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FESTIVAL OF FOLK, ROOTS, TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND AMERICANA



Tønder Festival

PROGRAM

24. 25. 26. 27. AUGUST 2023

ADYN TOWNES (CAN)

Adyn Townes is from eastern Canada and is well on his way to recognition as an original songwriter and musician in the alternative indie and folkpop genres. His light tenor voice and knack of nailing thoughtful lyrics in catchy tunes has broadened his appeal. Adyn Townes' latest release, the album *In Frames* from 2021, includes the songs *Cannonball* and *Kids*. In 2019, he won the Canadian MNB Award (Music-Musique NB) in the Song of The Year category with the song *House on the Ocean*. In 2020, Adyn Townes was nominated for the Songwriter of the Year at the ECMA (East Coast Music Association) awards. Adyn Townes is a product of the rich songwriting and story-telling tradition on Canada's east coast. Adyn Townes, on his first visit to Denmark, appears solo at Tønder Festival, and this is his only Danish festival concert in 2023.

TELT 2 THURSDAY 10:00 PM | VISEMØLLEN FRIDAY 5:30 PM

ALISA AMADOR (USA)

Songwriter, singer and guitarist Alisa Amador grew up amid lots of music in Boston, USA, Puerto Rico and Argentina. Her parents, Rosi and Brian Amador of the famous Latin American band Sol Y Canto, had their daughter on stage as a backing singer at the age of five. Alisa Amador began playing guitar early on, and both her singing and her guitar playing have drawn plaudits from reviewers. She sings in Spanish and in English. Her current EP *Narratives* (2021) won the NPR Tiny Desk Contest in 2022. One critic wrote of Alisa Amador: "Shawn Colvin meets Joni Mitchell, has lunch with Amy Winehouse and meets Suzanne Vega and Diana Krall." Alisa Amador is giving her own concert as well as sharing a concert with Emily Scott Robinson and Violet Bell doing Emily Scott Robinson's songs from the EP *Built On Bones*, songs about the witches in William Shakespeare's tragedy *Macbeth*. Her only Danish festival in 2023.

TELT 1 FRIDAY 11:45 AM | VISEMØLLEN SATURDAY 3:15 PM

ALLAN OLSEN (DK)

Allan Olsen keeps pushing himself as a songwriter, singer, musician and storyteller. He is in constant artistic motion, and physically he is not static either. For four decades he has travelled round Denmark playing solo and with his band on almost every stage in the country. Allan Olsen has made about 20 albums and books, has won countless awards and nominations, among them six Danish Music Awards. Among his recent releases is *JØWT* (2013), which was one of that year's best-selling albums, though it was released only in North Jutland and sold from the local SPAR grocers' shops. Audiences and critics alike were appreciative, as they were for the successor, *Hudsult (Out of Touch)* (2017). Olsen has a way with words, and this is very apparent in his two autobiographies, *Tilfældigt strejft (Chance Encounter)* (2015) and *Laksetrappen (Salmon Ladder)* (2019). The Tønder festival audience has had the pleasure of this northern Jutland songwriter's company many times. At the 2022 Tønder Festival, Allan Olsen appeared with a crowd of his colleagues at a memorial tribute concert for the Danish song hero Povel Dissing. Allan Olsen appears solo at Tønder Festival 2023.

TELT 1 FRIDAY 2:45 PM

ALTAN (IRL)

Altan, one of the biggest bands in traditional Irish music, have, since their start back in 1987, appeared at Tønder Festival six times. The most recent was in 2017, when they included us in their 30th anniversary tour. Altan was founded by Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh and her late husband, Frankie Kennedy, and created a stir from the word go on the folk music scene in Donegal. Ní Mhaonaigh is a native Erse speaker, and she has sung many's the traditional song. Besides herself, singing and playing fiddle, today's Altan has Ciarán Curran on bouzouki, Martin Tourish on accordion and guitarists Dáithí Sproule and Mark Kelly. Altan have toured the world and have performed before President Clinton at the White House. The group have also worked with Dolly Parton, Jerry Douglas and Mary Chapin Carpenter, among many others. In 2018 they released their latest album, *The Gap of Dreams*, a musical journey back to Donegal. Their only Danish festival in 2023.

TELT 2 FRIDAY 11:45 PM | OPEN AIR SATURDAY 11:00 AM

AIOIFE O'DONOVAN (USA)

The first time Aoife O'Donovan performed at Tønder Festival was in 2006, when she led the progressive bluegrass band Crooked Still. At once, the Tønder audiences were taken with Aoife O'Donovan's round, soft singing voice. Since then, her solo career has accelerated, and three solo albums have materialised from O'Donovan. The most recent, *Age of Apathy*, came out 2022. The disc brought accolades from the critics, and O'Donovan is now compared to Joni Mitchell at her best. This year (2023), Aoife O'Donovan was nominated for three Grammys for *Age of Apathy* and for the Tim O'Brien song *Prodigal Daughter*. Here, she sings with Allison Russell, who will be remembered from last year's Tønder Festival. Alongside her busy solo career, Aoife O'Donovan has joined up with Tønder favourites Sarah Jarosz and Sara Watkins in the trio I'm With Her. The trio won a Grammy in 2020 for the song *Call My Name*. During the corona lockdown, Aoife O'Donovan recorded and released all the songs on Springsteen's *Nebraska*. In Tønder this year, O'Donovan will sing The Boss' songs at a special concert where she presents the full, legendary album. Aoife O'Donovan will also be giving a concert of songs from *Age of Apathy*.

TELT 2 SATURDAY 5:15 PM | TELT 1 SUNDAY 7:00 PM (PERFORMING BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN ALBUM "NEBRASKA")

ARIEL POSEN (CAN)

The Canadian music scene is loaded with excellent young performers. The 34 year-old songwriter, guitarist and singer Ariel Posen from Winnipeg is among the best. He grew up in a musical home and has played guitar since he was nine. For some years he played in the fine roots rock band The Bros. Landreth, who appeared at Tønder Festival in 2015 and 2018. File Ariel Posen's music under roots rock, blues and americana; think of Bonnie Raitt, Little Feat and John Mayer. With his own songs and releases, Ariel Posen has established that he is a top-class singer, songwriter and performer. He is moreover an excellent guitarist, and his slide-guitar proficiency is recognised world-wide. Rolling Stone magazine called Ariel Posen "a modern-day guitar hero", and Western Canadian Music Awards nominated him Breakout Artist of the Year in 2020 and 2021. He also won Rock Artist of the Year and Recording of the Year in 2022. Ariel Posen will appear with his trio. His only Danish festival in 2023.

TELT 1 SATURDAY 12:00 PM (GENTLEMEN'S CIRCLE) | BOLERO SUNDAY 7:15 PM

AYSANABEE (CAN)

He is a singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist and has roots among the original inhabitants of Canada, more precisely the Sandy Lake First Nation, in north-west Ontario. During the covid pandemic, Aysanabee began his songwriting and storytelling production, and his debut album *Watin* appeared in the autumn of 2022. The three singles he'd made and rumours about Aysanabee spread, and in 2022 he performed all over Canada, including some major festivals. The music is a blend of soul, indie, folk and electronica, which, together with Aysanabee's distinctive voice, has made an deep impression on listeners and critics alike. Comparisons have been made with Bon Iver, Kings of Leon and Sam Smith. Aysanabee's debut album *Watin* is named for his grandfather and includes ten songs and nine recordings of <the grandfather's voice telling of his upbringing and life in the Sandy Lake First Nation community. His only Danish festival in 2023.

VISEMÖLLEN FRIDAY 10:00 PM | **TELT 1** SATURDAY 12:00 PM (GENTLEMEN'S CIRCLE) | **TELT 1** SATURDAY 4:00 PM | **PUMPEHUSET** SUNDAY 3:15 PM (DR P2 SESSION 1:00 PM)

AYSAY (DK)

Aarhus band AySay have made a name for themselves on the Danish folk roots scene in short order. With singer and saz player Luna Bülow Ersahin in front, AySay build a bridge between the traditional folk music of Turkey and western folk and pop. The songs are in Danish, Turkish or Kurdish, and the music flows seamlessly between traditional acoustic instruments and electronic elements. In the autumn of 2021, AySay released their debut album *Su Akar* (Turkish for "water flows"), which Danish music magazine Gaffa gave 5 stars. In 2022 AySay won three prizes at Danish Music Awards Roots: Roots Name of the Year, Roots Composer (Luna Bülow Ersahin) and Roots Release (*Su Akar*). Interest in the band is growing steadily, and in 2022 AySay toured Denmark, Germany and Canada. AySay are: Luna Bülow Ersahin, vocal, saz, synth; Aske Døssing Bendixen, electronic and acoustic percussion; Carl West Hosbond, guitar; and Jens Mikkel Madsen, bass.

JAMTELTET SUNDAY 11:45 AM

BABY DID A BAD THING (DK)

The Danish band Baby Did a Bad Thing fit into a genre many call nordicana, which might be interpreted as americana with a scandinavian touch. The main tendency is to follow the great American songwriter tradition, set in the musicians' own Danish – and thus Nordic – context. It's that Scandinavian melancholia, it's tempting to add. Baby Did a Bad Thing draw eclectically from intimate, acoustic, country ballads and more hard-hitting, roots rock. The band formed in 2018 and, in 2020, released their first album, produced by guitarist and producer Rune Kjeldsen. You can hear the influences of Lucinda Williams, Chris Stapleton and Gillian Welch. The album was well reviewed, got airplay and was broadcast by more than 30 American radio stations via The International Americana Music Show. GAFFA magazine praised it, too, and nominated the band for New Danish Name of the Year at the GAFFA PRIZES 2021. Originally a quintet, Baby Did a Bad Thing lost singer Eline Engholm in the summer of 2022. Baby Did a Bad Thing is now a quartet fronted by singer Jonas Fjeldsted.

