

## SARA PARKMAN-BIO

**Sara Parkman is a folk musician known to both question and embrace traditions in such an unabashed and simultaneously thoughtful way, that one could say that she has created her own musical universe – and that by doing so, she has become the great poster name of contemporary Swedish folk music. Thanks to her two acclaimed solo albums, it is to be expected since some time to hear her music pulsate from the foggy depths of nordic forests during nocturnal rave parties – and equally expected to see her perform live in popular TV programs. And now, Sara Parkman returns with *Eros, agape, philia* – a long-awaited album focusing on love and the body.**

Violinist, singer and composer: three words that describe Sara Parkman. However, they are not enough to cover the width of what she has achieved during her career, which already stretches over more than 15 years. Her debut album as a solo artist was entitled Sara Parkmans Skog (2016), and it was awarded 'Artist of the year' at Folk & Världsmusikgalan, a Swedish gala to celebrate folk and world music. The following year saw the release of Parkman's sophomore full-length Matriarkerna. It was a tribute album created together with her friend and folk musician Samantha Ohlanders. But Sara Parkman's most acclaimed release to date was 2019's Vesper. Named after the Christian evening prayer, this album was an exploration of the sacred through music. It was received by unanimously impressed critics and earned her a Swedish Grammy nomination as well as the biggest Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter's Culture Prize. On the new album *Eros, agape, philia*, Sara Parkman takes her starting point in the three different words for love found in Ancient Greek. Eros, the romantic or erotic; Agape, the divine; and Philia, the friendly or familial love. From those three words the album has grown – an album that whispers in all the languages of love about the tenderness of being human. About longing, about hoping and wishing. To be dizzy from anxiety even though one lies flat on the moss. To like oneself for a moment or to lose oneself completely in the skin of another. To lay down to rest, gently rocked. To pine and to hesitate. *Eros, agape, philia* was influenced by Sara Parkman's studies of theology and bible texts on love, combined with inspiration from thinkers such as the mystic Gunnel Vallquist and the philosopher Byung-Chul Han – and intertwined with truths found in comic books and TV series, good advice given by mothers as well experiences from her relationships. Tradition or innovation, homestead or nightclub – Parkman's music is never just one or the other; it is a blend of many things, some of which might seem to be opposites. In the making of *Eros, agape, philia* Sara Parkman collaborated once more with the producer and songwriter Hampus Norén. The music was recorded in her studio in Hägersten and in Svenska Grammofonstudion in Gothenburg. Meanwhile, the lyrics were written in part during a residence in Elin Wägner's house in Småland.

*Eros, agape philia* is an arrow straight through the heart, just as numbness was setting in. Aspring flood, the ice melting. Dreams and longing. *Eros, agape, philia* is

kitsch and dirt, the present and the self. Eros, agape, philia is love and body – romantic but never suffocating. Newlife sprouting amidst deforestation. It's an album that carries hope.