



Artist Biography

Outi Karhu is a Finnish singer and pianist, born with restless feet and a curious heart that led her to Scotland. This nomadic spirit allows her to remain adventurous in her approach to life as well as music. Constantly examining new viewpoints, she happily hops between styles and genres, enchanting her audiences with jazz flavoured folk musings where stories of feminism, sisterhood and freedom intermingle with fables and fairytales. She invites the listener on a sonic journey, from pine scented woods of her Nordic motherland to the rugged Scottish wild. She is increasingly passionate about improvisation, a practice which has taught her to embrace being in the moment and fully accept her creative vulnerability.

Outi has developed her ethereal and quirky vocal style over years of performing in different groups and settings around the UK and overseas. Although her heart has found a home in jazz, as a songwriter and arranger she also draws on her classical experience while interweaving a myriad of further influences. She has studied classical, contemporary and jazz voice and piano in Joensuu Conservatoire (FIN), 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 is currently honing her storytelling and harmonic landscaping skills by writing material for her first album.

Outi's debut single '**Shiver**' was released in March 2023. The song draws inspiration from Finnish folklore and the character of Aino in Kalevala, the Finnish National Epic. In her own words:

"Aino has only a minor part to play in Kalevala, but her story is well known to women worldwide. It tells of a maiden, who after a chance encounter alone with a man finds herself with a side of the story no one wants to believe. Rather than accepting her fate she decides to join the 'maidens under the sea' and adopts herself a new form. It is this ability and power to go through a metamorphosis in the wake of a personal tragedy that I based my song on. It is a celebration of the feminine strength."

Shiver appeared on BBC Radio Scotland's Travelling Folk Programme as part of **BBC Introducing**.

Outi is also a talented jazz artist. She performs with her full heart and soul, radiating exuberance and love of music. Together with guitarist **Nico Gaul**, she plays joyful renditions of jazz and blues standards as well as more obscure pieces. The duo has performed at private parties and venues across Scotland, and as last years highlight, the opening act of Callander Jazz and Blues Festival.

Together with Laura Hill and Aimee Penman, Outi forms vocal harmony trio **Juniper Three**. The group writes and arranges their songs as a collective, creating a tapestry of genres in an intuitive interweaving of voices where three solo singers come together to share the lead. Their debut EP was released in October 2023.

The trio gained a mention as a 'highly recommended' act after their performance at the 2023 Danny Kyle Open Stage at Celtic Connections, and returned for a live performance at the festival this year with Celtic Music Radio.