

Kira Skov

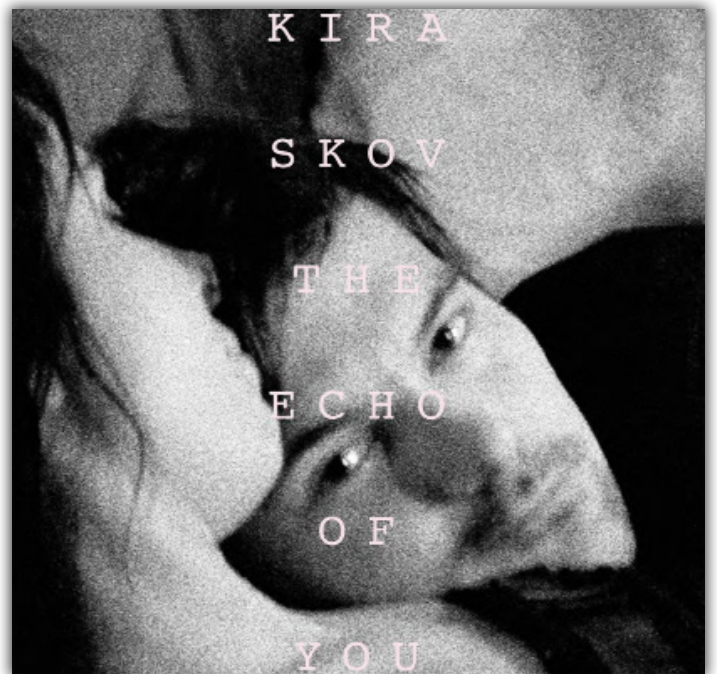
The Echo of You

Songs for Nicolai

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CD - LP - Digital

Stunt Records



Stunt Records CD & LP

STULP 18051

STUCD 18052



In February 2017, Kira Skov suffered the ultimate loss when Nicolai Munch-Hansen - her husband and father to their son, Morgan, and her best friend and closest musical companion for the last 13 years - tragically and unexpectedly lost his life. He was an artist who knew no fear, and as an integral part of a thriving musical community, Nicolai was revered by contemporaries, listeners, and admirers alike, as one of the Danish musical environment's influential leaders. A spirit brave enough to recognize his own talents, whilst ambitious and humble enough to seek out those others who could strengthen him even more. These qualities can be neither taught nor learned, and yet he gravitated toward and surrounded himself with people who shared similar musical values and understandings all over the world.

As a creative outlet and method of working through her grief, Kira soon began writing songs for her husband shortly after his passing. Songs about life, sudden death, and the shock that follows in such aftermath. This became a way of giving her sorrow a form and also created an aura of continuity, carried by Kira and Nicolai's tender and strong common musical language. The carefully selected circle of musicians on the album, all of whom seem to share the same musical DNA as Nicolai Munch-Hansen, have managed to create a sense of continuation as supposed to an end. Bassist Anders "AC" Christensen, who, with his departed spiritual brother's insight, has been able to enter such an extremely tender situation and be the musical voice that speaks on Nicolai's behalf, whilst being true to himself, as the music deserves.

Kira Skov has written a number of personal songs covering a wide gambit, and has also found comfort and inspiration in the Tibetan Book of the Dead, as well as poets and writers including Rainer Maria Rilke, Walt Whitman, Marilynne Robinson and Naja Marie Aidt.

The songs are based on Kira's personal loss, but at the same time they capture a universal theme that touches all of us. With "The Echo Of You", she distinguishes herself again as being one of our foremost singers and songwriters who seem to top herself with each release, in a musical and creative creature that seems without limits.

The musical universe unfolds in an intimate space, with sparse instrumentation: Electric and acoustic guitars, violin, cello, double bass, and percussion. They are songs centered around storytelling, with references to a songwriting tradition that refers to, among others, Leonard Cohen, Joni Mitchell, and Townes Van Zandt.

Kira Skov recorded the new music in Portishead's studio in Bristol, along with her longstanding collaborator, producer and drummer, John Parish (known for his work with such luminaries as PJ Harvey, Sparklehorse, Tracy Chapman, etc). The recordings took place in December 2017.

The American alt-country star Bonnie Prince Billy lends his voice to a couple of songs and, as an extra curiosity, Kira has written a duet that is a form of conversation with Nicolai. Listen especially to the deep unison between the Danish world singer and Bonnie Prince Billy on Lilac Sky, where the acoustic bass is very close in the mix, and echoes of Marie Jagd's violin act as a poetic torch in a production that sits by producer John Parish, of Kira, and not at least about both the eternity in the promise and the promise of eternity between two married people, connected hand in hand. In addition, Bonnie Prince Billy appears as a shadow at the title track of the album, The Echo of You.

Nicolai Munch-Hansen was a big fan of Bonnie Prince Billy, so it's both fitting and beautiful that he, in his own way gives Nicolai a voice in the music. Thus, a memorial is added to the artist Nicolai Munch-Hansen, which is at the same time a continuation Kira Skov's artistic journey, and where every syllable sung in each song gestures both towards and from the heart.

Kira Skov (voc, ac g), Oliver Hoiness (g), Anders Christensen, (b, p), Silas Tinglef (d, ac g, voc), John Parish (d ac g, voc), Maria Jagd (v, voc), Barney Morse-Browne (cello), Hopey Parish (voc), Bonnie Prince Billy (voc).

The Echo of You / The Basement / Lilac Sky / Everything Reminds Me of You / If Not Winter / Spirit Shed / Soul in the Ceiling / Supernatural Ecstasy / I Tried to Look into Your Eyes in a Photograph Today.

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