heroes, Trinidadian legend Calypso Rose, whose latest album has already gone gold in France.

Kobo Town is named after the historic neighborhood in Port-of-Spain where calypso was born amid the boastful, humorous and militant chants of roaming stick-fighters. Situated near the fishermen's wharf, the area was a site of constant defiance and conflict, a place where sticks and stones, songs and verses, clashed with the bayonets and batons of colonial rule.

### 6 PIECE BAND

*"Kobo Town resurrects, reinvigorates and redefines calypso for the new millennium." - Exclaim!*  
*"... an intoxicating blend of lilting calypsonian wit, dancehall reggae, and trombone-heavy brass."*

- The Guardian





# VISHTÈN

CONTEMPORARY ACADIAN  
ROOTS MUSIC AS DEEP AND  
RICH AS THE SEA THAT  
FLOWS AROUND IT

Powerhouse trio **Vishtèn** has been recognized worldwide as an ambassador of Acadian culture. The Canadian band has dazzled audiences with its fiery blend of traditional French songs and original instrumentals that fuse Celtic and Acadian genres with modern rock sensibilities and indie-folk influences.

With members hailing from Prince Edward Island's Evangeline region and the most remote reaches of Québec – the windswept Magdalen Islands – twin sisters Emmanuelle and Pastelle LeBlanc join musical forces with Pascal Miousse to create a sophisticated sonic signature that combines tight vocal harmonies, layered foot percussion, and virtuoso acoustic instrumentation.

## THE SHOW

Horizons (released in 2018) features a combination of original compositions that, faithful to Vishtèn's signature style, amalgamate current and traditional musical genres, as well as traditional Acadian texts and tunes. The contagious rhythm of Vishtèn's foot percussion and mouth music continue to merge effortlessly with the fiddle, guitar, accordion, octave mandolin, whistles, piano, bodhrán and jaw harp, offering a musical experience that illustrates their vision of the world all while demonstrating the richness of traditional sounds. For this new album, the artists have chosen to go one step further by featuring new instruments such as the electric guitar and piano as well as extended jigs and catchy song melodies in a variety of styles, all while maintaining their usual rooted sound.



## RECORDINGS

Horizons / 2018  
Terre Rouge / 2015  
Mosaïk / 2012  
Live / 2008  
11:11 / 2006  
Vishtèn / 2004

## ONLINE

Website : [vishten.net](http://vishten.net)  
Social : @vishtenmusique





# LE VENT DU NORD



**The award winning and highly acclaimed band Le Vent du Nord is a leading force in Quebec's progressive francophone folk movement.**

**THE GROUP'S VAST REPERTOIRE DRAWS FROM BOTH TRADITIONAL SOURCES AND ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS,** while enhancing its hard-driving soulful music (rooted in the Celtic diaspora) with a broad range of global influences. *"Featuring button accordion, guitar and fiddle, the band's sound is defined by the hurdy-gurdy, which adds an earthy, rough-hewn flavor to even the most buoyant dance tunes."* – **Boston Herald**

Since its inception in August 2002, Le Vent du Nord has enjoyed meteoric success, performing well over 1,800 concerts over five continents and racking up several prestigious awards, including a Grand Prix du Disque Charles Cros, two Junos (Canada's Grammys), a Félix at ADISQ, a Canadian Folk Music Award, and "artist of the year" at the North American Folk Alliance Annual Gala.

**The group exhibits great finesse and flexibility,** appearing regularly on Canadian, American, French and UK television and radio, and participating in a wide variety of special musical projects. They've collaborated and performed with a diverse range of artists including Harry Manx, Väsen, Dervish, The Chieftains, Breton musical pioneer Yann-Fañch Kemener, Québécois roots legend and master storyteller Michel Faubert, the Scottish folk band Breabach, singer Julie Fowlis, and the trans-Mediterranean ensemble Constantinople.

