

## Kira Skov biography



Kira Skov left her home in Copenhagen at age 17 to pursue her dream of playing in a rock'n'roll band. For the next eight years, she journeyed through foreign lands like a modern gypsy. She lived in London and Los Angeles, but her path led her through many other parts of the world.

Kira cultivated a unique, singular sound and created a musical universe of deeply personal songs, drawing on experiences from her diverse and sometimes complicated relationships, her life on the road, her perpetual musical curiosity, and her many collaborations. She channels her musical influences and transforms them into sprawling cinematic soundscapes, acoustic and electric melodic material, sketches and shadows of trip-hoppy David Lynch-inspired locations, highway cruisers, stripped-down folk-inspired hymns, and glimpses of her love for Billie Holiday. She presents all this with her unmistakably intimate and sometimes rough voice that exudes emotional storytelling.

In 2002, Kira released her debut album, **HAPPINESS SAVES LIVES**, to critical acclaim. The Danish press heralded her as the greatest natural talent there in years.

In the 21 years since then, she's released 15 studio albums, including three with her first band (Kira and the Kindred Spirits) - leading to a Danish Music Award win and the Gaffa Prize for "Vocalist of the Year" in 2006. The same year, Kira also released **THE GOSPEL**.

This side-project, co-written and produced by Tore Johansson (Franz Ferdinand, The Cardigans), would lead to trip-hop legend Tricky discovering and signing her to Brown Punk, the label he and Chris Blackwell co-created. Kira joined Tricky's band as lead vocalist on his 2008 world tour.

Kira then released two solo albums with her backing band, The Ghost Riders. The second of these was recorded in Iceland and produced by John Parish. She received the Danish Film Academy's annual Robert Award for "Song of the Year" in 2009.

In 2011, Kira released **MEMORIES OF DAYS GONE BY**, her tribute album to Billie Holiday. *Persona*, her collaboration with former Sods guitarist Peter Peter, would release **EPIPHANIES OF GRANDEUR** in 2012.

In 2013, Kira released the critically acclaimed **WHEN WE WERE GENTLE**. Once again produced by John Parish, the Danish press hailed it as the highlight of her career. The album would earn her two Steppeulve (Danish Critics') Awards for "Album of the Year" and "Vocalist of the Year" and The Carl Nielsen Prize for "Lyricist of the Year."

In 2014, she released **THE CABIN PROJECT**, her duo project with the singer Marie Fisker, recorded in the woods of Canada and produced by Mark Howard (Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Emmylou Harris, Tom Waits). The recording received universal acclaim and was even called one of the decade's best albums in Gaffa Magazine.



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In 2015, Kira again teamed up with producer John Parish and engineer Paul Corkett to record the critically acclaimed MAY YOUR MIND EXPLODE A BLOSSOM TREE at the legendary Rockfield Studios in Wales. The first single from the album, *I Celebrate My Life*, was released as a remix by renowned electronic musical artist and DJ, Trentemøller, and became one of the most-played singles of the year on P6, the Danish alternative radio station.

In 2016, Kira starred in American Spirit, a tribute to country legend Johnny Cash at the Aarhus Theater. She also composed and recorded her next album, a collaboration with Maria Faust in Estonia.

2017 brought the loss of Kira's husband and closest musical partner, bassist Nicolai Munch-Hansen, who died suddenly before she and Maria Faust released their collaboration IN THE BEGINNING. The album would receive two prizes at the Danish Music Awards for "Jazz Composer(s) of the Year" and "Jazz Vocal Release of the Year" and a Steppeulv (Danish Critics') Prize for "Composer(s) of the Year." That autumn, Kira and pianist Nikolaj Hess embarked on a month-long tour of Denmark with their duo project.



In 2018, Kira released a widely acclaimed tribute album to her deceased husband, Nicolai Munch-Hansen, entitled THE ECHO OF YOU – SONGS FOR NICOLAI, with John Parish as producer and special guest Bonnie "Prince" Billy on vocals. The new band included a circle of friends and memorialized and celebrated the departed while adding another chapter to Kira's unique artistic universe. The album would go on to win "Vocal Release of the Year" at the Danish Music Awards, and *Lilac Sky* - her duet with Bonnie "Prince" Billy from the same album - was nominated as "Song of the Year" at the Steppeulven (Danish Critics') Awards.

