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Elin Furubotn Heilt Nye Vei

The heart smiles and the soul dances

Home, to Norwegian singer-songwriter Elin Furubotn, are the two cities of Stavanger and Oslo. To her songs, meanwhile, home is where the heart is. Universal in their appeal, they deal with daily life and the big search for happiness in small things. Furubotn's signature sense for silky harmonies and catchy melodies again shines through on her fifth and first internationally published album Heilt Nye Vei.

It must have been the protected solitude of growing up in Tonstad, a small village surrounded by the high mountains of Sirdal, which inevitably led Elin Furubotn to dedicate herself entirely to music. Already as a child, skiing or collecting blueberries were merely distractions. Instead, she longed for the moments when she could sing and perform with her two sisters. In 1999, Furubotn released her first full-length Tikk Takk - and she hasn't looked back since.

Several bands, four albums and various musical experiments later, the singer and acoustic quitarist is now taking her fresh and charmingly-elegant songwriting to a new level. Her first album to be published outside of Scandinavia, Heilt Nye Vei was co-produced by renowned Norwegian sound wizard Truls Birkeland and features a formidable collective of guests, including saxophone virtuoso and duo partner Karl Seglem, Gjermund Silset (bass), Morten Mølster (guitar) and David Wallumrød (keyboards). Brimming with life experience and little wisdoms, it is a work of slowly unfolding melodies and rhythmical immediacy.

As befits a singer, it is also a work marked by her unique voice. Youthful and pristine, it is equally capable of intimate gestures, such as on fragile "Akkuart et Som Er Na" ("Here In The Moment") or the subtly pulsing title track "Heilt Nye Vei" ("New Path"), as well as more outspoken action on "Slipp Tvilen Fri" ("Doubt"), a catchy tune softly propelled by airy reggae-grooves. Yet another remarkable artist to emerge from pop/jazz/folk-wonderland Norway, Furubotn infuses a down to earth approach with suspense and sensitivity.

Resting within themselves, compositions like "Stillheten" ("Silence") and "Ei Stille Nå" ("Present Peace") feel like echoes of silence, making the soul dance and the heart smile. Her eleven songs on Heilt Nye Vei (Ozella Music) are complemented by two tracks in English ("New Path", "I See You Looking"). The booklet includes English translations of all Norwegian lyrics.