BOLERO SUNDAY 11:45 AM

BJONKO (DK)

Bjonko Stosic was born and grew up in Copenhagen, but his family are musicians from Bitola in Macedonia. Bjonko Stosic plays clarinet and saxophone and, with his band, has created a dynamic mix of traditional folk music, Balkan beats and contemporary mainstream. A concert with Bjonko and the band is a rhythmic bone-rattler, a show that enlivens the stage and fills the dance floor. In recent years, Bjonko has established a reputation as a singular live band on the Danish and Scandinavian scenes. Nominated for several Danish Music Awards, Bjonko won the Danish World Live Name award at the Danish Music World Awards in 2015. Bjonko Stosic has played in lots of contexts, for instance with Fallulah, Klamfyr, Jokeren and Jooks. In a special project, *Balkan Beats & Poetry* (2007), Bjonko put music to poems by the Macedonian poet Emilijan Divjakoski. Bjonko has made five albums and several EPs. Most recent album is *Balkan Express* from 2023.

JAMTELTET THURSDAY 3:30 PM (WORKSHOP "SAMSPIL I RYTMIK BALKANMUSIK") | TELT 1 THURSDAY 0:15 AM

BLACKBERRY SMOKE (USA)

Solid country rock, the raw roar of raucous axes from Atlanta, Georgia: the rock band Blackberry Smoke tops out the Tønder Festival programme for this year. And it will not be quiet. Blackberry Smoke have a weighty international reputation and they burn real energy when they hit the stage. They are a classic American rock band, drawing on south state rock, country, folk and blues. The band formed in 2000 and released their first album in 2003. They have since made six studio albums and two live albums. Traces of ZZ Top, Lynyrd Skynyrd and Gov't Mule are undeniable, as is the inspiration from the legendary Allman Brothers Band, also from Atlanta. Gregg Allman actually plays on Blackberry Smoke's 2016 album *Like An Arrow*. The year before, the band released the album *Holding The Roses*, which made first place on Billboard's Top Country Album list. Their most recent effort is the album *You Hear Georgia* (2021). Blackberry Smoke toured Europe in March and April of 2023, including a show at Amager Bio in Copenhagen. Tønder Festival sees their only Danish festival appearance in 2023.

OPEN AIR THURSDAY 08:45 PM

BUFFALO NICHOLS (USA)

Carl 'Buffalo' Nichols is a singer and finger-pickin' slide guitarist with a firm hold on the great American blues story. His precise vibrato on the slide guitar and his deep bass voice pick it up where the old-timers left off. "How do I bring the old blues up to date?" he asked himself. Then he found an answer. By playing blues with heart and feeling, and by writing relevant and resonant songs. In the autumn of 2021 he released his debut album *Buffalo Nichols*. The record is published by legendary Mississippi-based record company Fat Possum, which previously put out albums by L. R. Burnside and The Black Keys. The PR was helped along by Buffalo Nichols' live appearance on the popular tv programme The Late Show hosted by Stephen Colbert. Buffalo Nichols was born in Texas, grew up in Milwaukee, and his early youth was dominated by punk and hip hop. But the blues guitar won, and after a European tour, with one stop at a blues club in Kiev in Ukraine, he concentrated totally on blues music and his own songs. This is Buffalo Nichols' first performance in Denmark, and his only Danish festival concert in 2023.

TELT 2 THURSDAY 3:30 PM | PUMPEHUSET FRIDAY 7:45 PM

CALEB KLAUDER & REEB WILLMS COUNTRY BAND WITH SPECIAL GUEST VOCALIST LUKAS GRAHAM (USA, DK)

Classic country music meets a Danish world star. Caleb Klauder & Reeb Willms Country Band, out of Oregon, deliver a raw, authentic style of American roots and country music. Honky tonk music from the top drawer by one of USA's most venerated country bands. Caleb Klauder, vocal, mandolin, and violin, played at Tønder Festival in 2008 with his band. He is also one of the pillars of The Foghorn Stringband, who played here in 2006. Reeb Willms, vocal, guitar, is a singer and songwriter with a background in American roots music. Her harmony singing with Caleb Klauder is central to their band's sound. Their only Danish festival in 2023. They'll be playing their own concert at Tønder Festival and moreover a Sunday concert with a special guest soloist: Lukas Graham. The Danish singer and songwriter has appeared several times at Tønder Festival in recent years. As a boy, Lukas Graham was often at Tønder Festival with his father. Lukas Graham recounts: "My dad was Caleb Klauder's booker in Scandinavia, when I was a teenager. That's how I know Caleb and his various bands. Already back then I sang with them when they toured Denmark. I was very inspired by Caleb's way of singing, and the live energy of the band. It is just wonderful to get a chance to sing with him again."

BOLERO SATURDAY 1:00 PM | OPEN AIR SUNDAY 5:30 PM (FEAT. SPECIAL VOCALIST LUKAS GRAHAM)

DAVID RAMIREZ (USA)

Singer, songwriter and guitarist David Ramirez delighted the Tønder Festival audiences in 2018, and a return visit has long been on our wish list. He has often toured in Denmark, and now he's playing Tønder Festival 2023. David Ramirez hails from Houston, Texas, and today lives in Austin. As a boy he often went to church with his family, and psalms and gospel songs were part of his upbringing. He began playing guitar aged 17 and soon started writing songs. Today, David Ramirez is a stalwart on both the American and the international music scenes. He has six studio albums to his name, the latest being *Backslider* from 2021. Music critics are very positive about Ramirez' songs, not least his fourth album *We're Not Going Anywhere* from 2017, wherein his biting satire attacks social and political tropes in a USA 'led' by Donald Trump. The sequel, *My Love Is A Hurricane* from 2020 is a more personal affair, dealing with life, loss, and love's mysterious ways. David Ramirez appears with his band, and this is their only Danish festival concert in 2023.

TELT 1 THURSDAY 5:45 PM | BOLERO FRIDAY 10:15 PM | TELT 1 SATURDAY 12:00 PM (GENTLEMEN'S CIRCLE)

DAVID RITSCHARD (SE)

For ages, many Swedes have identified strongly with American country and roots music. Many Swedish musicians through the years have forged a Swedish version of roots rock and country, and at their head is David Ritschard. Born in 1989, he wields the Swedish language deftly in his forceful songwriting, and the music tastes of country rock, soul, bluegrass and the Swedish folk song tradition. Reviewers' reception of David Ritschard's music has been extraordinarily positive, and he has not rested on his laurels. Since 2018 he has made two albums, an EP and 15 singles. His newest release is the EP *Rockbotten* (2022), and the latest album is *Blåbärsungen* (*Blueberry King*) (2021). His mix is everyday realism with a twist, music that uses pedal steel, horns, fiddles and a choir and a singer who can appear in cowboy hat and trailer park couture. David Ritschard has won several awards, among them the Swedish Robespierre Prize and Singer/Songwriter of the Year at the Manifest Gala, the Swedish music producers' award ceremony. His only Danish festival in 2023.

BOLERO FRIDAY 11:15 AM | TELT 2 SATURDAY 2:00 PM

DET YDERSTE HAV (DK)

There are few places in Denmark where folk music flourishes in its traditional form like the island of Fanø, with its fine Sønderho and Fannik tunes, still played as 250 years ago, and the dances they accompany. This year at Tønder Festival you can hear the melodies and join in the dances, when Det Yderste Hav (the name means something like The End of the Sea) plays for the dancing. The trio consists of national fiddler Peter Uhrbrand, who has been actively keeping the traditions going while nurturing innovation; classical guitarist Jørgen Bjørsløv and author Jeppe Brixvold, whose expressive voice carries the old songs. Playing for the dancing will also be fiddler Kristian Bugge, accordion and mouth-organ player Sonnich Lydom, pianist Kirstine Uhrbrand and Claus Carlsen, who plays bass clarinet and saxophone. All are dedicated to Fanø music. For those who need some help with the steps, two young callers and instructors, both steeped in the Fanø dance traditions, are on hand: Helena Thøgersen and Meise Maria Carstensen.

KLUBCENEN SATURDAY 10:00 PM

DUSTBOWL REVIVAL (USA)

This is the third time this potent American band is appearing at Tønder Festival. Dustbowl Revival modernise bluegrass, swing, hot jazz, blues, soul and New Orleans funk. Fronted by male guitarist and singer Zach Lupetin and female singer Lashon Haley, who replaced Liz Beebe a few years ago, Dustbowl Revival roll their love of American roots music out over their audiences to the sound of guitar, mandolin, ukulele, washboard, violin, trumpet and assorted other instruments. Dustbowl Revival hail from Venice Beach in Los Angeles and starting in 2007 they seized on American string band and brass band traditions and quickly attracted attention. In 2013, the LA Weekly paper crowned the band Best Live Band. Dustbowl Revival's most recent studio album is *Is It You, Is It Me* from 2020. American Songwriter magazine wrote this of the release: "... an album that combines a welter of musical styles, exhibits outstanding musicianship, and best of all has brilliant songs." Their only Danish festival in 2023.

OPEN AIR THURSDAY 12:30 PM

É.T.É (CAN)

The É.T.É trio are from Quebec in Canada and play new versions of traditional Québécois folk music. The band name is just the first letters of the musicians' names: Élisabeth Moquin, violin, vocal and step dance; Thierry Clouette, vocal, multi-instrumentalist with bouzouki as his lead instrument, and Élisabeth Giroux, cello and vocal. All three are classically trained at conservatory and university, with a grounding in jazz and folk music. They formed É.T.É in 2015 and soon earned their place on the Canadian music scene. Their first release, *Le boire des minuits*, appeared in 2017, and soon won the Canadian OPUS-prize in the Discovery of the Year category. With their delicate vocal harmonies, their musical facility and their mastery of traditional step dance, É.T.É are a band with new ideas to enhance the strong Québécois music culture. Their latest album is *Sur Ces Eaux* from 2022. Their only Danish festival in 2023.

