



## Artist Biography

WEBSITE

HIGH RES PHOTOS

Outi Karhu is a Finnish singer and pianist, born with restless feet and a curious heart which led her to Scotland. This nomadic spirit is reflected in her songwriting. Constantly examining new viewpoints, she hops between style and genre, enchanting her audiences with jazz-flavoured folk songs where stories of feminism, sisterhood and freedom intermingle with fables and fairytales. She invites the listener on a sonic journey, from the pine-scented woodlands of her Nordic motherland to the rugged Scottish wild. Outi is passionate about improvisation, which has taught her to embrace being in the moment and fully accept her creative vulnerability. Her ethereal, quirky vocal style developed over years of performing live with groups and as a soloist across Scotland, the UK and Europe.

Although Outi considers jazz the music of her heart, as a songwriter and arranger she also draws on her classical experience amongst myriad influences. She studied classical, contemporary and jazz voice and piano in Joensuu Conservatoire (FIN), at Strathclyde University's acclaimed Applied Music Course, St Andrews University and also holds a MEd as an Artist/Teacher from the Royal Scottish Conservatoire. She has extensive experience as a choral conductor and arranger, with some of her pieces performed and recorded around the world. Working with guitarist Nico Gaul she has performed jazz and blues across Scotland, including opening the Callander Jazz and Blues Festival. Outi is also a member of the vocal harmony trio Juniper Three, whose first EP was released October 2023, and with whom she headlined a show at Harbour Arts Centre.

Outi's debut single '*Shiver*' was picked up and featured on **BBC Scotland's** 'Travelling Folk' programme as part of **BBC Introducing**. The song was praised for its atmospheric soundscape and intricate storytelling. She has been honing her storytelling and harmonic landscaping skills in the creation of her debut solo album, '*Let The Light In*', which has been funded by **Creative Scotland** and is due for release in November 2025. Outi has been performing around Scotland, from intimate **Sofar Sounds** gigs to slots at **Eden** and **Kelburn Festivals**.

Outi's upcoming album '*Let The Light In*', is promising to be a glorious introduction to her world of jazz flavoured chamber folk. The collection plays like lullabies for adults, with delicate and thoughtful melodic turns, lyrical piano lines, daring rhythmic experiments, and harmonies that at times cradle you, at times stir you aware. The heart of her music is suffused with care - for nature, for human connection, and for one's own dreams and quiet fears. But ultimately, the album is a solace and offers a brief respite from the increasingly busy and relentless modern world.