

NEW ALBUM

A Place Called Love



Release: Digital:

3 FEBRUARY 2023

Cd 31 Mars 2023 (GABBIANO/AUTREDISTRIBUTION)

I composed and wrote this new album entirely in English: a real turn after having sung Eastern European world songs for long years.

I wished to give a more universal and contemporary resonance to my words.

My songs were born at a moment in my life when I felt the need to return to the source, like a journey to the most intimate, a descent into an immemorial night, where the fear of the child reawakens, and the badly healed wounds reopen. These are delicate love songs, like letters of a revolt sent out to the void. Beyond the disappointment facing the infinite brutality of our world, my songs express the desire and the dream of a tender and welcoming place :

"A Place Called Love".

The arrangements by Csaba Palotai, mixed with rock - a slow and serious rock - and an unfailing Slavic sensibility, combine the solemnity of Nick Cave with Zsuzsanna's airy vocals, which are reminiscent in places of another stateless blueswoman, Lhasa. By switching to the English language and adopting a more pop format, Zsuzsanna's songs, always accompanied by her faithful combo of excellent musicians, do not lose their elegance and ardour.

« The sweetness is like a child's wish.
Like a whispered promise: I will always be close to you".
Anne Dufourmantelle

« I used to run like deer
With tender grief in my eyes
Chased by savage wolves
Chewing on wood in my heart »
Attila József, "Chagrin / translation Zsuzsanna : Deer

« At the crossroads of several musical styles and languages, Zsuzsanna explores a universe that is both very personal and universal, and which is underlined by her captivating voice.
A singer and musician (the accordion being her favourite instrument), Zsuzsanna - who also practices the art of acting - embodies her music with a rare expressive intensity. Shrouded in a halo of melancholy, this music of fiery beauty evokes a form of stateless folk or nomadic blues. A vagabond (celestial) at heart, she has built up an extensive repertoire over the years, in which original compositions and traditional tunes are mixed.
She is now back with a new album, "A Place Called Love", of great emotional strength."

She has been nicknamed "the Hungarian Lhasa" for the natural grace that adorns her singing and inhabits her melodies. If Zsuzsanna Várkonyi has already toured the world, it is above all an inner journey that she offers here. Her gypsy folk music takes each listener to intimate places and to great spiritual spaces, where one hears above all the resonance of the soul. »
Jerome Provençal,
Les Inrockuptibles

TRACKLIST

A PLACE CALLED LOVE - The song that gives the album its title is about the desire to fly to a dreamy place of tenderness, where hate never existed. It evokes the thirst for freedom that I experienced as a child, growing up in a country locked behind the Iron Curtain.

MOTHER - The first text I wrote in English, during the last weeks of my mother's life. I couldn't find the words in my mother tongue to describe the fear and grief I felt. This song was the impetus for the others.

I HURT YOU - A love song about the violence of not being able to understand each other as lovers. We are left with the question: "who will carry love to the other side".

YOUR BEAUTY - In praise of the fiery beauty of a teenage girl (dedicated to my daughter).

WATERFALL - On a five-beat music, echoing my Eastern European origins, the metaphor of a waterfall: a mixture of strength and fragility. As are tears.

DEER - My translation of a poem by Attila József, a Hungarian poet who is particularly touching. Its original title is "Sorrow". It is the story of a young deer who has lost his antlers and regrets having become a lone wolf.

BREATH OF LOVE - A prayer for a 'breath of love', in search of inner freedom, in a gospel spirit.

STARS - A meditation on the afterlife, on disappearance and the feeling of not belonging. All this with a pop arrangement.

STILL WAITING - Lyrics dedicated to all mothers, who wait forever for the return of their children who have left or emigrated. An intimate song.

MISSING YOU - With a light, pop tune, the words evoke the unbearable feeling of lack, as in a dream: the impossibility of repairing a toy, of finding a lost boat or of putting back together the pieces of an exploding love story.

BIOGRAPHY ZSUZSANNA



Living in Paris since 1996, Zsuzsanna Várkonyi was born and raised in Hungary. She was influenced by classical music - her mother was an opera singer - as well as by gypsy music.