VISEMØLLEN FRIDAY 3:15 PM | JAMTEL TET SATURDAY 12:15 PM

EMILY SCOTT ROBINSON (USA)

Songwriter Emily Scott Robinson from Colorado is on the up and up. After her second album, *Traveling Mercies* in 2019 and winning the Telluride Troubadour Contest in the town of Telluride, the next step was the album *American Siren* in 2021 with the record company Oh Boy Records, who released John Prine's recordings. The album garnered fine reviews, and Rolling Stone magazine included it among The 25 Best Country and Americana Albums of 2021. Her latest release is the EP *Built On Bones*, six songs about the witches in William Shakespeare's tragedy *Macbeth*. The songs add a new dimension to Shakespeare's story and its portrayal of the witches. "The witches in *Macbeth* are usually presented as frightening, ugly and evil creatures. What if they were beautiful, tempting, sexy, powerful and playful?" says Emily Scott Robinson in an interview with the magazine The Boot. On the record we also hear Alisa Amador and Violet Bell, and these are the songs that the musicians will perform at Tønder Festival. Emily Scott Robinson is giving two concerts at the festival, and the group appears at the one. Their only Danish festival in 2023.

BOLERO THURSDAY 4:00 PM | TELT 1 FRIDAY 11:45 AM

FOLK SPOT: AZUR AZUR (DK)

Azur Azur is instrumental folk with a cool Nordic tone, which arises from the meeting between Scandinavian folk music tradition and jazzy improvisations. The trio is formed by contrabass player Frederik Mensink, who together with the musicians Rasmus Brinck (Tailcoat) and Jonathan Fjord Bredholt (Hvalfugl, Sylfide) creates a sound universe that mixes modern folk music and new Nordic jazz. The music is rooted in Nordic music, where driven dance rhythms simmer under longing melodies. In a present, attentive and improvising ensemble, nyckelharp, piano, and double bass mix in gentle sonorous moods with rhythmic flexibility and precision.

KLUBSCENEN SATURDAY 4:30 PM | PUMPEHUSET SATURDAY 1:00 PM (DR P2 SESSIONS)

FOLK SPOT: DANISH FIDDLE QUARTET (DK)

Danish Fiddle Quartet plays modern Nordic folk music. The music moves in the borderland between the classical tradition and folk music and has a foot and heart in both camps. With this new string quartet, Jørgen Dickmeiss lives out an old dream of playing chamber music. He has assembled a quartet consisting of two classical musicians and two folk musicians, and composed and arranged music for this ensemble. A number of newly written chamber music compositions and a few arrangements of Carl Nielsen's music and folk melodies. The quartet contains two singers who can also be heard in some of the arrangements. The orchestra will release their debut album in time for Folk Spot Denmark 2023.

KLUBSCENEN FRIDAY 4:15 PM

FOLK SPOT: ERLEND VIKEN TRIO (NO)

With violin, hardingfele, electric guitar and double bass, Erlend Viken Trio presents folk music with a sound that few have heard before; based on Norwegian traditional music, and with inspiration from improvisational music, desert blues and rock. The trio, consisting of Erlend Viken, Marius Graff and Sondre Meisfjord, have played concerts in large parts of Europe, and through their energetic live performances they have gained many fans across genre boundaries. Regardless of whether you are a fan of folk music, rock or blues, you will definitely be struck by the music of the Erlend Viken Trio.

KLUBSCENEN SATURDAY 3:30 PM

FOLK SPOT: FOLKENS (DK)

Folkens is an ensemble with two musicians and two dancers, who are all passionate about showing and conveying dance and music in a melting pot consisting of both the new and the old. It is alive and present when the bag of close duet playing and swirling couple dance is opened up. Centuries-old traditions go hand in hand with fresh music and improvisation. Communication between music and dance in unison, and the joy of the close fusion of two art forms, brings Folkens beyond the edge of the stage. Folkens are: Kristine Heebøll violin, Kirstine Nurdug Jensen, dans, Christian Thorvaldsen, dans og Jesper Vinther, harmonika.

KLUBSCENEN SATURDAY 5:30 PM

FOLK SPOT: HØST (DK)

The four women in Høst have found the shared vision that is to create a vocal playground, where with four voices and nothing else, they interpret and challenge the traditions of Nordic folk music as well as in modern polyphonic singing. With inspiration from Nordic instrumental folk, Bulgarian women's choir and the harmonic universe of jazz, Høst creates a new sound of Nordic acapella folk; a spring symphony of chirping birds, powerful raw dissonances and rhythmic poetry. Høst is a new vocal counterpoint to the Danish folk music scene. The quartet's four members Lene Høst, Liv Vester, Maja Freese and Filippa Westerberg are already well versed in the genre as both singers and instrumentalists.

KLUBSCENEN FRIDAY 5:15 PM

FOLK SPOT: OPTUR (DK)

Optur is a new project based on a string of newly composed dance tunes within the Nordic folk music tradition, taken under loving care by Søren Korshøj, Mikael Fleron, Jens Kristian Andersen and Heidi Luke – violin, saxophones, double bass and drums, respectively. The alternation between the tightly thematic and the improvisational interplay in free and open spaces gives each instrumentalist the opportunity of expressing both their individual and collective potential, and the possibility to create an intense expression together with the audience which captures the music of the moment. Thereby, our own form of musical expression arises, which we're calling Nordic FreeFolk. With a deeply founded Nordic musical vibe, Optur is looking forward to meet the audience with outgoing playfulness. Their debut album Nordic Free Folk was released in August 2022.

KLUBSCENEN SATURDAY 6:30 PM

FOLK SPOT: SOLSORT (DK)

Experience Solsort, alias singer/songwriter Betina Følleslev together with the musicians Rune Højmark (guitar, lap steel, mandolin, choir), MC Hansen (acoustic guitar, choir), Jacob Chano Lundby (drums, choir) and Line Felding (cello, autoharp, choir), when they play poetic Nordic folk pop wrapped in the sound of cello, lap steel and other stringed instruments. Behind Solsort is Betina Følleslev, a singer and songwriter, who in 2016 was nominated for a Danish Music Award Folk as singer of the year. With her interpretations of *I Danmark Er Jeg Født*, *Jeg Ved En Lærkerede* and *Sig Nærmer Tiden*, Solsort embraces the Danish song tradition.

KLUBSCENEN FRIDAY 7:15 PM

FOLK SPOT: SYLFIDE (DK)

Sylfide processes the Danish cultural heritage and still embraces the present with feminine strength and sensitivity. The electroacoustic universe and the crystal clear vocals unite Nordic folk music with modern songwriting and add elements from the world of pop. The melodies draw threads from Nordic folk dances and folk songs and are elegantly clothed in layers of synthesizer, strings, real sounds of dancing feet and adventurous harp sounds. The lyrics also draw on our common cultural heritage — all grounded in the past and looking to the future. Sylfide's members are already known from prominent bands on the Danish folk and jazz scene, including Hvalfugl, Nevesta's Voice and Tailcoat.

KLUBSCENEN FRIDAY 6:15 PM | **PUMPEHUSET** SUNDAY 1:00 PM (DR P2 SESSIONS)

FOLKBALTICA ENSEMBLET (DK, D)

When they are assembled, they talk Danish, German and English, but their true lingua franca is music. The FolkBALTICA Ensemble consists of around 50 young musicians from southern Denmark and the bordering German state of Schleswig-Holstein. The orchestra began at the annual folkBALTICA Festival, which takes place in mid May. The FolkBALTICA Ensemble is the festival's youth orchestra, which breaches frontiers both geographical and musical, crossing between traditional and contemporary folk music. Violinist Harald Haugaard is artistic director at the folkBALTICA Festival and leads the ensemble, whose aim is to develop young talent and maintain and rejuvenate the folk music traditions in the border country. Tønder Festival is an active supporter of talent and the supply chain in folk music, and it has become a tradition that the FolkBALTICA Ensemble plays at the festival, giving both a concert in their own right and contributing to the big school concert for pupils at schools on both sides of the Danish-German border. Once again, Tønder festival's audiences can enjoy the fresh vitality of this youth orchestra.

OPEN AIR FRIDAY 9:45 AM (SCHOOLCONCERT) | **TELT 2** SUNDAY 11:00 AM

FOLK STORIES WITH KLAUS LYNNGAARD AND HENRIK QUEITSCH (DK)

The two hosts, Klaus Lynggaard and Henrik Queitsch, have made over 200 episodes of their popular podcast Rock Stories, covering many aspects of the musical world, from lullabies to frazzled rage rock, from rebel soul to heart-broken country, from musicals to metal, and much in between. Their mantra could be that there are only two kinds of music, good and bad. And they reserve the right to distinguish. Sometimes they have a guest in to play some of the numbers that have meant a lot to them as people and musicians. Over two days at this year's Tønder Festival, Folk Stories will invite a couple of festival musicians in for a chat about the music that changed their lives. Folk Stories began at Tønder Festival in 2022.

PUMPEHUSET THURSDAY 3:45 PM | **PUMPEHUSET** FRIDAY 1:00 PM (GUEST: MARGO OILKER)

FRANKIE GAVIN & DE DANNAN (IRL)

There are not many of Tønder Festival's musicians who can boast of being pictured on a postage stamp, but Frankie Gavin is one of them. In 2008 a 55c stamp was issued featuring Gavin and the other original members of De Dannan, Alec Finn, Johnny "Ringo" McDonagh, Charlie Piggot and Dolores Keane. That says something about the influence the band has had on Irish music. In the 1970s revival of Irish dance music, when the music really took the big stages, De Dannan were among the busiest and most persistent bands. The partnership between Frankie Gavin on fiddle and Alec Finn on the Greek bouzouki set new standards for Irish music. De Dannan settled on fast melodies and beautiful ballads sung by Mary Black, Eleanor Shanley and the aforementioned Dolores Keane, among others. De Dannan has performed at Tønder Festival many times, the first was in 1985. In early 2022 Frankie Gavin fully recovered from esophageal cancer and within months a new line-up of De Dannan was on the road again. An indomitable spirit infusing all five players with the kind of fiery attack on their music that has so uniquely identified the band since the 1970s. Their only Danish festival in 2023.