In 2019, Kira released I NAT BLIVER VI GAMLE, her first album in Danish, which was also named the album of the year by several publications. In 2020, the tour following the album's release was interrupted by the pandemic.

During the pandemic, Kira found time for a new project based on duets with other singers. It was her way of pushing back against the isolation of the lockdown - and the project would eventually involve the largest team assembled for any of her releases. The album includes duets with Bonnie "Prince" Billy, Mark Lanegan, Bill Callahan, Jenny Wilson, John Parish, Mette Lindberg, Marie Fisker, Lenny Kaye, and Stine Grøn. The album received overwhelmingly positive reviews, both in Denmark and abroad.

In 2022, Kira returned to the road and played 22 concerts presenting the duets from SPIRIT TREE. She also participated in the Danish version of Top of the Pops (Toppen af Poppen), a celebrity musician TV program featuring songwriters interpreting each other's songs. She then embarked on a reunion tour with Kira and the Kindred Spirits, celebrating the 20th anniversary of their debut album. Her live tours and concerts received rave reviews from audiences and critics.

Now in 2023, she is ready to release her new album, MY HEART IS A MOUNTAIN, recorded in Peter Gabriel's legendary studio in collaboration with John Parish, Silas Tinglef, Billy Fuller, and Head. The new album arrives on the 19th of May, 2023.



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## **Kira Skov discography:**

**HAPPINESS SAVES LIVES** (Kira and the Kindred Spirits). 2002, Sublime Exile/Playground. Produced by Kira Skov & Johan Lei Gellet.

**THIS IS NOT AN EXIT** (Kira and the Kindred Spirits). 2005, Copenhagen Records. Produced by Tore Johansson.

**KIRA AND THE KINDRED SPIRITS** (Kira and the Kindred Spirits). 2006, Copenhagen Records. Produced by Tore Johansson.

**FAITH** (The Gospel). 2006, YPGRR/Copenhagen Records. Produced by The Gospel and Tore Johansson.

**THE RAILTRAIN, THE MEADOW, THE FREEWAY AND THE SHADOWS** (Kira and the Ghost Riders). 2008, Copenhagen Records. Produced by Kira and the Ghost Riders and Mark Howard.

**LOOK UP AHEAD** (Kira and the Ghost Riders). 2010, Mermaid Records/Sony. Produced by John Parish.

**MEMORIES OF DAYS GONE BY** (Kira Skov). 2011, Stunt Records. Produced by Kira, the band, and HEAD.

**EPIPHANIES OF GRANDEUR** (Persona). 2012, Target Records. Produced by Persona.

**WHEN WE WERE GENTLE** (Kira Skov). 2013, Stunt Records. Produced by John Parish.

**THE CABIN PROJECT** (Kira Skov/Marie Fisker). 2014, Stunt Records. Produced by Mark Howard.

**MAY YOUR MIND EXPLODE A BLOSSOM TREE** (Kira Skov). 2015, Stunt Records. Produced by John Parish.

**IN THE BEGINNING** (Kira Skov/Maria Faust). 2017, Stunt Records. Produced by Mark Howard.

**THE ECHO OF YOU** (Kira Skov). 2018, Stunt Records. Produced by John Parish.

**I NAT BLIR VI GAMLE** (Kira Skov). 2019, Stunt Records. Produced by Silas Tinglef, Anders Trentemøller, and Kira Skov.

**SPIRIT TREE** (Kira Skov). 2021, Stunt Records. Produced by Silas Tinglef and Kira Skov.

**MY HEART IS A MOUNTAIN** (Kira Skov). 2023, Stunt records. Produced by John Parish, Silas Tinglef, Head and Kira Skov.



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Sundance Music ApS Gothersgade 107 1123 Copenhagen K Denmark  
T: +45 3333 8720 [www.sundance.dk](http://www.sundance.dk) [sundance@sundance.dk](mailto:sundance@sundance.dk)