

Biography

After the release of his critically acclaimed album “The Pull”, Kreg retreated from touring and recording for four years, during that time relocating permanently in Europe. Then in 2012, he resurfaced at Oslo’s legendary Jazz Club Herr Nilsen for his first publicized gig in Norway, flanked by the trio who performed on his newest record, “If You Lose Your Light”. Several of Norway’s most respected musicians were in the crowd, including Sivert Høyem, who tweeted “Fantastic...I am totally blown away...he pulls most of us up by the roots”!

As before, it is his tremendous voice that first commands the listener’s attention. Yet his new material showcases a greater focus on melodies of brighter color and a warmer delivery. This color and warmth – and the broadening of his range musically and lyrically – is striking proof that those several years of rootlessness and reclusion were not wasted. Highlighted by the accompaniment of three of Norway’s best musicians (Anne Lise Frøkedal sings harmonies, Sondre Meisfjord plays contra and electric bass, and Øystein Hvamen Rasmussen playing drums), “If You Lose Your Light” has been hailed with glittering reviews by the Norwegian press.

To experience his live show is to take in not only a master of delivery at work, but to be invited into an intimate and brightly lit space where you are constantly surprised by the subtle detail in his work, painted in earthen tones, but revealing great contrasts. It’s nakedness yet striking completeness have you transfixed from the moment he opens his mouth - “a soul-deep session of primal therapy”, as Mike Butler of “Dyverse Music” described it.

It has been called “soul” and “folk”, for want of better terms, but “spirit music indeed”, as the aforementioned journalist described it, perhaps hits nearer the mark. But whatever one calls it, hearing Kreg Viesselman sing is an intense experience. He deals with humanity in its basic and most instinctive forms, in a style that belies a deep human intelligence and wry wit. His is a narrative voice, at once both brutal and touching, which deserves its place in the canon of Great American Songwriters.

Reviews for “If You Lose Your Light”

“The closest I came to a musical revelation this spring..he captures the listener from the first song” (5 of 6) – *Romerikes Blad*

“A minimalistic soul-folk masterpiece” – *Klassekampen*

“an understated intensity grabs hold and delivers these serious songs” (5 of 6) – *Østlendingen*

“A bright, somewhat whispery, and flexible voice. The melodies are so seemingly improvised that they sound like stories.” (5 of 6) – *Dagbladet*

“Both the melodies and content have a long shelf life...he earns his residency permit with the song “The Well” alone” – *Dagens Næringsliv*

“this subtle record might be the finest of Kreg’s career”
– *Rein Van den Berg, Johnny’s Garde*

Reviews for “The Pull”/ Live Reviews

“Viesselman was a revelation...To see Viesselman perform is to partake in a soul-deep session of primal therapy...This was spirit music indeed, and came from deep within.”
– *Diverse Music*

“****...deep, intense and literary....a masterpiece...if you don’t believe, just listen.”
— *Buscadero Magazine, Italy*

“One of the few albums which warrants the listener to hanging onto the artist’s every single word..without exception i found every song totally engrossing...Viesselman is an incisive writer who uses dazzling imagery...there are so many highlights it almost seems unfair to spotlight just one” — *Maverick Magazine*

“I turn my head in disbelief when somebody like Kreg Viesselman appears out of the blue...embraced by DJs and critics alike. The music bizz suddenly seems to make a bit more sense to me!” — *J.B., Insurgent Country*

“It looked like he came from out of the nowhere, all of a sudden there was this beautiful album *The Pull*...who is Kreg Viesselman?” - *Heaven Magazine, Holland*

“Rarley does a talent so exceptional and unique come along; this man deserves to be heard.” — *Blues Matters*

“Enchanting simplicity...I really believe him when he sings.” — *Acoustic Magazine*

“This guy is good. He is writing some great stuff.” — *Taj Mahal*

“Viesselman’s songs have a sage, hardened pathos that’s hardly pretty-boy stuff. It’s not exactly what he says, but how he says it, wherein the genuine power lies. He delivers silvery, potent lines that are killer in substance. No disappointment here, Viesselman has a charmed beauty all his own.” — *Dirty Linen*

“Revelatory. In short, Kreg Viesselman is a somewhat gruff voiced singer whose great strength is the ability to craft story songs which combine honest emotions with poetic, yet accessible, language. A damn fine guitarist and harmonica player.”
— *The Green Man Review, Portland, Maine*

“Stunning.” — *netrhythms.co.uk*

“Viesselman’s blue-eyed country-fried soul resides in that special realm that seems to defy the sands of time. Viesselman provides the perfect example here for young songwriters who are looking for the high road. Outstanding.” — *indie-music.com*