TELT 1 SUNDAY 8:55 PM

GENTLEMEN'S CIRCLE (USA, CAN, IRL)

The special afternoon concerts, Women's Circle and Gentlemen's Circle, have been a very popular feature of Tønder Festival for many years. This year, too, both shows are on the programme. Gentlemen's Circle comprises five songwriters this year, from USA, Canada and Ireland. The songwriter David Ramirez from Texas, who played at Tønder Festival in 2018, is now back doing his own shows and the Gentlemen's Circle. From Canada come no fewer than three songwriters: Ariel Posen, whom many will remember as a member of the The Bros. Landreth band; Willie Stratton from Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Aysanabee, whose roots lie with the First Nation peoples of western Ontario. From Ireland we have Liam Ó Maonlaí, known from the band Hothouse Flowers. Songwriter's Circle has long been a vital part of Tønder Festival's identity, leading to those magic concert moments when songwriters from near and far meet on stage, swap leading roles, join in on each others' songs and tell tall tales.

TELT 1 SATURDAY 12:00 PM

GNOSS (SCO)

Their experimental approach to Scots traditional music marks Gnos out as one of the most interesting young bands in Scotland. Aidan Moodie, guitar and vocal, and Graham Rorie, violin and mandolin, are both Orcadians and have won recognition as a duo. At The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow they teamed up with Connor Sinclair, flutes and vocal, and Craig Baxter, bodhrán and percussion, and founded Gnos in 2015. That same year, the group won the Danny Kyle prize, awarded to young, emerging folk musicians. In 2017, they got nominated for Up and Coming Artist of the Year at the Scots Trad Music Awards, and Gnos was nominated again for Album of the Year in 2019 and 2021 for the records *Drawn from Deep Water* and their latest, *The Light of the Moon*. These four musicians are on top of their game, and their fine singing is backed by imaginative arrangements. Gnos have played in many countries in Europe and North America, and the quartet has graced stages at festivals such as Orkney Folk Festival, Festival Interceltique de Lorient and Celtic Connections. Their only Danish festival in 2023.

PUMPEHUSET SATURDAY 1:00 PM (DR P2 SESSIONS) | KLUBSCENEN SATURDAY 11:45 PM | TELT 2 SUNDAY 5:30 PM

GRAHAM NASH (USA)

81 year-old Graham Nash is behind songs that have been the soundtrack of millions of lives. Multiple Grammy winner, member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Songwriters' Hall of Fame and an artist who has been at the top of the music scene since the early 60s. As a member of the British top group The Hollies, Graham Nash wrote or co-wrote hits like *Stop Stop Stop*, *On A Carousel* and *Carrie Anne*. In 1968 he left The Hollies, travelled to Laurel Canyon in California and founded, with David Crosby and Stephen Stills, the supergroup Crosby, Stills & Nash. Their first, eponymous album was a huge hit. Shortly after this, the trio grew to include Neil Young, and in the spring of 1970, as Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, they released their milestone album *Déjà Vu*. Two of the album's hits, *Our House* and *Teach Your Children*, were written by Graham Nash. His 1971 solo record, *Songs For Beginners*, confirmed his songwriting talent, further evidenced by his duo work with David Crosby during the 70s and a long series of solo albums. A new album, *Now*, is due in May 2023. Graham Nash has always used his public rostrum actively on political, social and environmental matters. He is moreover a gifted photographer with exhibitions and publications to his name. His only Danish festival in 2023.

OPEN AIR SATURDAY 7:00 PM

HACKENSAW BOYS (USA)

For over twenty years, the Hackensaw Boys from Virginia have been energetic purveyors of pure American roots music. The band has functioned as a kind of musicians' community, and in their current incarnation, the Hackensaw Boys are a quintet, with songwriter and guitarist David Sickmen at the centre. The band's musical style effortlessly covers folk, americana, old-time, bluegrass and country with a good dash of punk attitude. Here be loads of vocal harmony, finger-pickin' banjo, acoustic guitars, fiddle, plus their own invention, the percussion assembly they call a charismo. Portable and one hundred percent analogue, this instrument comprises empty tins, metal plates and diverse junkyard thingy-mebobs. The charismo, along with the band's other acoustic instruments, helps create the unique Hackensaw Boys sound. The instrument has also given its name to one of the group's notable releases, the album *Charismo* (2016), produced by multi-instrumentalist Larry Campbell. Their latest album is *Hackensaw Boys* from 2022. Their only Danish festival in 2023.

BOLERO FRIDAY 1:00 AM | JAMTELLET SATURDAY 5:00 PM (WORKSHOP "BANJO" V/ ANDY THORN) | PUMPEHUSET SATURDAY 10:00 PM |

KLUBSCENEN SUNDAY 3:30 PM

HOME: SONGS FOR YOUNG HOMELESS FOLK (DK, N)

Home is the title of a 90-minute show at this year's Tønder Festival. The idea was Poul Krebs', and the concert is comprised of songs dedicated to young homeless people. On stage will be a number of Danish and foreign musicians, among them Kira Skov, Steen Jørgensen, Kajsa Vala, Henning Kvitnes and naturally Poul Krebs himself. "We want to spread information, communication and understanding of the plight of young homeless folk. Christina Strauss, leader of the SAND organisation, will tell her story, which is far more desperate and moving than any song I could ever write," says Poul Krebs. He has of course written a song about just that, and the other musicians' songs have the same focus. Tønder Festival is proud to stage this show. "Folk and roots music often comes from vagabonds, homeless and travelling musicians. The 'hobo' is part of Tønder Festival's ethos, and we hope that this Home concert will help draw attention to young homeless people," says Maria Theessink, artistic director at Tønder Festival.

TELT 1 THURSDAY 1:45 PM

ISRAEL NASH (USA)

Singer, songwriter and guitarist Israel Nash (born 1981) has led an almost stereotypical American musician's life. His music lies in americana, country and indie rock. Israel Nash grew up in Missouri and moved to New York in 2006 and played the clubs, among them The Lower Eastside. He released his debut album *New York Town* in 2009, and several other albums thereafter. This led to extensive touring in USA and Europe. In 2011, Israel Nash moved to the small town of Dripping Springs, Texas, where he still lives. His latest album, *Topaz* from 2021, has been called 'dreamy folk' and 'cosmic country.' Uncut magazine writes that the album is "lush country-soul, on a bed of brass horns, reminiscent of Neil Young's more rumescent records, or Rodney Crowell's more rocky edges." Israel Nash appears with his band, their only Danish festival concert in 2023.

OPEN AIR SUNDAY 2:15 PM

JEREMY DUTCHER (CAN)

32 year-old Jeremy Dutcher is a performer, composer, activist, music historian and classically trained singer. He has roots in Canada's original population, as a member of the Tobique First Nation in New Brunswick. Jeremy Dutcher has exhumed his forefathers' music, for instance by painstakingly transcribing traditional songs and music from wax cylinders recorded in 1907. He combined earlier generations' music from the Wolastoq valley in New Brunswick with his own ideas and compositions, and the result was his debut album *Wolastoqiyik Lintuwakonawa* (2018). The record has been dubbed 'A dialogue with ancestors' voices,' and it was received with accolades and awards, among them the prestigious Canadian Polaris Music Prize in 2018. Not many survive who know the Wolastoqey language. This is one of the motives for Jeremy Dutcher's work with the voices of his ancestors. "If you lose the language, it's not just words you lose. You're losing the whole way of seeing and living the world from the particular native perspective," as he puts it on his website. His only Danish festival concert in 2023.

TELT 1 THURSDAY 9:00 PM | TELT 2 FRIDAY 5:15 PM

JIM LAUDERDALE (USA)

Jim Lauderdale is the epitome of 'the songwriter's songwriter.' Now 66 years of age, he has made 34 albums, won several Grammy awards and the Americana Music Association's Wagonmaster Award. He has been part of the American country scene since the late 1970s and has worked with the likes of Ralph Stanley, Robert Hunter, Loretta Lynn, George Jones, Emmylou Harris, Elvis Costello, Buddy Miller and Lucinda Williams, as well as writing songs for many other singers. His style is country, with touches of bluegrass, blues and americana. After college in North Carolina, he played bluegrass and folk, gravitating to Nashville and then to New York. He made his first solo album, *Planet of Love*, in 1991. Jim Lauderdale's latest album, *Game Changer* (2022), is released on his own label, Sky Crunch Records. Writing songs is his life. "It's a constant challenge to make better and better records and to write better and better songs. I feel as though I am still developing as an artist," Jim Lauderdale has said. His only Danish festival in 2023.

BOLERO SATURDAY 10:15 PM | OPEN AIR SUNDAY 11:00 AM

JOACHIM COODER (USA)

If the name sounds familiar, that's because, sure enough, Joachim Cooder (born in 1978) is the son of string magician and roots musician Ry Cooder. Joachim Cooder is a percussionist, drummer, keyboard player and composer. He has written music for films, for other musicians, and played on a number of his father's releases, most notably *Buena Vista Social Club* from 1997. Joachim Cooder has made a series of solo albums, the latest being the critically acclaimed *Over That Road I'm Bound* (2020). Here, Joachim Cooder interprets old songs by singer and banjo player Uncle Dave Macon (1870-1952). Joachim Cooder knew of the songs from his father, and in Joachim's versions, the banjo is replaced by electric mbira. This instrument, which he has played for many years, is a development of the African acoustic mbira, metal prongs fastened and tuned atop a wooden base. The mbira is a forerunner of the kalimba. Joachim Cooder's electric mbira gives a special harp-like sound, which, with violin, guitar and song, lays out an almost hypnotic soundscape. Joachim Cooder will appear with his trio, and this is their only Danish festival in 2023.

