

MALENE AGONY & ECSTASY



Stunt Records
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AGONY & ECSTASY is Malene Mortensen's fifth release. Her 2003 debut, PARADISE, was produced by Niels Lan Doky, and Kasper Villaume produced DATE WITH A DREAM from 2005. She recorded and released MALENE in 2006 with Chris Minh Doky producing, and in the holiday season of 2007, she released TO ALL OF YOU, produced by Søren Siegumfeldt. Each album is the result of a unique collaboration between Malene, the session musicians and the producer, and each album has its own unique atmosphere.

However, at 27, with a lot of studio experience behind her, Malene decided to take control of her new recording. No outside producers, no guest musicians. Instead she took her road band into the recording studio to expand on their inspiring concert work.

Since 2007 the personnel in Malene's band has consisted of four friends from Copenhagen's Rhythmic Conservatory: Carl Mörner-Ringström (guitar), Magnus Hjorth (piano), Petter Eldh (bass) and Snorre Kirk (drums). Together they have played over 100 concerts in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Britain, France, Poland, and not least in Asia. It has been an intense development and the inspiration for this recording.

Malene's repertoire has always included her own music and in part her own lyrics, but where her earlier releases also featured well-known jazz standards and jazzed-up rock and pop songs, all tunes on AGONY & ECSTASY are originals written by Malene herself or in collaboration with Carl or Magnus.

Malene's sound has taken a twist away from acoustic standard jazz towards something more electric – an update of the jazz/rock fusion of the early 1980's.

Fortunately, this cool, enticing, energetic and spellbinding music will raise the eyebrows of some jazz puritans, but it will also fascinate the rest of us. Audiences unaccustomed to jazz will love the interplay, the great solos, the guitar riffs and Malene's virtuosic voice and musicality.

AGONY & ECSTASY makes it clear that Malene Mortensen can write, and that she composes melodies that stay in your ears long after the tune is over. Her vocals have the conviction and courage that give the songs a personal sound and carry emotions from AGONY to ECSTASY. These are songs from a hard-working artist, continuously pursuing her own path.

Enigma / The Light Up Ahead / Eternal Three / Tidal Wave / Black Amy / Valentine / Into Your Heart / Tools And Rules / Seeds Of Summer / Transparent / Good At Goodbyes.

Malene Mortensen (voc), Carl Mörner Ringström (g), Magnus Hjorth (p, keys), Petter Eldh (b), Snorre Kirk (d, perc).

Press photos can be downloaded at www.sundance.dk



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