

LAMERCÉ 2017

REYKJAVÍK, the guest city 2017

MUSIC

Barcelona Acció Musical

SAMARIS

When Jófríður Ákadóttir, aka JFDR (vocals), Áslaug Rún Magnúsdóttir (clarinet) and Þórður Kári Steinþórsson (electronics) formed Samaris in 2011, they were just teenagers. Since then, they have become one of the most internationally-acclaimed Icelandic groups. This, despite the fact that their homonymous debut album, with its glacial, phantasmagorical electronica sound, played over a steady beat, was accompanied by lyrics taken from nineteenth-century poems in Icelandic. This time round, though, the band return to Barcelona to present *Black Lights* (2016), their third album and the first with all the lyrics in English, though the evocative power of their music is undimmed. Samaris are playing BAM as one of the bands from Reykjavík, this year's guest city.



KIASMOS

The Icelandic musician Ólafur Arnalds, winner of a BAFTA for his soundtrack for the series *Broadchurch*, was not content with merely leading the trend to take the acoustic piano out of the classical concert hall in what became (wrongly) known as the neoclassical movement, in which classically-trained pianists fuse their contemporary compositions with electronica. Now, Arnalds has teamed up with Janus Rasmussen from the electropop group Bloodgroup to form Kiasmos and take his piano down to the dance floor. With their clubber spirit and minimalist soul, Kiasmos have already performed live in Barcelona to great acclaim. In 2014, the band released their homonymous debut album, after which came the EP *Swept* (2015), and they are soon to enter the studio to record a follow-up LP. Kiasmos are one of acts on the bill from Reykjavík, this year's guest city at BAM.



GLOWIE

Her name will probably not mean much to you as yet, and if you search the Internet you won't find much on her. But one thing you will find is the music video of *No More*, her debut single. *No More* was the song most listened to in Iceland in 2015, not bad as a calling card for a young singer – she turned 20 this year – who has everything she needs to become huge internationally.

Glowie



even has a team of producers behind her, the StopWaitGo trio, who also discovered her. In the world of Icelandic pop, everything StopWaitGo touch turns to gold. After *No More* came the downtempo R&B tune *Party* (2015) and the catchy *No Lie* (2016): one listen to *No Lie* and you are hooked by a half-time beat and ultra-modern production that have nothing to envy of Ariana Grande. So it looks like we will be hearing more about Glowie soon, but before that we have the chance to see her perform live: she is playing BAM as one of the artists from Reykjavík, this year's guest city.

EMMSJÉ GAUTI

Icelandic contemporary music does not begin and end with the cold, languid, dreamy pop sounds of Björk and Sigur Rós. There is for example, a vibrant and very competitive rap scene in Reykjavík. And that is where Emmsjé Gauti stands out. A veteran on the Icelandic hip-hop circuit, this MC had already spent fourteen sharpening a verse style that sometimes achieves machine-gun speed when, in 2010, he released his solo debut, *Bara ég* ("just me" in Icelandic): rap in Iceland is also a battleground. But Emmsjé Gauti's popularity (he has more than ten thousand followers on Twitter and Instagram, even though he raps in his native tongue) is also due to the fact that, tipping his cap to R&B, his four albums to date have enabled him to reach a huge audience through radio and live streaming.



ÓLÖF ARNALDS

Not to be confused with her cousin, Ólafur Arnalds, though she does share with him, not only her surname, but also her interest in building bridges between classical and popular music. A singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, Ólöf Arnalds is a classically-trained violin and viola player, and taught herself to play guitar and charango. But it is her voice, which sounds almost supernatural, that most captivates those who listen to her music. Another famous compatriot, Björk (with whom Arnalds has also worked), described her voice as "somewhere between a child and an old woman". Ólöf Arnalds, who has released four albums since making her recording debut in 2007, the latest entitled *Palme* (2014), appears at BAM as one of the roster of artists from Reykjavík, this year's guest city.





GRISALAPPALÍSA

A seven-piece band formed by musicians who are all veterans of the Icelandic rock scene (former members of groups like Jakobínarína, Oyama and The Heavy Experience), their lyrics, in their native tongue, tap into Iceland's rich literary traditions. However, if you don't understand the words, don't for one moment think that Grísalappalísa's songs evoke the universe of the Icelandic sagas. Their main influences are krautrock and punk, and their sound is an eccentric postpunk pop that makes us think of Adam and the Ants on speed. Just watch the vid for their single ABC (filmed on the Ring Road) and you will see what we mean. More evidence comes in the shape of debut long-play Ali (2013), a concept album in which the two vocalists desperately trawl the dark back streets of Reykjavík in search of love and some kind of goal in life. Grísalappalísa are among bands from Reykjavík – this year's guest city – scheduled to perform at BAM this year.



REYKJAVIKURDAETUR

These "Daughters of Reykjavík", to translate their name, are a female hip-hop crew founded to correct the glaring absence of female voices on the Icelandic rap scene. They came together in 2013 after the success of an open mic night for women rappers, but this collective of more than a dozen MCs did not find it easy to carve out a place for themselves in a world dominated by men, who, they say, did not exactly welcome female competition with open arms. Still, Reykjavíkurdætur had things to say, and their flow is full of feminist slogans, protests against gender violence and celebrations of their vaginas, among other vital issues. Because the Icelandic rap scene is not for men only.