JAMTELLET FRIDAY 3:30 PM | PUMPEHUSET SATURDAY 5:30 PM

JOSHUA RAY WALKER (USA)

There may be fresh winds a-blowin' over the American country scene. In the case of Joshua Ray Walker, it's more of a tornado. The 31-year-old Texan songwriter and singer has made three albums that have established a solid reputation for him. The three releases are part of a whole, and the framework round the stories is a fictive honky-tonk bar on its last legs, full of wannabe cowboys, dreamers and lost souls. Joshua Ray Walker writes songs that tell their tales through a variety of characters. "I learned a long time ago that writing from some character's viewpoint teaches me stuff about myself without making me too self-conscious," Joshua Ray Walker has stated. The single *Sexy After Dark* from the latest album *See You Next Time* (2022) illustrates Joshua Ray Walker's ability, combining his fine singing voice, a fascinating song, and horns backing a country-soul symbiosis. Joshua Ray Walker spans several genres tastefully. His influences growing up were outlaw country music's antiheroes like Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings, and his inspiration came from songwriters such as Guy Clark, Townes Van Zandt and Billy Joe Shaver. His only Danish festival in 2023.

KLUBSCENEN THURSDAY 5:45 PM | TELT 2 FRIDAY 11:00 AM

KELSEY WALDON (USA)

Kelsey Waldon is a country singer and songwriter, and her base is in Nashville. She grew up in a little West Kentucky town with bluegrass and country music in her ears. Aged 13, she began playing and writing songs, and among her inspirations are classic country musicians such as Merle Haggard, Loretta Lynn and George Jones. After high school, Kelsey Waldon moved to Nashville to follow her dream of getting a foot in the door at country music's mecca. She released a series of EPs, then an album, and played all the jobs she could get her hands on. The media — Rolling Stone magazine and radio station NPR among them — noticed the young singer-songwriter, and they were not alone. In May 2019, she performed at The Grand Ole Opry in a show with Sturgill Simpson and John Prine. John Prine announced on that occasion that Kelsey Waldon's recordings should come out on his record label Oh Boy Records. And so it came to pass that Kelsey Waldon became Oh Boys Records' first new artist in 15 years. In 2020 the album *White Noise/White Lines* was released, and in August 2022 the album *No Regular Dog*. Her only Danish festival in 2023.

KLUBSCENEN THURSDAY 4:00 PM | BOLERO FRIDAY 1:00 PM

KÍLA (IRL)

Since the late 1980s, Kíla have been revolutionising Irish folk traditions. The band call what they play Irish world music, and although the point of departure is traditional Irish music, many types of music from all over the world can be heard in the mix. Kíla have performed in 35 lands globally and have appeared at major festivals such as Glastonbury, Montreux Jazz Festival and Rainforest World Music Festival in Borneo. Kíla has also created music for film and tv series. In 2010, they played on the soundtrack for the animation film *The Secret of the Kells*, which was nominated for an Oscar, and in 2015 they were behind some of the music on another Oscar-nominated animation film, *Song of the Sea*. Kíla are: bodhrán player Rónán Ó Snodaigh (who has played with Dead Can Dance); Dee Armstrong, fiddle; Colm Ó Snodaigh, flutes; Rossa Ó Snodaigh, percussion; James Mahon, uilleann pipes; Brian Handan, bass; Seanán Brennan, guitar, and Dave Hingerty, drums. In the spring of 2023, Kíla released the singles *Cara Liam* and *Raise the Road*, with Kíla playing alongside the eight piece Paul Frost Brass Band. Their only Danish festival in 2023.

KLUBSCENEN FRIDAY 0:30 AM | TELT 2 SATURDAY 8:30 PM



PHOTO: Jacob Eskildsen

KRISTIAN BACH (DK)

In 2022, the 39 year-old Danish songwriter Kristian Bach won the Årets Helge award, a prize in memory of the late Helge Arildson, a personality on the Danish folk scene who died prematurely in 2014. Through the years, appreciation for Kristian Bach's Danish songs has been growing. His most recent album is *Shunuata* (January 2023). In May 2019, he released the satirical single *Brev fra fronten* (*Letter from the Front*), which was played on Radio Denmark's Programme 5 for 15 weeks. Back in 2017, a song on his debut album *Første Trin* (*First Steps*), from the album *Mod til at gøre det bedre* (*Courage to Improve*) became very popular. In 2016, Kristian Bach won the Free School Teachers' Association competition for an official song with his composition *Allerbedst sammen* (*Best Together*). Kristian Bach's songs and music have roots in folk and country and also draw on the Danish song tradition. His songs are sensitive, honest and personal, and touch on psychological, spiritual, ethical and socio-political topics. He trained as a music teacher at the Free Teacher College in Ollerup, specialising in choral work, improvisation and songwriting. Kristian Bach hails from South Funen and lives in Copenhagen.

JAMTELLET FRIDAY 1:00 PM

KUNSTENS AT GLÆDES I KOR (THE JOY OF SINGING TOGETHER) (DK)

The Wadden Sea is the epicentre of The Joy of Singing Together, Danish songs and hymns sung by choir and audience. The nature and culture of the Wadden Sea region is the springboard for the music. "It's very simple. Our ambition is to gather the biggest audience choir in the Wadden Sea area to share our pleasure in singing together, so that the songs and the music involve everyone," says musician Casper Mikkelsen, one of the originators. KUNSTEN AT GLÆDES I KOR has featured at several Tønder Festivals. Now the singers and musicians are back, hoping that you, the audience, will join in. And they emphasize that anybody can be part of it, choirs and individuals, professional and amateur singers, veterans and beginners.

KLUBSCENEN SUNDAY 12:15 PM

LAWRENCE MAXWELL (CAN)

Country music is the business for songwriter, singer and guitarist Lawrence Maxwell from Prince Edward Island in Canada. He made his third album *Ballad of Miles* in 2022, and Roots Music Canada magazine blessed it with the words, "The first major Canadian alt-country-album of 2022." This blend of country tradition and contemporary sparkle gives powerful songs. Lawrence Maxwell has been compared to master songwriter John Prine, and Roots Music Canada magazine went so far as to suggest that adding Merle Haggard's poetic clarity and George Jones' voice to Sturgill Simpson's audacity would result in an album like *Ballad of Miles*. Lawrence Maxwell, who used to serve in the Royal Canadian Navy, made his debut album *Not Your Outlaw* in 2018. Next came *Almost Natural*, followed by several nominations and awards. Lawrence Maxwell has his band with him, and this is their only Danish festival concert in 2023.

VISEMØLLEN FRIDAY 0:15 AM | VISEMØLLEN SATURDAY 0:15 AM

LEFTOVER SALMON (USA)

Bluegrass, country, oldtime and cajun. These are a few of the favourite things of the band Leftover Salmon from Boulder, Colorado. Around for more than 30 years, they began as a progressive jam band playing mainly bluegrass music, and developed into an institution on the American folk-roots scene. If you care to know more about the wide American folk music tradition, then a Leftover Salmon concert will give you more than an inkling. In their own words, the trip starts in the Appalachians with oldtime and bluegrass, a turn round New Orleans for some hot cajun music, up to country music mecca The Ryman in Nashville and home by the Colorado mountains. Centrally placed in Leftover Salmon are guitarist and singer Vince Herman, guitar and vocal, and Drew Emmitt, mandolin, guitar, violin and vocal. The band's sound is carried by acoustic instruments, given a lift by a rhythm group of bass and drums. Leftover Salmon have made 11 albums, the most recent being *Brand New Good Old Days* (2021). This is the band's first visit to Europe and their only Danish festival appearance in 2023.

TELT 2 SATURDAY 11:45 PM | BOLERO SUNDAY 9:45 PM

LIAM Ó MAONLAÍ (IRL)

A songwriter and singer with a solo career at full tilt, he is also front man in the well-known Irish band, the Hothouse Flowers. The band had their breakthrough in 1988, with their hit *Don't Go* which was an international success. And they still going strong, playing for example at Glastonbury Festival in 2022. However, there's much more to 58 year-old Liam Ó Maonlaí than playing in Hothouse Flowers. As a soloist, he has released several albums, among them 2005's *Rian*. He has done acting work and was a major part of the documentary film *Dambé: The Mali Project* from 2008. The film deals with the musical journey undertaken by Liam Ó Maonlaí and Paddy Keenan (of The Bothy Band) to the famed Festival Au Désert in Mali. Here the two musicians brought traditional Irish folk music in contact with West African music, and instruments such as the uilleann pipes, bodhrán and whistles played alongside kora and gourd drums. Liam Ó Maonlaí grew up with traditional Irish folk music and remains true to his roots. And it is this music with folk roots he will be presenting at Tønder Festival. His only Danish festival in 2023.

VISEMØLLEN FRIDAY 7:45 PM | TELT 1 SATURDAY 12:00 PM (GENTLEMEN'S CIRCLE)

LISA O'NEILL (IRL)

One of the strong, fresh voices in Ireland belongs to Lisa O'Neill (born in 1982), who has been writing songs since she was a child at home in Ballyhaise. Aged 18, she moved to Dublin to study music. Between her studies and various service jobs, she sang, played guitar and tenor banjo. Her debut album *Has An Album* appeared in 2009. It was noticed by listeners and the music business and two years later she was invited by David Gray to open for him on a tour of USA and Canada. Music critics have paid particular attention to Lisa O'Neill's intense voice, but her songwriting and her approach to traditional folk music drew plaudits. The Guardian called Lisa O'Neill a star and one of the most remarkable folk singers of her day. Since that debut album, she has made three more and an EP, and yet another new album *All of This is Chance* is due in February 2023. Her fan base expanded when Lisa O'Neill's version of Bob Dylan's *All The Tired Horses* was used on the soundtrack to the popular BBC series *Peaky Blinders*. Lisa O'Neill will perform with her band, in their only Danish festival appearance in 2023.

