



This is for anyone
who feels they must get everything
done in just one day.

One of artist Malou Berg's choir members was the first to come up with the idea of making a Christmas album. The thought was to name it after the title song Breathe Out. During the Midem 2011 music trade show, an internationally renowned songwriter attending the event also suggested that Malou record a Christmas album.

Thus, the new album BREATHE OUT was launched a novel blend of creatively remixed and repurposed songs from the albums in the Pleiadian Suite: OMINE, AMAONA, HOYA & ALIGNMENT.

Malou hooked up with Music Producer / Sound Engineer Lars (Lasse) Nilsson at the legendary Nilento Studio's in Källered, Sweden and remixed the songs for her new album. The original arrangements were stripped away to make room for a large string ensemble from the Göteborg Symphony Orchestra, a harp, as well as light percussion instruments. Malou's original solos with backup singers remain untouched. Of course, that imaginary language that nobody understands is still there.

The thought was to make an album that would help listeners find their way back to a holiday time of the peace and tranquility that we all need - regardless of season or beliefs linked by sheer affirmative elation.

THE UNIQUE PLEIADIAN LANGUAGE in BREATHE OUT, which sets Malou apart from other songwriters, has also been retained. Malou created Pleiadian a number of years ago. It is a language without recognizable words but with clear vocals expressed in vowels. For her amazing work in creating a new language, Malou was honored with Ordfestivalens Ordpris – the 2009 Words Award at the Word Festival.

The Word Festival jury's motivation read: "Malou Berg is the recipient of the Words Award because she has managed to create her very own sensual and musical language – Pleiadian. Moreover, she has the ability to cause others to find both expression and enjoyment in these sung words."

"I never had the intention to create a language. It all started with the songs on HOYA, where I replaced words with sounds that were cool to sing and just felt right. The sounds gradually developed to words, finally becoming entire sentences in OMINE. Since then, it has just had its own life and continued to evolve."

Malou Berg says she tried to write Swedish lyrics to the title song "Breathe Out". "When I realized that an important part would be lost, I actually drew a sigh of relief, since I did not want to write new lyrics. I believe that they are best exactly the way they are."

STRINGS AND HARP. Producer Lasse Nilsson and Malou set out to find Christmas spirit and agreed that strings and harp would best capture the sound. They picked a few songs from each album tunes that would be able to transform to new arrangements and new instruments and some were shortened or given new endings.

Lasse was able to formulate the string sound that they were after to Tormod Tvete Vik, who then wrote moving arrangements for the string ensemble (all songs), the harp (six songs) and the piccolo trumpet (for the song "Nu faller ljuset in i mig" (Beam of Light).

Since her life and thoughts have evolved over the years, Malou changed part of the thirty-year-old lyrics to "Nu faller ljuset in i mig" (Beam of Light).

"It took some time to find the right tone for the new lyrics to work with the old ones. It wasn't actually clear to me that this song should be on the record but my co-publisher Stefan Egmar at Stiggy Music insisted that a Christmas album without "Nu faller ljuset in i mig" (Beam of Light) was just plain wrong! So it had to be there. Lasse wanted the arrangement to have the feel of "Oh Holy Night". If you listen carefully, you can hear the similarity".



Oops!



For two days in April, 2011, thirteen strings from the Göteborg Symphony Orchestra recorded in the studio. On a warm sunny day in June when the swallows flew high, the piccolo trumpet made its debut. It is an instrument characteristic of Christmas and created especially for a high, light range. Lasse and Malou worked their magic with jingle bells, light percussion, all sorts of bells, tubular bells, keyboards and additional choir back-up to give a few of the songs more depth. The solo vocal melodies on the BREATHE OUT album have all been kept from the original recordings. A few adjustments and additions have been made to two of the songs.

LASSES SOUND. LARS NILSSON's characteristic sound at Nilento Studios is an important component of Malou Bergs album. Lasse recorded all of albums of the Pleiadian Suite. For the last couple of years he has even been producing with Malou.

Malou loves working with him: "Lasse makes it all sound so brilliant, consistent and natural. As a driven professional, fluent in music and technical expertise, he prioritizes emotional response to the piece and makes sure his technique is never noticeable. It just has to feel right. His "golden" ears hear every detail but listen for the consummate whole".

Lasse both sings and plays the flugel horn on the BREATHE OUT album. Musicians from all over the world make pilgrimages to the Nilento Studios, due to this unique sound and feeling for music.

MALOU BERG. Malou Berg is a cabaret artist, actress, singer and composer. Her performances encompass theater, television, feature films and the annual Swedish Melody Festival broadcast competition with the group "Greta & Malou". Her extensive discography began in 1977 with singles and albums released throughout the world as well as in her native Sweden. Other artists have discovered and recorded many of her songs.

Together with lyricist Susanne Wigforss, Malou has created several popular, award-winning Gospel songs that have been recognized three years running in the Billboard Song Contest. Malou decided to dedicate her voice to singing Gospel in 1982, when STIM, the Swedish Performing Rights Society, awarded her a scholarship to the Berklee College of Music in Boston. Thus she worked as choir leader throughout Sweden, reworking compositions with her own choir arrangements. Malou feels that her rich experience performing cabaret has helped her to open up as a choir leader and impart that feeling to her singers.

In 1994 Malou presented "Den Inre Vägen" (The Inner Path), a new musical track. The sacral composition was created for three soloists, a choir and a string quartet. Several highly acclaimed concerts followed the rave reviews.

THE PLEIADIAN SUITE: HOYA, a world music composition utilizing an imaginary language that Malou later would name Pleiadian, was composed in 2003. Upon receiving fine reviews, Malou went on tour – performing HOYA live with two singers. Enthusiastic audiences were even found in South Korea (2009) and Japan (2004) at "Swedish Style in Tokyo". The celebrated follow-up OMINE, released in 2005, has a more meditative focus than HOYA.

Additional albums included in the Pleiadian Suite are AMAONA (Joy - 2008) and ALIGNMENT (Healing - 2010).

BREATHE OUT

LABEL: MALOU

DISTRIBUTION

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www.plugged.se

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"I have the pleasure since many many years to work with Malou as Music Publisher, Business Affairs and very good friend and if you need to get in contact with her or her songs for any musical reason you should contact me at Stiggy Music & Management AB."
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