



Inga Liljeström -biography

Inga is an Australian Finnish experimental vocalist and composer, renowned for her haunting vocals, evocative lyrics, and explorative sonic landscapes.

Her style is diverse, with each of her 6 commercially released albums traversing new terrain, from cinematic nordic landscapes using strings and beats, to dry desert landscapes exploring folk and rock. She is a self-taught instrumentalist and runs her own home recording studio as a compositional tool.

Inga hails from Bellingen NSW, Australia, known for its outstanding nature - the valley with rivers and surrounding mountains, which in the 1970s, attracted an alternative community who defied conventional boundaries, influencing her approach to music.

Having joined a pentecostal community at the age of 11, Inga sang with the church band, accessing a feeling of channeling through singing in tongues. This led to a natural affinity when studying vocals at University, based in jazz and improvisation.

Moving to Sydney to join the thriving music scene in the early 1990s, she collaborated with film / experimental composer Felicity Wilcox, forming the group 'Helgrind', rooted in art rock. She then embarked on a solo career, composing her own music and vision. Her first album, 'Elk' in 2005 (Groovescooter records), garnered much critical acclaim, resulting in sold out performances at venues in Sydney, as well as Adelaide festival, Sydney festival, Femme Funk Festival in New Caledonia, and Sydney Opera House Studio. Inga has also collaborated with many groups in Australia including d.i.g (directions in groove), Gerling, The Church, Cameron Undy's Kidzen, American producer Carmen Rizzo, and remixed Gotye and Fourplay string quartet. She toured South America as a singer/ actress with the physical theatre show, 'Paradise City', produced by award winning Branch Nebula, and composed the music with Bob Scott.

A love of travel resulted in Inga forming a band in France, and consequently basing herself in Europe for 14 years, recording albums and releasing her music on European labels. Performances throughout Europe included Wroclaw Impart Festival, Poland; Colours of Ostrava festival, Czech Republic; Festival Au Fil des Voix, France; and performances throughout Italy, Switzerland, Finland and UK.

In addition to her solo work, Inga has lent her distinctive vocals to various film soundtracks and collaborative projects, including TV series Bloodbrothers (ABC), Rake (ABC), Kettering Incident (BBC), promotion for Dracula (Sky TV), and her compositions on film, TV, and nature films, including award winning Wild Antarctic by Galaxiid. She has also composed music for art installations, including Light Origami by artist Masakazu Shirane (Japan), which toured internationally.

She has received grants to create her music, including to study 'Yoik,' the channeled singing of Lapland / Saamiland, which has informed her approach to her own work in various projects; and a music film project called 'Paris, she loves me, she loves me not,' exploring the darker underbelly of the city's history.

Collaboration has played an important role in her creativity, working with other visionaries such as award winning film composer, Michael Lira on their album 'We Have Tigers,' and more recently with multi-instrumentalist/ producer Leigh Ivin, for their experimental album featuring drones, 'Of Stars and Stones,' with two instrumental versions of tracks featured on the series, 'The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart.'

Inga is currently working on a PhD in music, delving into the concept of the creative muse and inspirational sources.