PUMPEHUSET SATURDAY 7:45 PM | KLUBSCENEN SUNDAY 6:45 PM

MALLEMUK (DK)

Mallestuk (the name means Fulmar) is Joakim Okkels, piano, accordion and vocal, and Michael Hornhaver Mortensen, guitar and vocal. The duo's heart-felt pop folk songs have gained popularity with both audiences and critics. They both come from Tønder and met at school here. Later their friendship and musical partnership evolved and in 2020 Mallestuk released their debut album *Mallestuk*. Mallestuk's Danish language lyrics deal with personal experience, from down-and-outs in the street to the rolling North Sea just beyond the dykes. In February this year, the duo's second album *Alle Folk Slider (Everybody Toils)* was released. A single from the album, *Mens Vi Ånder Ud (The Last Gasp)* was praised on the music site Side33 as follows: "Mallestuk have sown a real hope, not only for the young people but for the whole modern Danish folk music scene." The album was produced by Søren Zahle, who has worked with Peter Sommer and another Tønder son, Jacob Dinesen. Mallestuk are distinguished representatives of the musical life that thrives in Tønder, in the productive lee of the progressive folk roots profile Tønder Festival stands for. Live Sofie Bollen, vocal, violin, is joining Mallestuk.

BOLERO THURSDAY 10:00 PM | OPEN AIR FRIDAY 10:30 AM (SCHOOLCONCERT)

MARGO CILKER (USA)

American songwriter Margo Cilker, who appeared at Tønder Festival last year, is back this year. 30 year-old Margo Cilker has been writing songs and touring for many years, first in coffee houses in USA and subsequently in bars and clubs on both sides of the Atlantic. To start with, she played other people's songs, but gradually her own compositions began to fill her set list. Her debut album *Pohorylle*, from 2021, launched her career. The album was well reviewed, and Margo Cilker won her place in American music history with her well-turned classical americana songs. Inspiration for her songs comes mainly from her own life, touching subjects such as loss, broken relationships and the traveller's identity. Mojo magazine writes about Margo Cilker: "Imagine Gillian Welch in a session with The Band and Allen Toussaint, and you are close to feeling the charm of this new voice in americana." And it is precisely Gillian Welch and Lucinda Williams, Townes Van Zandt and Bob Dylan that Margo Cilker has been listening to. Margo Cilker lives in Oregon, grew up in California, and has spent a good deal of time in Europe, for instance in Brighton in England and Bilbao in Spain. Her only Danish festival in 2023.

BOLERO THURSDAY 1:00 PM | PUMPEHUSET FRIDAY 1:00 PM (GUEST; FOLK STORIES) + FRIDAY 3:15 PM | TELT 1 SUNDAY 1:30 PM (WOMEN'S CIRCLE)

MEC LIR (SCO)

When, in 2014, Mec Lir burst upon the Celtic music scene, they smashed the preconceptions of how the music should sound. Crisp synth and compressed drums gave the lightning fast tunes a distinctly eighties backdrop. Mec Lir are fiddler Tomas Callister, Adam Rhodes on bouzouki and David Kilgallon on keyboard, all principal figures in the traditional music of the Isle of Man. The band's fourth face is the Scots drummer Greg Barry. These musicians are also known from Ímar and Elephant Sessions, both well-known for their appearances at Tønder Festival. Mec Lir has built up a name as an effervescent live band, through their energy and creativity. Their playful side shows when they all play *Foxhunters Reel* on one violin. This trick was caught on video at a Festival Interceltique press meeting, and went viral, scoring over two million hits on Facebook. In 2020, the album *Livewire* was released, produced during the corona lockdown. The album was very well reviewed, RnR Magazine calling it "perhaps the most energetic album you'll hear this year". Their only Danish festival in 2023.

TELT 2 THURSDAY 6:45 PM | TELT 2 FRIDAY 8:30 PM

MICHAEL MCGOLDRICK, JOHN MCCUSKER & JOHN DOYLE (ENG/SCO/IRL)

These three world-famous stars of instrumental Celtic music have often graced the stages at Tønder Festival, both together and in other contexts. They have been playing as a trio since 2009, whenever it fits into their various other projects. Michael McGoldrick masters flutes, tin whistle, uilleann pipes, bodhrán, guitar and cittern. He was born in Manchester in 1971, helped found Flook and has played with Lúnasa, Capercaillie, Kate Rusby, Afro Celt Sound System and Mark Knopfler, among others. He has released several albums in his own name, and at Tønder Festival in 2022 he celebrated the score of years since the release of his landmark album *Fused*. John McCusker (born in Scotland in 1973) is a multi-instrumentalist with the violin as his main instrument. He has worked with Heidi Talbot, Kate Rusby, Battlefield Band, Bob Dylan and Mark Knopfler, among others, as well as making six solo albums, producing for colleagues and winning several prizes. John Doyle (born in Ireland in 1971) played with Seamus Egan and Karan Casey at the core of the Irish-American band Solas. His sensitive rhythmic guitar style has enriched the music of prominent musicians such as Kate Rusby, Eileen Ivers, Linda Thompson and Joan Baez. Their only Danish festival in 2023.

BOLERO SATURDAY 7:15 PM | TELT 1 SUNDAY 10:30 AM

MIKAEL K & LANDSTRYGERNE (DK)

Songwriter Mikael K has been making music for 20 years with his band Klondyke. Now, his first solo album, *Stille Uro* (Restless Peace), will be released at this year's Tønder Festival. Mikael K has hitherto written songs about the people he has met and the places he has lived: Copenhagen and its characters, and life in the country. This time, the songs are close-ups, from love songs, drinking songs, about regret, children, separation and divorce, about being outlawed and rejected, about arrogance and flight, and about the restlessness and the peace in a grown man's heart. Mikael K has played many roles — musician, composer, writer, columnist and TV host — but first and foremost he is a modern troubadour. He has won Radio Denmark's P4 prize, the Bjørn Afzelius prize, the Gelsted-Kirk-Scherfig prize as well as a Danish Music Award-Folk as Songwriter of the Year. At Tønder Festival 2023, Mikael K's new songs will see the light of day at the presentation of the new band MIKAEL K & LANDSTRYGERNE.

VISEMØLLEN THURSDAY 10:00 PM (DJ SET) | PUMPEHUSET FRIDAY 10:00 PM

NICKEL CREEK (USA)

When Nickel Creek put out their eponymous album in 2000, they attracted a lot of attention on the American folk and string band scenes. The record, produced by Alison Krauss, was nominated for two Grammys and a Country Music Award, and TIME Magazine placed them among the Five Music Innovators of the Millennium. They opened for Lyle Lovett, and were picked in 2001 to back Dolly Parton's Grammy show. Nickel Creek are mandolin player Chris Thile and brother and sister Sara and Sean Watkins on violin and guitar respectively. In 2002 they made *This Side*, which won the Best Contemporary Folk Album Grammy. This brought them a new audience, who didn't normally listen to bluegrass. In 2007, Nickel Creek was put on the back burner. Sara Watkins was pursuing a solo career and in the trio I'm With Her, while Chris Thile found success in the folk band Punch Brothers. Then, in 2014, Nickel Creek re-united to release *A Dotted Line*, which was nominated for two Grammys. A new album is coming out this March. The trio has announced a long series of concert this spring and summer in USA, prior to their arrival at Tønder Festival. Their only Danish festival in 2023.

TELT 1 FRIDAY 6:00 PM

NIELS HAUSGAARD AND MARTIN SCHACK (DK)

It would be no exaggeration to say that Niels Hausgaard has been on a 'never ending tour' since the early 1970s. When he tours the country for four months every winter and spring, he fills halls everywhere. This year, the show is entitled *The Danish Dane*, and, as last year, pianist Martin Schack sits at his side on stage. Besides his annual tour, Niels Hausgaard has another fixed date in his calendar: Tønder Festival. The Danish poet, satirist, songwriter, polemicist and entertainer has made his mark on Tønder Festival since the 70s, and he's making no exception in 2023. Niels Hausgaard (born in 1944) is a bit of a national hero. His audience is broad, of all ages, and on stage he leaves himself plenty of room for improvisation and for response to audience reactions. His timing and fecundity of imagination have inspired countless colleagues, and his talent for razor-sharp satire is legendary.

BOLERO FRIDAY 7:15 PM | **BOLERO** SUNDAY 1:00 PM

NITWORKS (SCO)

Many bands have experimented in the field where traditional music and traditional instruments meet electronica. This is where we find the Scottish band Niteworks. Creativity is in the driving seat when sound universes, electronic tonal spheres and respect for the musical roots overlap in the hands of the four Niteworks musicians. This is modern celtic fusion, new compositions with words in Gaelic. The combination of the pipes with bass, drums, keyboards and electronica has attracted many admirers to Niteworks, who have also had great success at festivals, among them Celtic Connections in Glasgow. Niteworks come from the Isle of Skye and have been together since 2008. Their first release was an EP, Niteworks: *Obair Oidhche* in 2011, and they have since made three albums. The latest is *A' Grian*, released in January 2022, and nominated as Scottish Album of the Year by the Scottish Music Industry Association. Their only Danish festival appearance in 2023.

