

# NED FERM

## Autumn's DARLING

CD, LP & DIGITAL



On his celebrated debut recording as a leader in 2014, SPENT ALL THE MONEY, American multi-instrumentalist and composer **Ned Ferm** shared part of his musical history, language, and vision of what music can sound like when strict genre lines are abandoned. In mid-2022, his HEART IN HAND project with Kenny Wollesen was met with rave reviews for taking listeners on a kaleidoscopic musical voyage through the American West and beyond. Now, on AUTUMN'S DARLING, Ferm leans deep into his rural upbringing with a vocal album featuring a deep roster of creative voices and riveting storytelling brought to life by the vocal stylings of the bandleader and **Marie Fisker**.

Ferm was born and raised on a farm on an island off the coast of Maine, where he was a child prodigy, starting on violin and later focusing on saxophone. He skipped his senior year of High School and attended William Paterson University in New Jersey as a student in the school's prestigious Jazz Studies program for two years before becoming the first American student ever accepted into Copenhagen's Rhythmic Music Conservatory in 2001, where he would go on to receive three degrees and now teaches (when he's not performing, recording, producing, translating, bartending, and coaching basketball).

Ferm's life and professional experience helped to shape one another, and his musical voice and vision became a blend of fresh creativity and studied structure. The songs and lyrics on this new album are all written by Ferm, with a few co-written by other bandmates who also appear on the recording (with the exception of **Nicolai Munch-Hansen**, 1977-2017). The subject material varies from care-free innocent fun to nightmarish survival (Ferm says that the writings of Cormac McCarthy heavily influenced his lyrics for several songs). Genre-wise, there are sweet and steamy country ballads, pop tunes with insistent driving beats, swinging folk songs, and smoothly polished almost classic rock-inspired tunes. Each piece gets its own unique approach and adds something specific and special to the album as a whole.

Best known as a jazz saxophonist, Ferm's career has thus far been a body of work identified by genre-blending musical adventures with a bevy of musicians from across generations, having played with Yusef Lateef, Roswell Rudd, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Tyshawn Sorey, Mark Guiliana, Jakob Bro, Sam Barsh, Maria Faust, and pop sensation MØ.

**Cd:**  
STUCD 22072



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**Lp:**  
STULP 22071



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On his previous Stunt release, SPENT ALL THE MONEY, Ferm alternated the program between instrumental and vocal songs, creating a jazz-country-crossover-universe in which the band explored folksy, singable melodies and simple forms that would prove to be popular with casual listeners as well as discerning critics and musicians.

On AUTUMN'S DARLING, Ferm and co-producer **Mads Brinch** decided to fully commit to the vocal material that had a half-presence on the previous release. They set up in the Sauna Studio in Frederiksberg, Denmark in April of 2021 and invited 9 of their favorite multi-instrumentalists (**Anders Christensen**, **Jakob Høyer**, **Rune Kjeldsen**, **Mads Hyhne**, **Silas Tinglef**, **Jeppe Brix**, **Jens Hein**, **Rasmus Valldorf**, and **Adrian Aurelius**) to join them and breathe life into 12 songs, 10 of which would make it onto the final album. With everyone in the same room, the recording process was inspired by the Daniel Lanois / Mark Howard productions for Bob Dylan and others, with musicians switching instruments on different songs to achieve different sounds. Everyone brought musical openness and diverse technical virtuosity to the studio for two days of rehearsing and three days dedicated to recording.

After some wildly creative instrumental dubbing, mixing, and editing sessions, **Marie Fisker** came into the same studio to add her sultry, soulful voice to the songs, which brought the sound of AUTUMN'S DARLING together. Ferm and Fisker had worked together in various contexts before (including singing a duet on Ferm's previous album and playing together in the critically acclaimed Cabin Project in 2014), but the chemistry in the color combination of their voices reaches new heights on this album.

Highlights include *Tonight* (a "true duet" with Fisker), *Gone Gone Gone* (a bittersweet pop tune), *Song Of Rest* (a winding folk ballad you'll swear you know even though you've never heard it before), and *Levon*, making its debut as a song with lyrics written by Ferm (the music was written by his dear and departed friend Nicolai Munch-Hansen and can be heard in an instrumental version on the 2013 Stunt release ÆTER).

*Giving Me A Reason / Gone Gone Gone / Song of Rest / There Is No Escape For Me / Levon /  
The Only Hotel in Hell / Irene / Stepping Stone / Tonight / Marry Me*

**NED FERM** (voc, keyboards, percussion, flute, saxophone, etc); **MARIE FISKER** (vocals); **MADS BRINCH NIELSEN** (voc, mm); **RUNE KJELDEN** (guitars); **JACOB FUNCH** (guitars, keyboards, vocals, percussion); **JEPPE BRIX SØRENSEN** (guitars); **ANDERS CHRISTENSEN** (bass, piano); **JENS HEIN** (bass, guitars); **JAKOB HØYER** (drums, percussion); **SILAS TINGLEF** (drums, bass, guitars, percussion); **MADS HYHNE** (trombone, keyboards, percussion); **RASMUS VALLDORF, ADRIAN AURELIUS** (percussion)

STUCD 22072/STULP 22071 Ned Ferm, Autumn's Darling, Stunt Records, Sundance Music ApS.



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