

MATTIAS LIES

* Mattias Lies releases "The voice from the Karelian Isthmus": A Musical Interpretation of Edith Södergran's Poetry

Renowed Swedish-Finnish artist Mattias Lies is set to release his seventh studio album. "Rösten från det Karelska näset"/ "The voice from the Karelian isthmus", on april 23rd. This highly anticipated project features Lies' interpretations of Edith Södergran's iconic poems, many of which have never been set to music before. Through this album, Lies embarks on a musical journey tracing Södergran's poetic development, spanning her youth to the poignant moments before her passing 100 years ago.



Photo: A. V. Kondratjeva & Josef Mauritzson.
Art work by Sharing moments

The melodies flowed freely from Mattias' fingers as he tinkled on the weathered grand piano in Bingsjö rectory. Little did he know, these folk-tinged compositions were unknowingly setting the stage for a future project. When his booking company suggested setting Edith Södergran's poems to music, he was surprised to discover he'd already done it in a way.

"Here I was," he reflects, "never having adapted another's poetry, yet somehow crafting music for hers. Looking back, it feels as if Edith's spirit guided me in Bingsjö, imbuing the melodies with her essence. And as a Swedish-Finn, I find a powerful kinship with her. We share an outward yearning for life, a contemplative introspection, and a melancholy tinged with the beauty of nature."

The shadow of history stretched long, its tendrils reaching across three countries and the turmoil of World War II, leaving an indelible mark on Mattias' upbringing. Yet, as he says, "the grass is sprouting where it was once dead." This quote embodies both his family's legacy and his own personal journey.

"As I reconnected with my biological family and Finnish heritage after two decades apart, 'Voices from the Karelian Isthmus' began to take shape. Yet, amidst the album's creation, grief struck with the sudden passing of my mother. While her loss was profound, the shared gratitude for our reunion resonated beyond words, becoming a powerful source of solace during the grieving process. This album, then, is a declaration of love - to Edith Södergran, to my mother, and to the roots that continue to nourish me. It's my ongoing journey of personal peace, woven into the very fabric of these songs."

Together with his musical companions, Mattias breathes life into both renowned and lesser-known poems from Edith's collection, transforming them into a tapestry of melody and emotion. Mattias, alongside his trusted

musical companions, brings Edith's poetry to life through a captivating blend of both celebrated and hidden gems. Lending their talents to the album are Thommy Wahlström: soprano saxophone, Daniel Fredriksson: tenor guitar and Offerdal pipe, Jens Larsson: piano, and Staffan Lindfors: double bass.



Mattias Lies' album "The voice from the Karelian Isthmus" is already captivating audiences with the first single "Hösten's bleka sjö," and follow-up single "Höst & Landet som icke är" which is slated for release 23rd February. Mattias Lies brings Edith Södergran's poems to life through music, with two original compositions showcasing his dual talent for lyrics and melody. Look for the full album and singles released through Quality recordings.

"Mattias' lovely folk vibes and empathy, flows like a gentle creek of clarity."

- Blogger Come Here Floyd