OPEN AIR FRIDAY 8:45 PM | **TELT 1** SATURDAY 10:30 PM



PHOTO: Ard Jongsma

ROO PANES (ENG)

Very few folk singers have appeared in the international fashion magazine Vogue. But Roo Panes has. This 34 year-old songwriter from Dorset in England has modelled for Burberry. Here he found an outlet for his songs via Burberry Acoustic, the fashion house's special channel for promising British songwriters. Roo Panes has been putting out songs since 2014, when his debut album *Little Giant* was released. It was followed by a number of EPs and albums, the latest being *The Summer Isles* from March 2023. Roo Panes plays 12-string guitar and has been described as a classic singer-songwriter, reminiscent of Donovan. His inspirations are Bob Dylan and Nick Drake, and he was born into an artistic family: his grandmother was a classical pianist and his mother theatre trained. His only Danish festival in 2023.

BOLERO THURSDAY 7:00 PM | PUMPEHUSET FRIDAY 5:30 PM

ROSS AINSLIE, ALI HUTTON & OWEN SINCLAIR (SCO)

This trio are among the top musicians on the Scots folk scene, when the pipes and other traditional instruments are the tools in trade. Ross Ainslie, bagpipes, whistles and cittern, is one of today's most prized players and composers of music in the traditional style in Scotland. He has been a frequent guest at Tønder Festival through the years. In 2016, for instance, he played here with Jarlath Henderson and as a member of the folk big band, the Treacherous Orchestra. This was in the company of another fine piper, Ali Hutton. Ross Ainslie and Ali Hutton have played together since their early youth in the famous Vale of Atholl Pipe Band. Ali Hutton, pipes, whistles, guitar, is, like Ross Ainslie, a leading instrumentalist and composer. Through the years, these two Scots musicians have played with many of the most influential bands and musicians, such as Salsa Celtica, Dougie Maclean, Shooogenifty, Zakir Hussain, The Levellers and Capercaille. The third member of the trio is guitarist and multi-instrumentalist Owen Sinclair, a major figure on the Glasgow folk scene, who has played with, among others, Tannara and Bell Rock Ceilidh Band. Their only Danish festival appearance in 2023.

TELT 2 SATURDAY 10:45 AM | JAMTELLET SUNDAY 3:00 PM

SARAH JAROSZ (USA)

It's a major event when American songwriter Sarah Jarosz (born in 1991) comes back to Tønder Festival. She won hordes of fans here in 2011 and 2017. Today, she is one of the most famous personalities on the American folk roots scene. Critics have praised her uncompromising songwriting. This and her excellent singing and musicianship have won her four Grammys and 10 Grammy nominations. Sarah Jarosz has released six albums. In particular *Undercurrent* (2016) and *World on the Ground* (2020) drew attention, winning a Grammy each. Through the years, Sarah Jarosz has worked with a star-studded list of musicians and producers, for example John Leventhal, Jerry Douglas, Chris Thile, Tim O'Brien and of course Aoife O'Donovan and Sara Watkins. With the latter two she played in the trio I'm With Her. The trio won a Grammy in 2020 for the song *Call My Name*. Both Aoife O'Donovan and Sara Watkins are also appearing this year's Tønder Festival. Sarah Jarosz masters the mandolin, guitar, mandocello and banjo. She has been compared to singers like Alison Krauss and Gillian Welch, but she undeniably has her own personal, musical touch. Her only Danish festival in 2023.

TELT 1 SATURDAY 7:15 PM | TELT 2 SUNDAY 3:45 PM

SCHOOLS CONCERT AT TØNDER FESTIVAL 2023

The atmosphere will be electric when the two bands take the stage in front of 5000 pupils at the vast Open Air stage. As in other years, schoolchildren from all over Denmark and the north of Germany have the chance to participate in Tønder Festival. This year, we see the return of the FolkBALTICA Ensemble, a gathering of young Danish and German musical talents. This 50-strong ensemble of young musicians straddle frontiers, both geographical and musical, playing both traditional and contemporary folk music.

Original, new Danish songs will be provided by the duo Mallemuk: Joakim Okkels on piano, accordion and vocal, and Michael Hornhaver, guitar and vocal. Both lads are from the Tønder area, and met at the High School in town. In 2020, they released their debut album Mallemuk.

The concert costs the pupils nothing, and their schools provide transport to and from the festival.

We take great pleasure in inviting so many music fans from the area's schools to a forenoon feast of folk music.

Please note that alcohol will not be served at the concert.

OPER AIR FRIDAY 9:45 AM (FOLKBALTICA) + 10:30 AM (MALLEMUK)

SHANE SMITH & THE SAINTS (USA)

A busy touring band with a musical mix of americana, country, southern rock and four-part vocal harmonies, Shane Smith & The Saints, out of Austin, Texas, USA, unite traditions and modern songwriting. The energy blast of their concerts is well known, and with over 100 shows a year, the Shane Smith & The Saints quintet have reached a wide audience. Songwriter and guitarist Shane Smith leads, following in the footsteps of heroes like Chris Stapleton, Hayes Carll and Ryan Bingham. The band has released three albums, *Coast* in 2013, *Geronimo* in 2015 and *Hail Mary* in 2019. It's not only on the live stage that Shane Smith & The Saints have made a name. They play a number of songs that feature in the fifth season of the popular western drama series *Yellowstone*, with Kevin Costner as one of the leads. One of these songs is their latest hit, *Fire in the Ocean*. Alongside Shane Smith, who sings and plays guitar, the band has Bennett Brown, violin; Dustin Schaefer, guitar; Chase Satterwhite, bass and Zach Stover, drums. Their only Danish festival in 2023.

TELT 1 FRIDAY 9:15 PM | OPER AIR SATURDAY 8:55 PM

SIERRA FERRELL (USA)

Some people are born with a special gift for mesmerising an audience. We call them natural talents. That is how a music critic describes the American songwriter and musician Sierra Ferrell. When the renowned record company Rounder Records released her debut album *Long Time Coming* in 2021, it resounded throughout the US folk roots scene. Sierra Ferrell's songs bear the musical stamp of americana, bluegrass and country, but as she explains on her web site, "I listen to everything from bluegrass and techno to goth metal, and I find inspiration in it all in various ways." Sierra Ferrell was born in 1988 in a small town in West Virginia, left home, lived as a street musician for a time in New Orleans and Seattle among other places, and ended up in Nashville. *Long Time Coming* is the result of years of work, and is co-produced by Gary Paczosa, who has also produced for Alison Krauss and Dolly Parton and others. Among the guest musicians on the album are Tim O'Brien, Jerry Douglas and Sarah Jarosz. At Tønder Festival, Sierra Ferrell will be performing with her band in their only Danish festival appearance in 2023.

KLUBSCENEN THURSDAY 10:00 PM | OPEN AIR FRIDAY 2:15 PM

SORTEN MULD (DK)

Do you remember Sorten Muld's concert at Tønder Festival in 1997? The previous week, the band had released *Mark II*, a record that introduced the Nordic folk song tradition to heavy electronic beats. Fronted by Ulla Bendixen, they served up familiar songs from the folk garden wrapped up in electronica and instruments like hurdy-gurdy, bagpipes and flutes. Besides Ulla Bendixen, the core of Sorten Muld is electronic master Henrik Munch and multi-instrumentalist Martin Ottosen. *Mark II* gave Sorten Muld access to a wide audience, as well as making a deep impression on the folk scene, inspiring new bands like Valravn. After many, many concerts and a successful follow-up to *Mark II*, Sorten Muld fell quiet. Ulla Bendixen and Martin Ottosen concentrated on their private family life. Henrik Munch worked as a producer and composer, writing the music for the film *Kongekabale*, among others. In the spring of 2011, Sorten Muld reunited for three concerts, and the following year they were part of the Open Air stage start to Tønder Festival. In 2021, after a long wait, came *Mark IV – Lånt Tid (Mark IV – Borrowed Time)*, and the Sorten Muld concerts were given a Middle-eastern tone by the saz-player Orhan Turan. Sorten Muld also collaborate with AySay (who are also at Tønder Festival this year.) Together, in 2020, they released the song *Glød/Gylden Glød (Glow Golden Glow)*.

OPEN AIR FRIDAY 7:00 PM

TEJON STREET CORNER THIEVES (USA)

You're in for lashings of wild energy when Tejon Street Corner Thieves hit the stage. The band come from Colorado Springs and formed in 2013. They played on the street and in small venues to begin with, but it didn't take long for a wider audience, and the media, to catch on. They know their onions, and the band's original blend of americana, folk, bluegrass and blues with a generous seasoning of outlaw attitude and trash grass have spurred Tejon Street Corner Thieves ever onwards. In 2015 they won a local prize, Best of the Springs, and more awards in following years, among them the Colorado Springs Independent newspaper's prize as Best Original Band in 2018. Tejon Street Corner Thieves drew plentiful media coverage when, during the corona pandemic, they drove around in an old school bus and played concerts at a safe distance from the audiences. Their latest album is *Thick As Thieves* from 2022. They tour intensely, supporting, in 2022, among others, the Canadian band The Dead South, who are also at Tønder Festival this year. Their only Danish festival in 2023.

KLUBSCENEN THURSDAY 11:45 PM

THE DEAD SOUTH (CAN)

This Canadian band, The Dead South, played at Tønder Festival in 2016 and 2018, and fortunately now they are back. In the meantime they have toured their own country, Canada, and USA, Europe and Australia and released an album and two EPs, the latter entitled *Easy Listening for Jerks Part 1 and 2*. The Dead South mix bluegrass and folk, flavoured with more than a dash of satire, the whole delivered with rock band energy. Their own declaration of wares is: "a rock band without a drummer and a bluegrass band without a fiddler." The Dead South have their own original sound, and they are variously described by reviewers as outlaws, modern hillbillies and 'Mumford & Sons' evil twins.' Hailing from Saskatchewan in Canada, they have been around since 2012. Armed with guitar, banjo, mandolin, cello and lots of vocal, The Dead South, with singer and guitarist Nate Hiltz in front, have created their own expression and a show that has won over audiences around the world. The band have won several awards, most recently a Canadian Juno Award in the Traditional Roots Album of the Year category for their album *Sugar & Joy* (2020). Their only Danish festival appearance in 2023.

