

Dr Inga Liljeström - biography



Inga is an Australian/Finnish vocalist, songwriter, composer and performer, 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 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.

She studied contemporary music (voice) at University, and completed a PhD in Humanities investigating the creative Muse and how songwriters and composers conceive of it. She has studied the therapeutic qualities of sound and leads regular sound immersions, creating transformative experiences that blend healing frequencies with artistic expression.

She began composing music in the 1990s in her group, 'Helgrind', rooted in art rock. She then embarked on a solo career, composing her own music and vision. Her albums, Elk (2005), Black Crow Jane (2011), Two Dangers (2014), We Have Tigers (2017), and Of Stars and Stones (2022, in collaboration with Leigh Ivin), garnered much critical acclaim. Inga and her band 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 then based herself in Europe for 14 years, forming a band in France, 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.

Having returned to Australia in 2022, Inga has been exploring intimate solo performances, on electric guitar, voice, vocal looping, with her collages animated by artist Anna Fraser as projections.

Inga has collaborated with many groups 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 with the physical theatre show, 'Paradise City', produced by award winning Branch Nebula, composing the music with international award winning audio engineer, music producer and sound designer, Bob Scott.

In addition to her own work, Inga has lent her distinctive vocals to numerous film and television soundtracks and collaborative projects, including the ABC series Blood Brothers and Rake, the BBC series The Kettering Incident, and promotional campaigns for Dracula (Sky TV). Her compositions have also featured in film, television and nature documentaries, including the award-winning Wild Antarctic by Galaxiid. Beyond screen work, she has composed music for major art installations, including Light Origami by Japanese artist Masakazu Shirane for VIVID Sydney, which subsequently toured internationally. In 2026, she composed the music for Circles of Rhythm, an audio-visual work for VIVID Sydney created with Anna Fraser, Giles Westley and Julian Burgess.

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 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.'



Live photos by Imogen Liljeström 2026

www.ingaliljestrom.com

Contact : ingalil2010@gmail.com

Ph +61 411939638

YouTube : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUXBMmbYghdO8SIXHjEDAXA>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/ingaliljestromusic/>

Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/ingaliljestrom/>



Photos by Helen Deane

Quotes:

"...her voice, dark or bright, heartbreaking or stripped. An album at once powerful, wild, intimate." (Rolling Stone, France) ****

"Something truly happens when beautiful voices of the north attack folk music...an assault of fire and ice. A small marvel of poetry who caresses as much as she cuts." (Journal Ventrilo, France)

"...an undeniable mastery in writing, composition, production, arrangements, visual – a breath and power that does not evaporate, as do many others...Between rock and cabaret Gothic, Inga Liljeström with her ominous incantations, she reminds us that before her, another Australian came to Europe to impose his unique vision under high influence of tortured crooner: Nick Cave." (Telerama, Hugo Cassavetti, France)

"It tears us, this famous tremor in her voice like butterflies that travel furiously in our guts, as does the delicate vocals pierce us. The stories told by Inga are beautifully poignant." (Indierockmag.com, France)

"A voice both poisonous and addictive, everything this artist touches turns to gold." (Core and Co, France)

"I've been a fan of Inga's music for a long time. She has traversed a wide array of styles of music, but the one thing that has been a constant (and the reason why fans of quality music have followed her across the years) is her fragile, vulnerable, beautiful voice. Of Stars and Stones touches on a few of the areas she has ventured into, but (for me) is a stellar collection of songs that have as their binding ethos, the ethereal nature of Inga's voice and a sonic quality that is literally of the stars and sometimes the stones. Must listen to music that will stand the test of time." (Tim Ritchie The boss at Tim Ritchie Media)

"There is something about how Inga finds that intersection between the deepest depths of dark and the endless possibilities of love and light. When I first heard Ghost of Daniel, I cried for all my own lost friends and at the same time was filled to the brim with all the love they had brought into my world. For me, when Inga sings, magic happens." (Gayle Austin, first female rock DJ in Australia JJ. Curved Radio, 2SER)