



PROUDLY PRESENTS

IRRBLOSS · Maja Heurling and Ola Sandström

For three years, songwriters Maja Heurling and Ola Sandström have set music to the world-forgotten poetry of Signe Aurell – a Swedish emigrant, who was hoping for a brighter future in America, just like 250 000 other young female solo travelers around the last turn of the century.



The poetry of Signe Aurell has a distinctive luminosity to it. Now – one hundred years after the publication of the collection *Irrbloss* (will-o-the-wisp) by Signe herself in Minnesota – they are released as songs on this album, which includes Signe's biography both in Swedish and English, written by Ph.D. Marcus Cederström. The journey started when Maja Heurling was contacted by the American folklore-researcher Marcus Cederström who conducted research on Signe Aurell in Sweden. He asked if Heurling wanted to take a look at Signe Aurell's poems.

– A treasure landed in my hands. I immediately felt a strong connection with Signe and her passionate way of writing. I felt that she deserved recognition within the tradition of Swedish poetry, Maja Heurling says.

Maja Heurling is a songwriter and performer with several previous albums featuring her own songs. She has also written songs based on the life and work of Swedish labor writer Moa Martinson. **Ola Sandström** is a composer and a musician. He is known for his critically acclaimed album *Eldklotter*, featuring musical settings of the works of poet Tomas Tranströmer. Both Ola and Maja have performed on folk-scenes all around Sweden for many years. This is their first project together.

Signe Aurell was born in Gryt, Sweden, on February 14, 1889. At the age of 24, she left home for Minnesota, USA. In Minneapolis, Aurell sought out socially-minded Swedes. As a member of the IWW (Industrial Workers of the World), Aurell had advocated for the release of Joe Hill before his execution and worked to unionize Swedish immigrant women. She wrote many of her poems for an IWW audience. Her poem *Jul* (Christmas), also published in *Irrbloss*, is the first known publication by Signe Aurell. Published in December of 1915 on the front page of *Allarm*, a Swedish-language newspaper of the IWW, *Jul* appeared next to a charcoal drawing of Joe Hill, the Swedish-born American labor activist who had just been executed in Utah. That poem was the first of many.

Vocals and guitar: Maja Heurling and Ola Sandström

Percussion: Petter Berndalen

Accordion: Lisa Långbacka

Recorder: Claudia Müller

Violin: Livet Nord

Dobro: Helene Norrman

Double-bass: Daniel Wejdin

Recording/mix: Petter Berndalen, Playing With Music Recording Studio

Mastering: Claes Persson, CRP Mastering

INFO

Artist: Maja Heurling och Ola Sandström

Title: Irrbloss

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Press: www.kakafon.com/press

Single release 20/9: *Till mitt hem*

Web pages:

www.majaheurling.se

www.olasandstrom.se

www.facebook.se/SigneAurell

Promotion:

Birgitta Haller

+46 (0)73 9847786

birgitta@bigispromotion.se

www.bigispromotion.se

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