OPEN AIR THURSDAY 7:00 PM

THE LOCAL HONEYS (USA)

This duo carries the traditional folk music and old-time music of Kentucky to new heights. Their album *The Local Honeys* from 2022 won fine reviews, and includes a number of original songs, whose words and tunes pay tribute to the music of the Appalachians and Kentucky in particular. This is folk music with due respect for the traditions and at the same time new readings and a contemporary approach to the music that is the cultural backbone of USA. The Local Honeys are Linda Lee Stockley, guitar and Montana Hobbs, banjo. "The songs on the album speak for us and deal with what we know and reflect who we are. We want to add our part to the music of Kentucky," writes Montana Hobbs on The Local Honeys' website. The pair have toured with Tyler Childers and Colter Wall, both familiar faces at Tønder Festival. Their only Danish festival concert in 2023.

PUMPEHUSET SATURDAY 3:15 PM | TELT 1 SUNDAY 1:30 PM (WOMEN'S CIRCLE)

THE MARY WALLOPERS (IRL)

'Give Folk Music back to the People' might be the ideal slogan for the Irish group The Mary Wallopers. From Dundalk in north-eastern Ireland come the central figures, brothers Charles and Andrew Hendy and Sean McKenna. The Mary Wallopers play the popular classics of Irish and Scots folk music with energy, musicality and loads of humour. Their sources are the repertoires of bands like the Clancy Brothers, the Dubliners and Planxty, from the point of view that folk songs are often songs about people and world history, the big wide story seen in the detail. In an interview in The Guardian, Andrew Hendy says, "We play funny songs and songs about sex and politics – and sad songs, too." During the pandemic, The Mary Wallopers built up a wide fan base through their on-line concerts. One of their most successful songs is Carl MacDougall and Ron Clark's *Cod Liver Oil & the Orange Juice*, which the Scots folk singer Hamish Imlach made popular in the 60s. Hamish Imlach (1941-1996) was a frequent and beloved guest at Tønder Festival in the last decades of the 20th century. The Mary Wallopers put out an album *The Mary Wallopers* in October 2022. Their only Danish festival appearance in 2023.

OPEN AIR SATURDAY 2:15 PM | PUMPEHUSET SUNDAY 5:30 PM

THE TARANTINO TWIST SHOW (DK)

The American filmmaker Quentin Tarantino is known for his wild, chaotic films and not least for his original choice of background music. The music from Tarantino's films is the starting point for the Danish theatrical concert The Tarantino Twist Show, and they do not keep it quiet. The audience is rocked by 10 singers, performers and musicians on stage, by songs like George Baker Selection's Little Green Bag (1969) used in the film *Reservoir Dogs*, Kool & The Gang's Jungle Boogie (1973) from *Pulp Fiction* and Stealers Wheel's Stuck in the Middle with You (1973) from *Reservoir Dogs*. On stage we see figures from Tarantino's films – Mr. Blonde, The Gimp, Mia Wallace and Jackie Brown. Tarantino's love of guitar rock and surf music is reflected in the show, of course, where the house band The Crazy 88's (after a gang in the film *Kill Bill*) more than fill the bill. The Tarantino Twist Show have their base in Aarhus, and a number of Denmark's finest musicians and singers make up the troupe.

KLUBSCENEN FRIDAY 10:45 PM | BOLERO SATURDAY 1:00 AM

THE UNTHANKS (ENG)

The traditional music of Northumberland in north-east England is the loam the Unthanks grow in. Sisters Rachel and Becky Unthank have, working with various musicians through the years, created their own musical universe. You could call it 'art folk,' with traditional music meeting jazz, classical, postrock and much more. Sources of inspiration are Miles Davis, King Crimson, Steve Reich, Antony & The Johnsons and Tom Waits, to name but a few. You meet this on the Unthanks' 14 releases and at their live concerts. Their debut album *Cruel Sister* from 2005 was a solid breakthrough, being crowned Folk Album of the Year by Mojo magazine. Since then there have been more awards and nominations. Their most recent album is *Sorrows Away* from 2022. Many of their colleagues have paid tribute to the Unthanks, and Elvis Costello said, "They run from the very root of folk music to the very tip of the branch." In Tønder we'll see the Unthanks and their 11-piece band. Their only Danish festival concert in 2023.

OPEN AIR THURSDAY 2:15 PM | JAMTELTET THURSDAY 5:00 PM | (WORKSHOP "VOCAL HARMONIES") | TELT 2 FRIDAY 2:00 PM

TWANG (DK)

The Danish folk roots scene is constantly spawning new musicians with a firm basis in the old music but with the bottle and talent to try something new. The Twang trio formed in 2014 and have worked their way steadily onward with their original, lively take on American folk music. Armed with acoustic guitar, double bass, violin, banjo and three voices, Twang seize the traditions and add all manner of styles. The attentive listener will be entertained with elements of jazz, hip-hop and many other surprises. The band dare to serve up a deeply melancholic song from grandma's day, only to follow it with a modern hit wrapped in humour and satire. There is room for both laughter and tears as Twang shift from their own compositions to folk classics. On stage, Twang will dazzle their audiences with rapid instrument changes: the bass player suddenly turns guitarist, the banjo player grabs the bass. Twang have won plaudits for their three-part harmonies, that lift their performance to another level, while staying loyal to the American traditions. Twang comprises Thyge Van Dassen, violin, song; Spencer Gross, guitar, double bass and song, and Peter Banks, banjo, double bass and song.

PUMPEHUSET THURSDAY 8:15 PM | VISEMØLLEN SATURDAY 10:00 PM

VIOLET BELL (USA)

Violet Bell, from North Carolina, is a duo comprising singer and songwriter Lizzy Ross and multi-instrumentalist and singer Omar Ruiz-Lopez. They have built their reputation by mixing folk, bluegrass, soul and americana, an acoustic sound with a dash of avantgarde on top of traditional roots music. Violet Bell have a new album *Shapfinder* (autumn 2022), about which one critic wrote, "This is music with a local heartbeat and global appeal." Violet Bell tour both as a quintet and a duo, at Tønder Festival as the latter. They'll be doing their own concert plus one with Emily Scott Robinson and Alisa Amador, performing Emily Scott Robinson's songs from the EP *Built on Bones* about the witches in William Shakespeare's tragedy *Macbeth*. Their only Danish festival concert in 2023.

TELT 1 FRIDAY 11:45 AM (M. EMILY SCOTT ROBINSON & ALISA AMADOR) | VISEMØLLEN SATURDAY 5:30 PM TELT 1 | SUNDAY 1:30 PM (LIZZY ROSS | WOMEN'S CIRCLE)

WILLIAM TORP (DNK)

He has been hailed as a new, promising talent on the Danish music scene, and it's not empty talk. 26 year-old William Torp grew up in Aarhus, but moved to Copenhagen some years ago. He has made a couple of singles, but it is his autumn 2022 EP release *Still U'r All I'm Thinking About* that has garnered attention. The EP is a collection of personal songs by a songwriter well-equipped with a guitar, a good singing voice and some well-honed lyrics. The EP's title song was inspired by the TV programme *Alene i vildmarken (Alone in the Wilderness)*, and in an interview, William Torp explained that the TV programme 'lit the campfire' for the song. William Torp claims folk and roots music as his inspiration, with a bit of indie rock thrown in: he mentions names like Bon Iver, Big Chief and Fleet Foxes. He has an audience, and has played several sell-out shows in early 2023. The Soundvenue magazine has noticed William Torp as well, and listed him in *Breaking Sound 2023*: the 15 most promising new Danish musicians.

BOLERO SUNDAY 11:15 AM

WILLIE STRATTON (CAN)

Country, folk and indie-rock are the mainstays for songwriter, guitarist and banjo player Willie Stratton, who comes from Halifax in Canada. He set out to play music as a 12 year-old and soon discovered that writing songs was right up his street. Willie Stratton made his first album in 2011, and the album *Deserter* in 2014 brought him his first nomination, as Rising Star of the Year at the Canadian ECMA (East Coast Music Association) awards. Country music was the focus of the album *Della Rosa* from 2016, and it won another nomination — this time as Album of the Year, also at ECMA. His most recent contribution is the album *Drugstore Dreamin'* from April 2022. Here, he emerges as a fully-fledged songwriter, drawing on the styles that formed his music. The album has earned excellent reviews, one stating that Willie Stratton is absolutely no 'vintage artist,' *Drugstore Dreamin'* is the real deal, and one of the best albums of the year. At Tønder Festival, Willie Stratton will perform with his band, and it is their only Danish festival concert in 2023.

PUMPEHUSET THURSDAY 10:30 PM | TELT 1 FRIDAY 0:30 AM | VISEMØLLEN SATURDAY 7:45 PM

WOMEN'S CIRCLE (USA)

The special afternoon concerts, Women's Circle and Gentlemen's Circle, have been extremely popular over the years. This year, too, both shows are on the programme. Women's Circle has four female songwriters, all from USA: Margo Cilker delighted Tønder Festival audiences last year, and returns this year. Linda Lee Stockley and Montana Hobbs are the duo The Local Honeys from Kentucky and this is their first Tønder Festival. That's true for songwriter Lizzy Ross, too; she is half of the duo Violet Bell. Songwriter's Circle has long formed an important part of Tønder Festival's identity, giving space for those unexpected concert moments when songwriters from near and far meet on stage, swap leading roles, join in on each others' songs and spin a fine yarn or two.

TELT 1 SUNDAY 1:30 PM
