Josefine Cronholm – Ember (2018)

1 Sing 2 From My Window 3 Rain 4 Horses 5 Blackbird (by Lennon/McCartney) 6 The Surrender 7 On Your Wing 8 The Wind Blows 9 Love Song Double Bass – Thommy Andersson Drums, Percussion – Lisbeth Diers Piano – Makiko Hirabayashi Saxophone, Clarinet, Trumpet – Torben Snekkestad Vocals, Composed By – Josefine Cronholm

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Josefine Cronholm was born in Domsten in Sweden (1971). Since the very beginning, she was considered a super-talent, and in 1995, she was admitted to the Rhythmic Conservatory in Copenhagen. She has called Denmark her home ever since. It was during this period at the Conservatory that she was introduced to (and began collaborating with) famed British pianist and composer Django Bates. During the same period, she formed her group IBIS, with whom she released two albums on Stunt Records: WILD GARDEN from 2001, and HOTEL PARADISE from 2003. In 2001, she began working with percussionist Marilyn Mazur (known from her work with Miles Davis, among others), which resulted in the Mazur's recordings FLAMINGO SKY from 2014, and ALL THE BIRDS from 2002. Josefine has shared the stage with many other well-known artists including Kenny Werner, Kirk Knuffke, and Jacob Fisher, to name a few, and appears on around 30 albums with popular bands such as String Swing and The New Jungle Orchestra.

Her previous album, SONGS OF THE FALLING FEATHER, was released on the German record label ACT in 2011 to glowing international reviews. Now, Josefine presents her fourth solo record, EMBER, confirming that she is also an excellent songwriter who is able to write beautiful and simple "hit" melodies such as on the tune From My Window, while at the same time exploring darkness and abandonment in sound, tones, and words, such as on The Surrender. As Peter Quinn from Jazzwise once wrote: "like the best short stories, Cronholm's songs have the ability to conjure up an entire world." On EMBER, listeners are whisked away, travelling from song to song and world to world, with Josefine as the ultimate guide, narrator, and navigator.

Cronholm is in the company of some of her most loyal and devoted musicians: Lisbeth Diers, yet again sounding like the wonderful percussionist and drummer she is; Makiko Hirabayashi, showing how beautifully and unexpectedly a piano can be handled; Torben Snekkestad, an elegant master of everything he puts air into here, namely, the saxophone, clarinet, and trumpet; and Thommy Andersson, one of the most outstanding Scandinavian bassists of our time.

To best understand and most fully appreciate the album, one must turn to its creator. On the title, relatable mission of the song,s and the recording as a whole, Josefine shares some insight with those who would listen: “The album’s title EMBER tells us about its content: the glow of life. It’s a tribute to life with all that it contains. Man, in his search for meaning and way through pain and chaos, zest for life and happiness. It has been 7 years since my last release. On the new album, the songs and texts are at the center of an acoustic universe, where the melody and the text work together with simplicity and warmth. In our attempt to capture the glow, we continue to burn ourselves, but it should not make us abandon the belief in what makes us living people.“ ---Josefine Cronholm, serpent.pl

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