



Randi Tytingvåg

Let Go



Playing Is A Way Of Going Deep

With her new album *Red*, Norwegian singer/songwriter Randi Tytingvåg has catapulted straight to the top of the European jazz-crossover scene. „A perfect bastard of jazz, cabaret, chanson and songwriting“ is what *Jazz Thing* wrote about the album, *Jazz Podium* pronounced it as „brilliant“, and in its audiophile pop-CD-of-the-month review, *Audio* had nothing but praise for this „impressive jazz-folk-tango-electronic-cocktail of most excellent sound“.

Now Randi follows with her second album *Let Go*, an album originally released in 2006 exclusively in Norway. The artist born in 1978 in Stavanger has been on a par with the likes of Rebekka Bakken, Silje Nergaard or Beady Belle for a long time in Norway, and already shows on this album all the qualities she later utilizes on *Red*, easily blowing the borders between styles and genres completely away with her acoustic sound.

Let Go, the Norwegian's second album, features a wonderful musical ease, tapping into chanson, tango, classical, pop, avantgarde and klezmer sounds, and at the same time delivers tremendous dynamics, highly expressive singing, and an enormous wealth of melodies and inventive arrangements. She is supported on the album by her regular and brilliant crew, consisting of pianist and arranger Anders Aarum (Jazzmob), accordion player Espen Leite, double-bass player Jens Fossum as well as guests Morten Michelsen (clarinet), Ola Kvernberg (violin) and Julie Dahle Aagård (backing vocals).

Flowing freely, zealously following her musical visions and trains of thought, Randi Tytingvåg abandons herself to the sheer joy of musical experimentation and unbridled passion for fabulating. Willingly, you join her chanson-like "Rat Race" against the omnipresent Higher! Faster!, to realize that with her Kate Bushian vocals, she is indeed among the winners in the end. If the violin sets the pace on "Rat Race", the melancholy sound of the accordeon and airy ease of the piano lie gently upon "Let There Be You And Me".

Randi whispers and whoops, phrases with incredible emphasis, leaving her voice and her accompanying musicians enough space to unfold, as in the sensuous tango "Ghost" or in the seemingly weightless "War". Her songs tell of the beginning and the end of love, of great dreams and the way they show weakness and vulnerability hands down, like in the title song "Let Go". "I'm not who they say I am/What if I don't fit in to your plan/I can't do what you think I can", she whispers at first, but without doubting the truth of her own words for a moment, she lets her voice swell with confidence.

Far from Scandinavian sobriety and down-to-earthness, the album is light-hearted, but still seasoned with a healthy portion of melancholy. "I will not put my feelings to sleep. Intentions are mine to keep and playing is a way of going deep", she sings in her song "Playful" – and we are only too happy to follow her intentions, because she dispels evil ("Ghost") and mischievous ("Every Day Monsters") spirits with her melodies, embracing them with sounds you and they would just love to be captured by. „Randi Tytingvag is not only a new, but above all a unique voice, one that whisks you into a world where you want to stay for a veeery long time“ is what a music critic from *Deutschlandradio Kultur* said about Randi Tytingvåg, and we couldn't agree more.

We'll be able to see Randi Tytingvåg live on stage in Germany in the spring of 2010. What the audience has to look forward to, *Jazzthetik* has already experienced at a concert in Stavanger: „Everything fits. The stage lighting, the occasional fog of dry ice wafting around, the dramaturgy of the concert with songs that are more subdued if anything, with irregular intervals of emotional crescendos, the wonderful interplay of the band.“