SNOWDROP 1:44 **INIRIDA** 3:56 **AZALEA** 4:37 CAMPUNALA 4:39 **ZINNIA** 2:47 **COSMOS** 2:34 **RUBUS** 4:04

SANTINI 4:03

ASTER 4:31 **10 POPPY** 1:07 Total time 34:02

All compositions by Johan Tobias Bergstrøm Recorded August 2025 by David Aleksander Sjølie at Urban Sound Studios, Oslo, Norway Mixed September and October 2025 by David Aleksander Sjølie at Urban Sound Studios Mastered October 2025 by Giert Clausen at Fersk Lyd, Oslo, Norway Produced by Johan Tobias Bergstrøm and David Aleksander Sjølie **Executive producer Odd Gjelsnes** Cover photo by Johan Tobias Bergstrøm Cover design by Stian Kristoffer Jamessen Portrait photo by Bendik Stalheim Møller Design by Max Franosch

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IØRGEN KRØGER MATHISEN VIOLIN, VOCALS 3,9

HÅKON HULDT-NYSTRØM **BASS, VOCALS** 3, 8, 9

THOMAS ANTONIO DEBELIAN PERCUSSION, VOCALS 3, 8, 9

KNUT HEM DOBRO 2,4



Johan Tobias Bergstrøm

Stella



There's a myth about second albums – that they're difficult, even "cursed". But for me, Stella felt like a walk in the park compared to my debut. Nova, released in 2024, was my first solo album. The process was intense and overwhelming, but I'm deeply proud of the result.

Interestingly, the seeds for Stella were planted while I was still working on Nova. After composing a debut that leaned heavily on minor keys and melancholic moods, I began writing songs that felt brighter and more uplifting. The new album has more major sounds, Irish/Norwegian folk-like melodies, and a touch of flavour from both North and South America. Still, I remain rooted in jazz, with musical nods to Django Reinhardt, African music, and influences from the Middle East.

I was thrilled to reunite with the musicians from Nova, and honored to welcome multiinstrumentalist Knut Hem as a guest on dobro for two tracks. During the writing process, I felt that some compositions needed vocals – without lyrics – to fully come alive. I sang a few myself, and my band joined in to form a small choir on several songs.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to and supported Stella. My second album, and a truly joyful one. Here it is!

> Johan Tobias Bergstrøm October 2025

