

Sacred Harp - bio

In the past two years, Sacred Harp has inadvertently grown into one of Oslo's favourite newcoming bands. Their self titled EP, released in 2009, startled many a reviewer into bewildered praise and set off a word of mouth that created widespread anticipation for what was next to come...

Sacred Harp, so far mostly developing and polishing their extraordinary sound indoors, is ready to step out into the light with the release of their fulllength debut "Window's a Fall", released on February 14th 2011, on the Norwegian label Trust Me Records.

Recorded and mixed by Bjarne Stensli (member of Norwegian band Harrys Gym) as well as by Sacred Harp's own Juhani Silvola. The record has a foot in the Norwegian rock-aesthetic, yes, but that doesn't even remotely cover the matter.

The four-piece band, comprising Jessica Slighter (vocals, guitar, keys), Juhani Silvola (guitar, bass, keys), Øystein Skar (keys) and Andreas Lønmo Knudsrød (drums), comes forth from a tight-knit community of musicians embracing experimental, free improvised music, as well as rock and alternative popular music, shamelessly blending and combining elements to their own fancy in their musical endeavours. In fact, Sacred Harp, started out as an improv-trio, without drums, would you believe it, but soon they realized that their strength as a group was in a another field. With Jessica's expressive vocals and ability to create unique, strong melodies and lyrics, Juhani's wide-ranging experience working in genres like noise, rock and folk music, and Øystein's colorful pallet and versatility on keyboards, the trio found that in bringing together their strongest qualities they could construct powerful compositions and intricate arrangements. After initially changing drummer a couple of times, Sacred Harp found it's fourth member in Andreas, the two meter-tall anchor that creates a strong fundament to all their ventures.

The music of Sacred Harp clearly reflects the eclectic mindset of the environment they sprouted from. As the title conveys, "Window's a Fall" is an ominous record, inspired by the work of greats like David Lynch, Alfred Hitchcock, and also by regular TV, for example Southern vampire-series True Blood. Danger is always present, evidently or subtly insinuated, but it's an uncertainty that it is exciting and enchanting. Their influences also lead to a combination of polished and freakish elements, tied in a highly cinematic and dynamic aesthetic. Needless to say, Sacred Harp's music has great theatrical potential that makes the live-experience the ultimate Sacred Harp-experience...

<http://trustmerecords.com>