

NO VIL EG VAKE MED DET

(Right now I'm having a wake for your memory)

by Skoot Larson

Hilde Louise is blessed with a happy, musical voice, a style all her own and a perky, fun delivery. Her first two recordings, "Eleven Nights" (2004), and "Birdie Blues" (2005) are both packed full of quirky, thought-provoking original songs. Hilde Louise writes both music and lyrics that are hip and entertaining. Her earlier compositions, on "Birdie Blues" and "Eleven Nights" are sung in



English, showing a good command of her second language. The lady's choice of language allows her to reach a much wider audience outside Norway.

Hilde Louise's latest recording, "No Vil eg Vake Med Deg," or, " Right now I'm having a wake for your memory " is dedicated to Sweden's most popular singer ever, Monica Zetterlund.

With a group that includes some of Zetterlund's alumni, Hilde Louis puts her own special spin on twelve songs long associated with the late Swedish superstar. Sweden contributes internationally popular pianist Jan Lundgren, trumpet legend Jan Allan, and the spell-weaving guitar of Georg Wadenius. Fellow Norwegian Arild Andersen walks his bass, keeping the rhythm alongside American drummer Pete Abbott.

"Kvar tok vinen vegan?" is a catchy melody by Swedish bassist Georg Ridel about the mind-numbing effects of wine and a lady getting wasted at a party. The verses move through drink, dance and cigarettes to a solid blitzed drunken state. At the mention of smoking hundreds of cigarettes, Hilde Louise chokes out the words in a coughing fit.

You don't have to understand the Norwegian lyrics, all translated from Swedish by Norwegian author Edvard Hoem, to appreciate the lady's enchanting voice and mellow

delivery. The songs carry themselves well, enhanced by the finely painted backdrop and solos of Jan Allan, Jan Lundgren and Georg Wadenious.

The tracks are equally divided between guitar and piano as the primary accompaniment, one or two cuts with the light touch of a guitar – bass duet.

On the Anita O’Day style ballad, “Mr. Kelly,” Hilde Louise pours forth her sad lament to bartender Mr. Kelly. Swedish composer Owe Törnqvist probably had the Chicago nightclub Mr. Kelly’s, where O’Day often performed, in mind when he penned the original words and music.

With the guitar group, Hilde Louise also explores a pair of traditional Swedish folk tunes, “Eg Viet Ei Herleg Rose,” about a beautiful rose blooming in a shabby alley, and “Vise Frå Utanmyra”, “A Ballad of Utanmyra.”

Pianist Bobby Timmons’ classic “Dat Der,” has undergone a double translation, English to Swedish to Norwegian, finishing with the new title “Ka e Det?” Hilde Louise delivers the new words from a feminine point of view, her child asking, “Hey Mamma what’s dat dere.” The moving message of the original lyric remains through the tune’s linguistic metamorphosis.

Hilde Louise displays a genuine joy in each note that bubbles forth. Laughter often punctuates a word or phrase as her song transmits the lady’s *joie de vie*. Hilde Louise emotes very much as did the late Marilyn Monroe on stage, screen and recordings. The lady even bares a resemblance to the legendary blonde bombshell in her movements and stage presence.

Hilde Louis, who now performs all across Europe, is another composer and jazz singer definitely deserving of more attention on this side of the Atlantic. The lady has performed in past years in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago with the band KOOP, but has yet to make a solo tour of the states.

Her compact discs are available on her website, www.hildelouise.com, www.upnorthdiscs.no, and occasionally on Amazon.com. If you like thought-provoking lyrics with a twist, I highly recommend her first two efforts, “Birdie Blues,” on Upnorth Discs, and “Eleven Nights,” released by Amigo Records. Her newest Upnorth recording, “Sound Your Horn,” is scheduled to be released this month.