



Rebecka Larsdotter – *Whirlwind*

Swedish born, NYC based singer-songwriter
Rebecka Larsdotter stirs an explosive ‘Whirlwind’
of soulful jazz and elements of her native
Scandinavian folk on her debut for
Norwegian label Losen Records

A Rising Voice on the New York Jazz Scene,
The Multi-Talented Performer and Musician’s Lushly
Produced, Thematically Optimistic Set Features
An Ensemble of NY Jazz Greats

On Rebecka Larsdotter’s highly anticipated debut album for renowned Norwegian label Losen Records, the Swedish born, New York based singer, songwriter and multi-talented musician stirs up a powerful, sensual and brightly optimistic *Whirlwind* that artfully blends her ever-deepening passion for jazz with colorful elements of the Scandinavian folk music that has long been a cherished foundational part of her musical DNA.

A follow-up to *Feathers and Concrete*, her Los Angeles recorded, fusion-funk driven album, and the subsequent singles “Stars at My Feet,” “Breathe,” “Alfie” and “Gloomy Sunday,” *Whirlwind* – true to its title – marks Larsdotter’s true emergence as a rising force in vocal jazz on the NYC scene, a celebration and embrace of powerful melodies, a multitude of rhythms, captivating, heartfelt lyrics and her unique and dynamic spirit of improvisation.

Whirlwind is a home grown project recorded at Brooklyn Recording, with vocals mixed by two

time Grammy winner Dave Darlington of Basshit studios (Eddie Palmieri, Wayne Shorter, Sting). While highlighting Larsdotter’s emotional and sensual vocals, the collection also features rich collaborations with a crop of New York’s premiere jazz musicians and artists – all of whom she has worked with before and developed deep personal and musical friendships with.

These include pianists Aaron Parks (a one-time Blue Note artist who has worked with Joshua Redman, Kurt Rosenwinkel and Terence Blanchard) and Shai Maestro (Avishai Cohen); saxophonist Dayna Stephens (Kenny Barron, Ambrose Akinmusire, Gerald Clayton, Brad Mehldau); bassists Ben Street (John Scofield, Danilo Perez) and Rick Rosato (Billy Hart, Ben Van Gelder); and drummers Nate Wood (Wayne Krantz, Kneebody, Chaka Khan, Sting) and Ari Hoenig (Joshua Redman, Mike Stern, Dave Liebman).

“I called the album *Whirlwind* because I started with a plan that was completely different from the way the sessions actually took shape,” says Larsdotter.

“I was going to finish up some new tunes with some of the musicians I had worked with in L.A. and combine those with some of the other singles I had released to create a new album. Then I had an epiphany that completely changed the direction. I reached out to Aaron, Dayna and Ben to help me flesh out the new tunes, we got together at Brooklyn Recording and nailed everything in a single day. I got the perfect sound I wanted, and felt we were on the right track. Then I took a few months to write new songs and set up another session, this one with some of the other musicians, including Shai, whose musical influences from growing up in Israel translated perfectly to the Scandanavian folk flavors I wanted to include in some of these tunes.

“On my first album, I was doing my singer-songwriting thing, referencing Joni Mitchell a lot,” the singer adds. “But since moving to New York, I have found my true voice recording and performing with these great musicians, improvising more loosely and in the moment. I combine these elements with music inspired by nature, which is a natural outgrowth of growing up in a forest region of Sweden. That is still where I spend the majority of my composing time.”

Whirlwind features five thoughtful Larsdotter originals sung in English, starting with the easy flowing inspirational ballad “Hmm” and including the graceful, contemplative “If The Wind Will Allow” and “Zane’s Tune,” the poignant yet wistful closing tune penned as a tribute to her longtime close friend and the late renowned jazz saxophonist Zane Musa, who “was able to bless me and so many other musicians during his short time here on this earth. He was a big support and inspiration, in his own way, when I lived in L.A. He always said he would go where the wind blew, and this idea inspired my lyrics.”

Larsdotter pays direct homage to her roots by writing singing “Kvar” in her native Swedish. The title reflects her language’s concept of “being left behind” that she applies to being left hanging in a relationship, where you don’t know exactly where you are emotionally from day to day. The singer felt so close to the emotion that she felt she could best convey it in Swedish. The collection also features two well-known jazz covers, a beautiful and eloquent reading of the vocal version of Horace Silver’s “Peace” and a spirited romp through the Harold Arlen-Johnny Mercer standard “My Shining Hour.”

Whirlwind is also notable for its many lengthy instrumental passages and solos between vocal segments – a direct reflection of Larsdotter’s being as much influenced by jazz instrumentalists (from Coltrane to Mehldau) as she was inspired by vocalists ranging from Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald to Whitney Houston, Ani DiFranco and Icelandic legends Bjork and Emiliana Travini. Larsdotter was playing violin, piano and singing by age four and launched her career after receiving her Master’s in Music from Örebro and Malmö University of Music. Since moving to the U.S. in 2008, she’s developed her unique voice as an artist via writing, singing performing (everywhere from The Bitter End to Shapeshifter Lab and Zinc) and serving as a voice and piano instructor. Over the years, she has worked with top musicians in both Scandinavia and Stateside, including Wycliffe Gordon, Nick Mancini, Kamasi Washington, Max Thornburg, Johannes Nastesjö and Gerald Clayton.

Larsdotter and her band will be performing for the first time at Rockwood Music Hall in New York in June, 2016

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