

New CD album and digital platforms

«Electronic yoik» unites electronica and the Sámi ancient style of singing, yoik

“I move slowly with the landscape, letting myself be moved, absorb, allow myself to listen and to unite with an ancient tradition.”

Johan Sara jr. is now releasing his fourteenth album: Electronic Yoik.

This release is the result of a close collaboration with Erik Håkon Halvorsen where they over the course of a three-year period have explored the encounter between urban electronic elements and the yoik, the traditional Sámi style of singing, with its ancient traditions. In terms of genre, the record is therefore difficult to place, but will create recognition in listeners who are accustomed to ambient music, traditional joik, jazz and pure electronic music.

The core of the record are element of archaic joik - microtonal themes and gesticulatory rhythms. Further motif development forms structure at various levels - the rhythmic, the sonic/material, which in turn is further processed in the electronic and digital in the form of sampling, sequencing and digital sound processing. Fragments of joik are repeated and processed in an organic way - motif develops like branches on a plant. In longer musical runs, listeners are invited into the same unexplored landscape as Halvorsen and Sara jr. has made countless expeditions to. The improvisational parties dissolve static patterns and bring the music into a more liberated form.

"By letting the archaic yoik be the basis in the meeting with modern global music, I hope that it will both maintain, and at the same, time modernize the Sámi music heritage. Such work is very time consuming. Creating new style directions as well as composing music from scratch often requires targeted work with a lot of trial and error. All in all, an good and comprehensive production that I am very proud of, "says Johan Sara.

In this project, Sara and Halvorsen have collaborated with the merited musicians Audun Erlien on bass, Arve Henriksen on trumpet and synth, and Stein Inge Brækhus on drums and percussion. The album is available on all streaming services, as well as on CD, from September 27, 2019.

Music: composed and produced by Johan Sara jr. and Erik Håkon Halvorsen

Photo and cover design: Susanne Hætta

Mixing: Reidar Skår

Mastering: Propeller by Morgan Nicolaysen

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