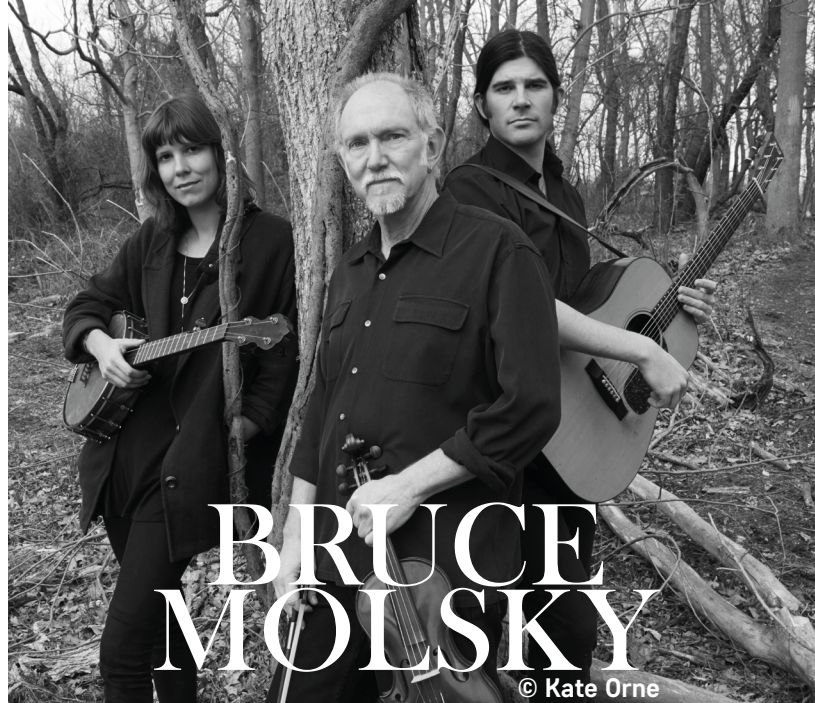
On stage these friends create intense, joyful and dynamic live performances that expand the bounds of tradition in striking global directions. This is the modern sound of tradition, a music of the here and now.

*"Leave a positive feelgood feeling all over the body"* – **Lira Magazine**

*"Exceptionally skilled, exceptionally experienced, and exceptionally entertaining"* – **Sing Out!**

*"Sur toute la ligne, 53 minutes de pur bonheur. Excellent."* – **Journal De Québec**

*"Québec couldn't hope for better advocates of its folk music."* Top of the world selection – **Songline Magazine**  
Top Ten International Albums of 2009 – **Los Angeles Times**



*"Bruce Molsky is one of those great players who 'gets it': has all the links to the past but is happy not to be chained to it"*

– **Mark Knopfler**

*"An absolute master"* – **No Depression**

*"One of the world's premier Appalachian-style fiddlers"*

– **Bloomberg News**

**HE'S A SELF-DESCRIBED "STREET KID" FROM THE BRONX** who bailed on college and big city life for a cold-

water cabin in Virginia in the 1970s. His mission? To soak up the passion that was dramatically upending his parent's life plan for him – authentic Appalachian mountain music – at the feet of its legendary pioneers, old masters who are now long gone.

Today, Bruce Molsky is one of the most revered "multi-hyphenated career" ambassadors for America's old-time mountain music. For decades, he's been a globetrotting performer and educator, a recording artist with an expansive discography including seven solo albums, well over a dozen collaborations and two Grammy-nominations. He's also the classic "musician's musician" – a man who's received high praise from diverse fans and collaborators like Linda Ronstadt, Mark Knopfler, Celtic giants Donal Lunny and Andy Irvine, jazzier Bill Frisell and dobro master Jerry Douglas, a true country gentleman by way of the Big Apple aptly dubbed "the Rembrandt of Appalachian fiddlers" by virtuoso violinist and sometimes bandmate Darol Anger.

**In addition to his many live performances** as a solo and with Molsky's Mountain Drifters, Bruce will be kept away from his home in Beacon, New York, by his work as a Visiting Scholar at the old American Roots Music Program at the Boston's Berklee College of Music, and through fiddling workshops and summer music camps he conducts for devotees here and abroad.

The life of a full-time musician and educator at Berklee and music camps far and wide keeps Bruce away from his Beacon home for half the year. Much of Bruce's recent sojourning has been overseas, to the British Isles, Italy, Scandinavia and a far afield as Australia.

"Performing and teaching traditional music is the biggest thing in my world," concludes Molsky. "For me, being a musician isn't a standalone thing; it informs everything I do in my life. It's always been about being creative and being a part of something much bigger than myself, a link in the musical chain and part of the community of people who play it and love it."

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