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Young Singer Andrea Šulcová Releases Her Debut Album



On 25 November 2022, Andrea Šulcová releases her debut album, "Opportunities", featuring her own songs. Her excellent singing and masterful songwriting are inspired by some of the foremost developments on the American songwriting scene. The twelve original songs and English lyrics, all authored by the young singer herself, draw on contemporary folk and pop music. The album is produced by Petr Ostrouchov who also performs in the accompanying band, alongside musicians associated with Blue Shadows, guitarist Josef Štěpánek, double bassists Jaromír Honzák and Matěj Belko, drummer Martin Novák, and pianist Vít Křišťan, who all participated also on recent albums of Vladimír Mišík and Mirek Kemel. Some of them are members of Andrea's concert band as well. The

songs reflect the singer's very personal and intimate experiences from the last four years in which she fought off a serious disease and had to put her professional career on hold. *"The album is a natural product of a period in which the needs of a person are minimalized, when family and friends unite in wonderful loving support, and when one – quite naturally and undisturbed by other things – begins to search one's soul and discover one's innermost wishes and hopes,"* says Andrea about the origin of her songs.

Andrea started to focus on her own songwriting following her studies of jazz in Prague and Graz and after she established herself on the scene as a sought-after flutist (Concept Art Orchestra). In its own way, the album is her childhood dreams come true: *"When I was little, I would sing and play the flute and guitar every day. I even had a mike attached to my desk and there was an improvised combo. I taught myself songs by Dixie Chicks, Allisson Krauss, and Norah Jones and, occasionally, I wrote my own ones. But apart from one occasion when I took part in a songwriting competition (Folkový kvítek / Folk Bloom), and ended second, I never felt any urge to sing in public, suspecting no one would be interested. The urge to write songs and to perform them in front of people came only later, with life experience. At a certain point I realized it was something that filled me with enthusiasm and gave me a great, even childlike joy. And then, when I receive positive feedback from people around me, from fellow musicians or the audience, it's a beautiful bonus and an incredibly fortifying feeling."*

The songs' themes, related to the discovery of new life values during a watershed period in the songwriter's life, are treated very straightforwardly, yet with great optimism and even playfully. The sense of intimacy that these songs create, and the fact that their melodies often stay with us just after one listening, testifies to Andrea's exceptional talent and her qualities as a singer and songwriter. The team of musicians who accompany her on the album features some of the best performers on the local scene. Apart from their rich musical experience they have contributed their great sense of style to the recording. Their collaboration on the arrangements of the individual songs during the recording sessions contributed to the songs' colourful perfection, an effect we remember from the two latest albums of Vladimír Mišík in which they also participated.

The album “Opportunities” is released on **25 November 2022** on CD and digitally. The album will be launched on 28 November 2022 at a concert performance in Prague’s Jazz Dock, featuring all the musicians who took part in the recording.

The recording, mix, and mastering took place at the Sono Records Doupě studio between February and October 2022, in collaboration with sound masters Milan Cimfe, Adam Karlík, and Pavel Karlík. The cover design is by Tomáš Trnobranský from Studio Najbrt, the photographs are by Julie Vrabelová. The album is released on CD and as a digital download and stream available through the streaming services in the distribution network of Supraphon. It will also be available from the publisher’s e-shop at www.animalmusic.cz. The album is released by Animal Music label as part of its Edition 2022, which has kindly been supported by a grant from the City of Prague, by the OSA, and by Animal Music’s benefactors, Mr. Roman Bělouš and Mr. Jan Školník.

Andrea Šulcová is a singer, songwriter, and flutist active in the genres of folk, bluegrass, acoustic pop, and jazz. She was born in Náchod in North Bohemia in 1991, and grew up surrounded by music and nature. After completing her studies at Jaroslav Ježek Conservatory in Prague, she became the first flute player to study at the jazz department of the Kunstuniversität in Graz, Austria. Since 2015 she has been member of the jazz formation Concept Art Orchestra, playing the flute and contributing to the ensemble’s management, together with Štěpánka Balcarová. For three years, Andrea was a member of the Vesna band (flutes, voice) and appeared as guest with Pavel Bobek, also having recorded vocals on his latest CD. She has maintained long-term collaboration with violinist and guitarist Pepa Malina and his family band, the Malina Brothers. During her studies abroad she performed with many jazz formations and musicians all over Europe, including Nicole Johänntgen, Balázs Balogh, Grazias, and Luboš Soukup. In 2018 she was forced to put her musical activities on hold due to serious health problems. In 2020 she started to dedicate herself to songwriting and solo singing, and to release singles and musical videos in collaboration with pianist Vít Křišťan or the double bassist Robert Balzar. In November 2021 she released a solo mini-album “Nobody Knows”, featuring six songs, three of which also appear in new arrangements on the album “Opportunities”. At present, she divides her time between Prague and Dresden, performing and teaching music.



Tracklist:

1. You Always Say
2. Opportunities
3. I’m Grateful
4. It’s Not the End
5. When You’re So Far Away
6. Piece of Wood
7. The Perfect Place to Live
8. Like the Stars
9. Suddenly I Looked at You with Different Eyes

ANIMALMUSIC

10. Wake Up Call
11. Lose and Get
12. Nobody Knows

Personnel:

Andrea Šulcová – lead vocals, low whistle

Josef Štěpánek – electric guitars, lapsteel, pedal steel

Petr Ostrouchov – acoustic guitars, octave mandolin, vocals

Vít Křišťan – piano, keyboards & analogue synthesizer, vocals

Jaromír Honzák – bass, double bass

Matěj Belko – bass

Martin Novák – drums and percussions

Josefina Horníčková – vocals

Karolína Karlíková Kalandrová – vocals

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