

Maria Kalaniemi & Eero Grundström: Svalan

Åkerö Records, ÅKERÖCD17

Official release date 4.4.2017

Accordion artist Maria Kalaniemi's album *Svalan* (*Swallow*), produced in cooperation with harmonium wizard **Eero Grundström**, will be released **on 4.4.2017 at the JuuriJuhla Folk Music Festival in Espoo**. On the album, the spiritual landscape of the Finnish-Swedes meets the awe-inspiring nature of Northern Karelia: a combination which can be experienced through both the music on the record and the photo-collage of scenes around Salonkylä which accompanies it. The music was recorded in Maria Kalaniemi's childhood home, an old post-war house in the Kilo district of Espoo.



"Svalan – Swallow – was born from a feeling of spiritual freedom.

Swallows fly free on their own wings, and the song symbolises spring and the spark of hope. When we first recorded the track with Eero - for Elina Brotherus' Tangohousut (Tango Trousers) music video - we were completely bowled over by the feeling of freedom which playing it awoke in us," says Maria Kalaniemi.

"Life is full of highs and lows – this record marks the start of something new. Recording the album in my childhood home was at the same time a farewell to one stage of my life. We played the tunes pretty much as the fancy took us, and just let our fingers dance. I hope that this optimism and exuberance comes through on the record!"



The record contains Finnish-Swedish ballads, songs about the sea, passionate tangoes, frenzied minuets from Jepua, the artist's own compositions and lyrical moods of contemplation. Kalaniemi has drawn her musical inspiration from the rich nature of *Salonkylä*, including some close encounters with wild animals. The *Salonkylä* photographs are taken by **Harri Tolvanen**, and the photo collage gives respect for the nature. The final track is a forest soundscape recorded in the middle of nature by Maria Kalaniemi herself; among the sounds that can be heard

are the grunting of a bear and a duet between a crow and Apassi the wolf dog.

The album is a sequel to Maria Kalaniemi's acclaimed *Vilda Rosor* album (*Wild Roses*, Aito Records, 2010), a collection of tracks in the Finnish-Swedish musical tradition. *Vilda Rosor* rose to number two on the renowned World Music Charts Europe and was nominated for Ethno album of the year.



The new compositions and lyrics are the handiwork of Maria Kalaniemi. The music was adapted for each track by Kalaniemi and the record's music team: Eero Grundström, **Pekko Käppi** (bowed lyre and vocals) and **Mikko Kosonen** (guitars). Artistic production is by Maria Kalaniemi and Eero Grundström.

Album release concerts:

Tues 4.4 at 17.30 and 19.30: Juurijuhla Lagstads hembygdsgård, Espoo
www.juurijuhla.fi M. Kalaniemi, E. Grundström, P.Käppi & M. Kosonen

Wed 12.4 at 19: Sibelius Museum, Turku www.sibeliusmuseum.fi
M. Kalaniemi & E. Grundström

Sun 7.5 at 18: G Livelab, Helsinki www.glivelab.fi
M. Kalaniemi, E. Grundström & P. Käppi



The recording project has been supported by *Svenska Kulturfonden* and *the Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation*.

After publication, the *Svalan* album will be available from Digelius Music and the Folk Music Association (Kansanmusiikkiliitto).

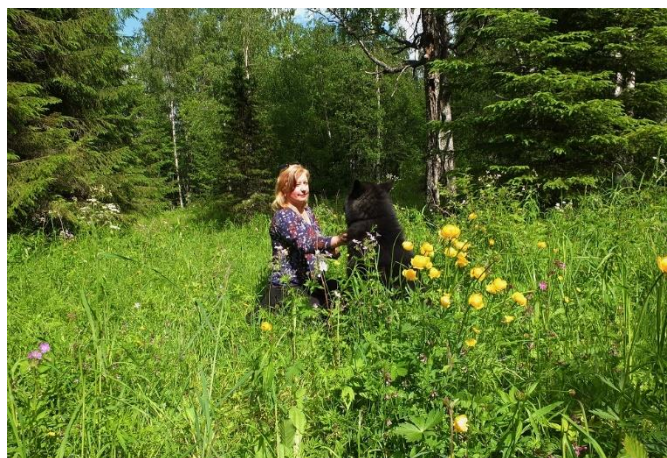
Digital distribution through Texicalli Digital Distribution. Distribution in Germany through Galileo Records and in the Benelux countries through Xango Music.

Interviews:

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Album sleeve art: Elina Brotherus. | Nature photography: Harri Tolvanen. | Graphic design: Jimmy Träskelin.