

NEW ALBUM
OUT MARCH 11th

VERONICA MORTENSEN catching waves



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Veronica Mortensen's new CD, "Catching Waves" will be released on March 11, precisely ten years after her debut album, "Pieces in a Puzzle" from 2003. The past decade has seen the release of three albums and numerous concerts in Denmark, Sweden, Greece, Poland, Russia and Thailand and repeated appearances with big bands including Bohuslän Big Band, DR Big Band, Klöver's Big Band, Ernie Wilkins Almost Big Band and Tivoli Big Band. During this busy period Veronica has refined and developed her vocal and songwriting skills. Without help from any media stunts, this charming and natural singer with her catchy and jazzy repertoire has discreetly become one of Denmark's most popular international vocalists. A "musician's musician", her fascinating voice, natural timing and charismatic personality finds new audiences daily all over the world. "Catching Waves" is Veronica Mortensen's best album yet.

Veronica's vocals are focused and warm, and fit right into a sparkling selection of new songs, all but two composed by Veronica Mortensen with lyrics created in a joint effort with her husband, vocalist and composer Niels HP. The relaxed and easy-going style is neither luck nor coincidence. Veronica and her musicians have worked together for five years, and this recording was made following a week tour of Northern Sweden. The new material had been given a thorough workout on stage prior to the session, bringing out the dynamics in the music.

"I truly appreciate working with the musicians in my band. Mads Bærentzen, my loyal pianist who also plays on my previous three albums, has a lyrical style, which has almost become a trademark for my music and the way the tunes sound. Krister Brødsgaard and Anton Eger are the rhythm section in JazzKamikaze, and they are the rebels in our band. They give our sound an edge. I love the contrast between the lyrical and the temperamental approach – and then there is the wonderful Swedish trumpeter Peter Asplund. I just had to invite him. He has several albums in his own name, though in Denmark perhaps most people know him from Bo Kasper's

Orkester. In recent years we have played together across the water, doing guest appearances at each other's concerts. It seemed natural to feature him on the album. I've often used trumpet – also on my previous releases – I love that sound."

Listening to the songs on "Catching Waves", it becomes obvious why Veronica Mortensen has received a grant from the Danish Songwriters Guild. She writes songs for adults with lyrics that make us reflect on topics such as integrity and a welcome feeling that coolness no longer is identical with survival. On how relationships develop, or living and enjoying the moment.

"I try to balance with one foot in jazz and the other in pop. When I was a teenager, Sting was one of my big idols for the way he mixed things. I loved hearing his music played by jazz musicians. In my world vocal jazz music should be easy to understand, while daring to take us places not normally heard in pop. And there has to be room for improvisation (and enthusiasm!), which is the hallmark of jazz and what brings out the magic. The album title "Catching Waves" is taken from the opening song, which is about living in the moment, the general topic on the album – daring to jump on a wave when it comes your way instead of waiting till tomorrow to see if something better shows up.

For me, this recording is the product of a year of focused work, from writing the songs to shaping the project. A concentrated bouillon cube of hours of work, blood, doubt, happiness, tears, dreams and stubbornness, and not least the expertise, kindness and positive energy of competent people each giving the very best they have", says Veronica Mortensen.

And "Catching Waves" proves her right. Veronica Mortensen interprets her own songs and lyrics and takes us on an enjoyable emotional rollercoaster ride. And the silence at the end of the album leaves us ready for another shot of her charming energy.

Enjoy The Ride / This Might Not Be Cool / Where There's A Will / Simple Sense Of Being / Sing You A Love Song / November Rain / A Toast Of Wine / Like A Winding Road / Lucky / This Is Not A Love Song / Beneath The Sun / Don't Say A Word Now

Veronica Mortensen (voc), Mads Bærentzen (p), Krister Brødsgaard (b), Anton Eger (dr) + Peter Asplund (tp)

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