

THE WHALE

STÍNA ÁGÚSTSDÓTTIR TRIO

Released: 26/3

"An album that's hard to stop listening to..."

- Jazz/Orkesterjournalen

"...the whole is so enormously impressive that The Whale is well deserving of it's 4+ stars. There is no risk that you get tired of this remarkable and high class album."

- Mats Hallberg, Kulturbloggen



When Germany's president Frank-Walter Steinmeier visited Iceland in 2019, the country's favorite jazz singer, Stína Ágústsdóttir, was flown in from Stockholm to sing for him. The year after, Stína performed in front of a sold-out Harpa concert hall with Reykjavík Big Band.

Together with pianist and winner of Jazzkatten 2020, Anna Gréta Sigurðardóttir and guitarist Mikael Máni Ásmundsson, the now Stockholm based Stína has recorded the album The Whale at the famed Sigur Rós studio in Iceland, Sundlaugin. The album includes both original songs, written by the trio and new fresh takes on songs by Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell and more.

The album caught the Icelandic media's attention when it was released in Iceland in December and landed straight on the national radio's playlists. The reviews have been trickling in and all of them are raving! The album has also been played on national radio stations throughout Scandinavia.

All three members of the trio have received Icelandic music prize nominations and have started to make their names known on the international music scene. The trio has a refreshing and unconventional instrumentation with voice, guitar and piano. Anna Gréta's beautiful Nordic piano landscapes melt together with Mikael's elegant and dreamy guitar. Stína sits on top with her expressive and sultry voice. Together they create a balanced and coherent whole. A few albums of this caliber appear every ten years on the Swedish and Nordic market.

Stína Ágústsdóttir is one of Iceland's top jazz artists. She is born in Iceland, but has lived in London, Copenhagen, Montreal where she studied jazz at Concordia University, and now she resides in Stockholm. Stína's third solo album, Jazz á íslensku (Jazz in Icelandic) was nominated as jazz/blues album of the year at the 2017 Icelandic Music Awards. Stína was nominated as jazz/blues artist of the year in 2021 and I don't want to sleep from The Whale was nominated as song of the year. Stína has twice been voted as one of the top local jazz acts in Montreal and has received wonderful reviews for live performances at jazz festivals and concerts in Scandinavia and N-America.

www.stinaagustsdottir.com

Anna Gréta Sigurðardóttir was born and grew up in Iceland but lives in Stockholm since 2014, and she studied at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm. In later years she has been engaged in many different projects and recording. She has worked with prominent Swedish jazz musicians like Max Schultz, Joakim Milder, Magnus Lindgren, Susanna Risberg and Bobo Stenson. Furthermore, she has participated in a number of big band productions with for instance Norrbotten Big Band and Elaria Orchestra as well as Ebbot Lundberg & New Places Orchestra. She has also toured internationally.

Anna Gréta Sigurðardóttir has received a number of awards and prize nominations both in Sweden and Iceland. She was honoured with the Monica Zetterlund scholarship in 2019 and nominated for the Jazzkatten (Swedish Radio) the same year. In 2015 she was dubbed Newcomer of the year in Iceland. Today she is one of Scandinavia's most noted young jazz musicians.

Mikael Máni Ásmundsson is a young jazz guitarist who has earned a good reputation in Iceland and the Netherlands as a guitarist and composer. He will release his debut solo album, Bobby, in May 2019 but his trio consists of Skúli Sverisson on bass and Magnús Trygvason Elíassen on drums and vibraphone. Before that, he has only released albums as a co-leader but his album Beint Heim with the duet [Marína & Mikael](#) was nominated as jazz album of the year 2017 at the Icelandic Music Awards.

Mikael studied at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam under the mentorship of Jesse van Ruller. Mikael got nominated for best jazz/blues composer at the 2019 and 2021 music awards in Iceland. He's currently situated in Reykjavík, whilst keeping Amsterdam and Stockholm as a second home.

<https://www.mikaelmanimusic.com/>

Listen to the album here:

<https://open.spotify.com/album/3BUQLWMyfZd7OKcDQNNvJW?si=sEYkMqrNSoGgPAkOUP3WhA>

A music video created by Magnus Andersen to the title track of the Album:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4gbV8Cu8Q5M>

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