

Ester Brohus: Heart of the Country

Denmark's "Queen of Country", Ester Brohus, has just released her 11th album "Heart of the Country". The album features musical appearances by Maggie Björklund, Mike Andersen, Søren McGuire and Knud Møller.

Musical teamwork

Ester Brohus wrote all of the music on her new album, but for the first time in 17 years, Ester enjoyed working with co-writers on five of her new songs. She also invited a few musical guests to perform on the album. It's no coincidence that the chosen few were Maggi, Mike, McGuire, and Møller. Ester says, "All four of them are musicians and people who can relate to country music and take it as seriously as I do."

Maggi Björklund, the renowned Danish pedal steel guitarist, has always had country music flowing through her veins. She became a country star after performing on the Orange Stage with Jack White's band at the Roskilde Festival in 2012. "Maggi is synonymous with quality, and she plays magnificently. Her approach to country music is exceptionally unique. I truly enjoy what she adds to the song "What in the World Have You Done," says Ester Brohus, who wrote the lyrics for this song with Mikkel Bøggild.

Mike Andersen, a blues musician, and Ester worked together writing the lyrics for "Baby, Please Come Home" and "I Wish You Were Here". "Mike is as much blues man as I am a country woman. Writing together was an interesting process, and we learned a lot from each other. Something very special happens when blues and country get together. We each have our own background. What stands out in our work together is that being true to your heart always takes highest priority."

The lyrics for "Ticket for the Train" and the title song "Heart of the Country" were written with Søren McGuire, a specialist in country music and a country music enthusiast. When Ester asked Søren, who had never written a song in his life, if he wanted to write one with her, he gladly accepted the challenge. "It ended with us writing a song honoring the traditional way of writing a country song: three accords, a simple song, and a good story to tell."

Knud Møller performs as a guest guitarist in the single "The Dreamer." Not only is Knud Møller a friend and one of Ester's musical sparring partners, he is also her neighbor. "Knud and I have a very special musical relationship. Whenever I write something new, I drop by to have him listen. We have worked together many times, and I have great faith in his musical ears."

Songwriting with the sunrise

Ideas for songs often pop up in Ester's mind at times when most people are sound asleep in their beds. "All of the songs on the new album were composed between 4am and 7am. Apparently that is when the songs come knocking on my door," she says.

She often finds Inspiration for her song lyrics in the many souls she meets along her way. She is driven by a natural curiosity and thirst for knowledge when it comes to people. These people come from all over – from the small town where she lives to people she meets on the road with her band during the greater part of the year, and even in the prisons, where it has become a tradition for Ester and her band to give concerts. The song "Don't Be Afraid" was written for one of the prisoners, whom she has known and followed for over 10 years.

In 2017, Ester Brohus and Band were touring while working on new songs for the new album. Ester is always on the move, involved in lots of projects, and never bored. "If I reach a point of stress-overload, it'll be because nobody wants me anymore," says the optimistic and inspirational singer-songwriter. .



Some people are just born with country music in their blood

Ester Brohus and her band have been playing together for three years. The band is comprised of musicians and people that Ester admires. Mikkel Bøggild is in charge of the string instruments and is also the producer on the new album. Ester says, *"Mikkel is probably the one musician in Denmark whom I've known throughout the years that has the greatest understanding and knowledge of country music and its history. He plays and sings to perfection and handles the instruments in a true country fashion. I had no doubt that he would be the perfect producer for "Heart of the Country". "Torben Bjørnskov is a vibrant and talented contrabass player. He is invested in our musical teamwork and is also a wonderful person to work with."* Sabrina Brohus is Ester's daughter, and the two of them have been singing and playing together since Sabrina was little. Sabrina has been singing backup for over 15 years. *"We sing perfectly together, and I am especially grateful that we have been able to keep each other company throughout the years in the way we do. And she is a journalist, which is also a big help for me,"* says the proud mother.

See Ester Brohus and her band LIVE across Denmark. More info at: www.esterbrohus.dk

Discography:

"The Perfect Way" (1992), "The Letter" (1994), "Heart Of Desert Longing" (1995), "Happy To Be Lonely (1998), "Poor Pretty Little Me" (2001), "Come To Me" (2002), "When Time Comes" (2004), "The Perfect Way - Best Of" (2006), "Coming Home" (2010), "Game for the Gamblers (2016) and "Heart of the Country" (2018).

Ester Brohus was awarded her first Danish Music Award in 1996 for her album "Heart of Desert Longing". In 2002, she was awarded a grand total of three Danish Music Awards for "Poor Pretty Little Me": *Danish Vocalist of the Year, Danish Folk songwriter of the Year and Country Music Album of the Year*. In 2003 and 2005, she was again rewarded the Danish Music Award for *Country Music Album of the Year* for her albums "Come To Me" (2003) and "The Perfect Way - Best Of" (2006) .

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