Trained as an actress, she has worked in theatre and film, appearing in *Michel Winterbottom's* "Forget about me" in 1990 and *Philippe Garrel's* "Sauvage Innocence" in 2001. She composed the music for several films by *Hubert Sauper*: "Kisangani Diary" (1997), which she also co-directed, and "Seules avec nos histoires" (2001). In 2008, Nicolas Hulot chose her adaptation of "Parlez moi d'amour" for his film "Le Syndrome de Titanic". As a singer, with her group of musicians, she has given concerts at the Lavoisier Moderne Parisien, the Maroquinerie, the Divan du Monde, the Cabaret Sauvage, the Studio de l'Ermitage, the CENQUATRE-PARIS, as well as on numerous National Stages and in Festivals in France and abroad.

In 2010, France 3 Corsica devoted a programme to her for "*Mezzovoce*". Currently, she continues to perform regularly in the theatre as a singer and actress with the *Compagnie Gabbiano*, directed by Thomas Bellorini ("Pinocchio", "À la Périphérie", "Le Dernier Voyage de Sindbad" and "Femme non réeducable" « Solo Andata » at BATACLAN 2021, 2022, at the CENQUATRE-PARIS in 2023).

Three songs from his new repertoire accompany *Hubert Sauper* latest film "Epicentro", Sundance Grand Prix 2020.

DISCOGRAPHY

JE PARS 1998 Arb/Musidisc ,selection FIP.

OT AZOY 2001- Arb/Musidisc , ffff Télérâma
VALAHOL-QUELQUE PART
BÀNAT-VAGABOND SONGS (Gabbiano/ L'Autredistribution, 2014)
COMPTINE ET BERÇEUSE TZIGANES (Didier Jeunesse, 2015)
SIMPLE PRAYER 2018 EP- Gabbiano
A PLACE CALLED LOVE-Gabbiano/ L'autredistribution, 2023/

BIOGRAPHIE DES MUSICIENS

FRÉDÉRIC NOREL / VIOLIN, PIANO

Violinist, composer, arranger and conductor, he divides his time between symphonic compositions, concerts as an improviser, and music for the theatre, television and cinema (Emmanuel Mouret, Ladislav Chollat, Florian Zeller). A bridge builder - as shown by his piece "Liaisons dangereuses" for symphony orchestra and jazz octet, premiered in 2016 at the Salle Gaveau by the Lamoureux orchestra, conducted by Laurent Goossaert -, he puts his knowledge of the symphony orchestra and his practice of oral music at the service of cross-disciplinary projects: from Dhafer Youssef to the Réunionese singers Maya Kamaty and Christine Salem

He won first prize in the 1997 Jazz à la Défense competition, and has also played with the Archie Shepp Attica Blues Big Band, the ONJ, Georges Russel's Living Time Orchestra, the Bernard Struber Jazztett, Rosemary Stanley, Deborah Herbert, the Indian singer Ravi Prasad... and released the album Dremseekers on the Métisse label in 2001.

SEBASTIEN GASTINE / DOUBLE BASS

An eclectic musician, he began studying jazz, improving his technique with American musicians passing through Paris, and began his career in various clubs in the capital. He then met Téofilo Chantre, a Cape Verdean singer and composer (Ce-saria Evora), whose group he joined and with whom he recorded three albums and toured in France and abroad. He then participated as a producer and bassist in the launch of Babx (French song). Many artists called on him for his eclecticism and his "swing", including Oxmo Puccino. A long-time friend and partner of Lucy Dixon, he finds in her songs the opportunity to express his taste for black music and jazz.

CSABA PALOTAI / GUITARE

Né à Budapest, il a étudié au département Jazz de l'Académie de Musique Ferenc Liszt de Budapest puis au CNSM de Paris. Il s'est produit notamment avec John Zorn, François Jeanneau, l'ONJ, Christophe Monniot, Fred Pallem et la Troupe du Phénix.

