

Bridges

biography

Seldom has a title been more fitting

The Faroese singer and composer has named her new upcoming album Bridges. When you – like Eivør – have been born and raised in a country consisting of 18 islands, you come to understand the importance and necessity of bridges. Her new songs are not about bridges attached to the islands' rocks, but rather about mental bridges, connections, between two humans or two places, between home and away.

“Some bridges are made of marble / You follow traces laid out for you / Some bridges are leaps of faith / You have to find your own way across the water / Into your lover's arms / Where nothing will do you no harm / Bridges from the heart / Never keep us apart,” Eivør sings in the blue title track, delicately accompanied by acoustic guitar and discrete electronics. And in that way, she follows the modern folk expression 'Folktronica' which she introduced with great success on her predecessor Room in 2012.

Bridges is in many ways a classical singer/songwriter album, deeply rooted in the 1960's golden age of pop. But Eivør tweaks her expression by letting her acoustic guitar counter play against programmed beats, which she has typically sampled from her old shaman drum. It was then put into the hands of the beat producer, Høgni Lisberg, to take it further into the electronic world. In other parts of the music the melodies are carried forward by tasteful string instruments which have been arranged beautifully by Tróndur Bogason. In that way both tradition and experiment are brought together in a very exciting way.

In Faithful Friend Eivør recalls her youth and her closest friend whose heart beat in unison with her own, but who has since disappeared from her life, leaving a void. “My faithful friend where have you been / What have you done, what have you seen / Did you meet someone special, have you settled down / While I have been running from town to town.”





There is plenty of time for reflection when away from home, and Eivør does that most beautifully in *Purple Flowers*, where her ill mother in the Faroe Islands is the recipient of her thoughts. The same mother, who watched her teenage daughter leave her family in the little village of Syðrugøta to study music in Icelandic capital Reykjavik.

Since then, Eivør has travelled all over the world but *Bridges* is the first album she has written on the road. "I used to dedicate time specifically for composing music and writing lyrics, but many of the new songs just came to me whilst touring with my previous album. Typically, I got an idea for a theme during the day, and then I continued working on it in the evening in my hotel room, where I always have a guitar and small keyboard within reach" Eivør says.

The beautiful ballad *Remember Me*, which is the first single of the album, was written in Canada in the autumn of 2013, when Eivør worked with composer Gavin Bryars – the old friend of Brian Enos from the 1970s. He has long been fond of the Faroe Islands and speaks of the country as the "most beautiful place on Earth". This is perhaps why two of his operas are based on Faroese folklore. One of these is *Tróndur í Gøtu* where Eivør performed the soprano voice so well that Bryars offered her the main role of his next opera, *Marilyn Forever*, about Marilyn Monroe.

Eivør explains: "It was an opera about the flip side of the coin, about loneliness and about all those things she struggled with. I was so inspired by the role as Marilyn Monroe, Gavin's beautiful music and the beautiful poetry made by Marilyn Bowering. It was a very emotional experience for me and I guess there were many things I could relate to in her life. The song is about wanting to be remembered in some way. It's a very human thing wanting to leave something meaningful behind. Something I think most of us can relate to.

Although all the tracks of *Bridges* have been written whilst travelling in various places, all of them have been recorded at Studio Bloch, which is located in an old cold-storage warehouse in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands. For although Eivør is currently based in Copenhagen, Faroe Islands are the place she calls home. It is the place, she misses when travelling, but also the place she curses when wanderlust strikes her again. But wherever Eivør ventures, she is constantly reminded of her Faroese roots – As one of the countries' few musicians with international success, she has almost become synonymous with the stormy island country in the Atlantic Ocean.





She was actually chosen Faroe Islander of the Year in 2004, at only 20 years of age. At that time, she had already released three albums and had won awards such as 'Female Singer of the Year' and 'Performer of the Year' in Iceland. Since then, she has won great acclaim in Iceland, Denmark and Faroe Islands, and she has worked with many of the leading musicians from across the Nordic countries.. Most recently, she has toured with bassist Lennart Ginman after the release of their duo album, *The Color Of Dark*, in September 2014, which received unanimously positive reviews.

Now it is all about her own music again, and *Bridges* is Eivør's first solo album release since *Room* in 2012. She has written all the songs herself, and produced the album with Tróndur Bogason, who also made the string arrangements on the album.

Bridges was released on LP, CD and digital on February 28, 2015.

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November 2014

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