

## **New Album - The sound of the beat**

Eleven songs about the things of life.

About racing against the clock.

Marching in line.

Rowing to the sound of the drum.

Songs about everybody's search for a Wonderland.

The pursuit of love and happiness.

The only sensible guidance in times of chaos and crisis.

In 2015, almost ten years after the previous album, Marjan has once again recorded a bunch of songs, that she compiled in an album entitled *The sound of the beat*. This album, interspersed with storytelling, folk rhythms and rootsy arrangements, brings Marjan back to her roots.

In Belgium Marjan effortlessly bridges the gap between Milow and Admiral Freebee, with her accessible and honest songs, based on poppy melodies and timeless arrangements. And as a Belgian female artist she is as good as alone in doing so.

Fact: half of the budget for this record was collected with crowdfunding, thus telling a nice community story in the margins.

Marjan Debaene realized this fourth gem to crown her twenty-year musical career as a self-made woman with limited resources.

But above all, she is back with a vengeance.

## **Track by track**

*The state of Absurd*, *The Road to Wonderland*, *On the road*, are all little songs about great feelings, arranged in a sometimes treacherous happy instrumentation of banjo, accordion, (double) bass, piano, guitars and drums. A starring role is played by Marjan's voice, which at the age of 35 - and at the time of the recording even six months pregnant - still sounds as powerful as ever.

For *The Wild West* and *The Sarajevo Tunnel* tapped Marjan inspiration from her own experiences, respectively as an adolescent teenager in Flanders Fields and later as a touring artist in war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Even more than on her previous albums Marjan proves she masters evoking atmosphere through subtle arrangements as a producer and arranger. In opening track *Sun's Glow* the to Leuven relocated West Flemish art historian calls in the drought of the Dust Bowl, in *The Ghost*

of *Seville* the shimmering heat of scorched hills and Spanish flamenco sounds through.

But make no mistake, *The Sound of the Beat* has certainly room for screaming guitars, pumping basslines and pounding drums as shown on *I want it all back*. Marjan rocks on this album as usual. Echoes of Sheryl Crow, Shawn Colvin, Emmylou Harris, Martha Wainwright, KT Tunstall and Mumfurd and sons sound through in f.i. *Oh my Love, It's about to go down* and even Bruce Springsteen and Fleetwood Mac are never far away. Marjan knows her classics and uses them subtly as a wildcard when needed. The lyrics of title track *The Sound of the Beat* finally read as a creed, a letter of intent by Marjan as a musician but also as a human being. The backup choirs towards the end support this statement vocally.

## **Bio**

Marjan is not a prolific writer. She lets her songs ripen and waits patiently for a beautiful story to present itself to her. So too was the case with her last, self-produced and self-released *Wolfish Times* established in 2006. The album garnered critical acclaim and stars. Meanwhile her solid live reputation, thanks to a reliable live-band consisting of Bert Embrechts (DLS band, Boudewijn de Groot), Eric Bosteels (Gorki, Hooverphonic) and Alex Brackx (Horn, Rumtown), earned her numerous performances at home and abroad.

Marjan Debaene's songwriting talent is like a good wine, it gets better with age. As a 17-year-old in 1996, she released her first critically acclaimed folk album *Growing Pains* (MAP Records). It soon earned her a permanent place in OOR's pop encyclopaedia. Her second throw – *Humanoid* (MAP Records), a more poppy production by David Poltrock (Hooverphonic, De Mens, Tom Helsen...) - saw the light in 1999 and launched the latter as a producer.

## **The Sound of the Beat** (Superjane Music, SJM00015)

1. Sun's glow
2. On the road
3. I want it all back
4. Oh my love
5. The Sarajevo tunnel
6. It's about to go down
7. The road to Wonderland
8. The state of Absurd
9. The ghost of Seville

10. The wild West

11. The sound of the beat

Bonus Track: Hoping for a miracle

Album credits & Info: [www.marjandebaene.com/credits.html](http://www.marjandebaene.com/credits.html)