Avec son ensemble Grupa Palotaï, il enregistre trois albums chez BMC : Minimyths (2003), Stompy Trashy (2005) et Singapore (2007) et en solo le remarquable The Deserter (2016).

Parallèlement, il travaille avec les chanteurs Emily Loizeau et Wladimir Anselme, compose pour le théâtre (Compagnie Auriculaire, Théâtre Caché) et co-fonde avec l'organiste Boris Boubil le groupe de rock Atlas Crocodile et collabore avec John Parish. Son dernier album, Cabane Perchée (BMC, 2021), en duo avec Steve Argüelles, convie à une rencontre musicale entre le hongrois Bela Bartok et le new-yorkais Moondog.

STANISLAS GRIMBERT / VIBRAPHONE

For more than 20 years, Stanislas Grimbert has never stopped blurring the lines. His cultural mix (from the West Indies to Eastern Europe) and his eclectic tastes have led him to play with free jazz groups (Guillaume Perret, Thomas von Pourquery), contemporary music (Scoring Orchestra, Benjamin Meyers), rock groups (Mademoiselle K) and electro (Dr(dr)one). He also collaborates with Darius Keeler, Simon Dalmais, Lazy Bees, the Scoring Orchestra, participates in poetry projects with Carole Zalberg and theatre projects with Thomas Bellorini or Myriam Marzouki. He joins Julie Bonnie in the adventure of Lalala on keyboards, percussion and arrangements. Drummer/percussionist and arranger, he currently creates his compositions from a hybrid instrument that combines drums and the electrified vibraphone.

STEVE ARGÜELLES / DRUMS, PERCUSSION

Of Anglo-Catalan origin, Steve Argüelles studied at the Byam Shaw and Chelsea Schools of Fine Arts before becoming one of the most prominent drummers on the British scene in the 1980s with the Loose Tubes. Together with Django Bates, he founded Human Chain. With a unique style of innovation and a deep knowledge of the instrument, he has played with Martin Speake, Dudu Pukwana, Gordon Beck, Don Rendell, Alexander Balanescu, Tristan Honsinger, Ig Henneman, Lee Konitz, and Steve Lacy.

He appeared in Steve Beresford's orchestra for Kazuko Hohki's album Love in rainy days. The 90's saw him join another budding band, the one that took place in France with musicians like Benoît Delbecq and Noël Akchoté with whom he created The Recyclers. He also worked with singers Corin Curschellas and Camélia Jordana

PRESSE quotes about the record Banat -Vagabond Songs :

"There are some records that have a magical effect on you. You don't know the artist, you don't know anything about the musical genre they are supposed to represent, and you fall under the spell, and when you listen to them, even without understanding what our wandering artist is singing in our ears, we are seduced by this discreet song, with its light melancholy, its new sounds, sometimes very soft, sometimes rough, as life is.

Zsuzsanna enchants us with her light, discreet presence, but which makes our hearts happy, like the sight of a horse-drawn carriage passing by on a beautiful morning in our street... A (shooting) star is born... Nadia Khouri-Dagher

22 July 2014

"She has been nicknamed "the Hungarian Lhasa" for the natural grace that adorns her singing and inhabits her melodies. On this fourth album, produced by Philippe Teissier du Cros (Piers Faccini, Bojan Z, Rokia Traoré), her ethereal voice reveals the ephemeral enchantment and deep nostalgia of her nomadic existence. If Zsuzsanna Várkonyi has already toured the world thanks to her music and her talent as an actress, it is above all an inner journey that she offers here.

Her gypsy folk music takes each listener to intimate lands and to great spiritual spaces where one hears above all the resonance of the soul. On the horizon, the relief is drawn by mystical violins, haunting amplified guitars, and emotionally charged accordion exhalations. The singer abandons herself, rambles, transgresses, fades away, resurrects... Trained as an actress, she never overacts. She lives, she vibrates, and so do we."

David Commeillas-Les Inrockuptibles

CONTACTS

zsuzsannavarkonyi@icloud.com sbciegabbiano@gmail.com

www.zsuzsanna-varkonyi.com