

Jazz singer Elena Mindru releases her second album in September

Romanian, Finland-based Mindru tours around Finland with her quintet on a record release tour in September.

The fresh voice of the young Finnish jazz singer's generation, **Elena Mindru** is to release her second album *Evening in Romania* with her band on the 23rd of September in a release concert at Lavaklubi of National Theatre in Helsinki. Mindru's group won the Finnish contest of the Young Nordic Jazz Comets Competition in May and is performing thus also in the Young Nordic Jazz Comets Showcase at Koko Jazz Club in September. The band also performs around Finland on an album release tour after the release concert.

Evening in Romania is the second jazz album released by the jazz vocalist Elena Mindru after her first album *Romanian Christmas Stories* in 2012. *Evening in Romania* was released in Romania in July and this release in Finland on 23.9. is the first one for Mindru. Elena's warm voice is accompanied by an acoustic jazz quartet that includes violin – a special flavor of their sound. The new album has been recorded in Finland and includes **Sampo Hiukkanen** on violin, **Tuomas J. Turunen** on piano, **Eero Seppä** on double bass and **Anssi Tirkkonen** on drums. Through this new project, the singer invites the listeners into an exotic musical journey. The music combines in an innovative way elements from Romanian traditional music, combined into jazz. Most of the tunes have been composed by the singer herself, but the album includes also Romanian jazz tunes and two songs written by the Finnish pianist Tuomas J. Turunen. The album has been produced and released through EM Records, Elena's record label.

Elena Mindru has been active as a jazz singer for more than 10 years now, but she has also studied classical violin and piano. At the age of 18 she was accepted as a student at the distinguished Berklee College of Music, Boston, but unfortunately the scholarship awarded was not enough to take further that great opportunity. Nevertheless, she continued to study classical composition at the "Gheorghe Dima" Academy of Music in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Mindru met the Scandinavian music scene and moved to Finland when she was doing her master studies in jazz within the Nordic Master of Jazz program. She graduated in 2013 and is currently a PhD student within the Sibelius Academy's Jazz Department in Helsinki, under the guidance of professor **Jukkis Uotila**. Along her career, she has received many awards on jazz festivals and competitions around Europe, but one of the most important ones was in July 2012 in Switzerland, where she was awarded the 2nd Prize and the Public Prize by a jury presided by the great **Quincy Jones** at the Montreux Jazz Festival. This year Mindru has performed and composed for her first symphonic jazz project, a concert with the Transilvania State Philharmonic Orchestra that also included a jazz trio. In October she will be the solo vocalist of the European Jazz Orchestra in Prague.

The pre-requests for Elena Mindru's album *Evening in Romania*: press@heihei.fi

Elena Mindru: *Evening in Romania*

EM Records, release date in Finland: 23.9.2014

Distribution: Groovy Records and Playground Music

1. Jocul tambalelor 2. Bluebird 3. Swan (Balcad) 4. Reflection 5. Evening in Romania 6. I Do Not 7. Consolation 8. Life 9. Mai uitam uneori

ELENA & THE ROM ENSEMBLE

Elena Mindru, vocals / Sampo Hiukkanen, violin / Tuomas J. Turunen, piano / Eero Seppä, bass / Anssi Tirkkonen, drums

ELENA & THE ROM ENSEMBLE LIVE

16.9. Tallinna, Philly Joe's Jazz Bar

23.9. Helsinki, Lavaklubi

24.9. Hämeenlinna, Suistoklubi

25.9. Jyväskylä, Poppari

www.elenamindru.com

Press photos: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/847IngYe93w7nzc/AABjkDADEH_8QiTioQ9TimqGa

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