JFDR

JFDR is a solo venture launched by Jófríður Ákadóttir, vocalist with the Icelandic band Samaris. A child prodigy, Jófríður began her musical career in 2009 when she was just 14 years of age. This was as songwriter, singer and guitarist with Pascal Pinon, the group she formed with her twin sister, Ásthildur. And, although both Samaris – also on the BAM 2017 programme – and Pascal Pinon are still active, this prolific artist, with a voice that fascinated Björk, also needed a 100% personal project, one in which the decisions are not made collectively, as is the case with groups. *Brazil* (2017), her debut solo album, shows her continuing to play intimate, elegant music: delicate, minimalist landscapes in which her lyrics are set against electronic textures and guitar loops. JFDR performs at BAM as one of the artists from this year's guest city at the festival, Reykjavík.



→ CLASSICAL MUSIC

GUÐRÚN ÓLFSDÓTTIR

(with the OBC, Barcelona Symphony Orchestra and National Orchestra of Catalonia)

Guðrún Ólafsdóttir, master in music at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and winner of several international prizes, she has performed opera and concerts all over Europe, in South America, U.S.A and Africa in venues such as Auditorio Nacional de Madrid, the Teatro Real, the Royal Festival Hall in London, the Coliseo de Buenos Aires and St. Petersburg's Philharmonia's Glinka Hall, with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Sonor Ensemble, the ORCAM, the St Petersburg State Symphony Orchestra and the Philharmonia Orchestra in London. She recorded 12 CDs, including ones for Naxos and EMEC Discos.



www.gudrunolafsdottir.com

She will be the soloist singer of this concert given together with the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra and National Orchestra of Catalonia (OBC), under the direction of Kazushi Ono.

→ MAC FESTIVAL

MILKYWHALE

Milkywhale is an Icelandic pop duo consisting of dancer Melkorka Sigríður Magnúsdóttir and FM Belfast's Árni Rúnar Hlökkversson. Originally conceived to be a dance performance, as Melkorka works in the performing arts scene, the momentum gained and the duo took a different turn premiering a full music set at Iceland Airwaves.

Milkywhale was more than well-received for their ability to dismantle the boundaries between concert and dance performance and with their highly kinetic and entertaining concept, they quickly began performing at festivals such as the Roskilde festival, Sónar RVK and Canadian music week.



HALLDOR MAR

This musician was born in Reykjavik, but one day he travelled to Barcelona to perfect his knowledge of the guitar... and he fell in love with Catalonia. Not only did he stay and live in the Catalan capital, but this singer-songwriter with a taste for pop and rock became an ardent fan of the Nova Cançó, Catalan singer-songwriting, and recorded an album in English, adapting songs ranging from País petit by Lluís Llach to Al vent by Raimon and even Noia de porcellana by Pau Riba. It is always a pleasure to listen to him bring to life songs that have been the soundtrack to the lives of everyone from Barcelona.



TECHNOLOGY

MAC FESTIVAL

INGVAR BJÖRN Terra Forma

Visual, musical, installation

An audio-visual producer born in the Icelandic capital in 1990 is working with the Brincadeira percussion company to offer a show featuring screenings onto the large waterfall in the Parc de la Ciutadella that will let you experience all the power of the forces of nature with the utmost intensity. You'll see the earth open up and the waterfall become a giant volcano! It is all a creation by visual artist Ingvar Björn with its own original soundtrack. The music is the work of Sigtryggur Baldursson, a percussionist who is best known for his time as a member of Icelandic band The Sugarcubes. Additionally to the playback track the percussion part of the soundtrack is performed live by one of the city's best-known percussion groups, founded, precisely, in this park.



FULL DOME SHOW : Icelandic images

In the dome that you'll find installed again this year at the foot of the waterfall, you'll experience an immersive reality where you'll find yourselves surrounded by images and sounds. You know that this year, Reykjavik is the guest city at the Mercè, so this year we're screening an extraordinary film in the dome that begins by talking about the genes of the Icelandic people and ends up taking you to visit the most spectacular natural landscapes you've ever seen. The production by the Eyesberg audio-visual creations studio will allow you to discover the delicate beauty of such atmospheric phenomena as the northern lights, but also the strength and even violence that nature reaches in this land of fire and ice.

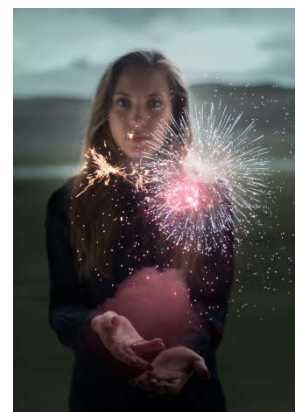


FIREWORKS

FIREWORKS FESTIVAL

SIGRÍÐUR SOFFÍA NÍELSDÓTTIR

Raised under the Northern lights/Aurora borealis artist Sigga Soffía is deeply influenced by the Icelandic nature. In the fireworks show the audience gets to experience choreography in its purest form. The human body is removed from the equation and the only thing left is fire-drawing of movement in the sky and thus creating the structure of the piece. The audience is given space to experience the beauty of movement, the power of simple forms, the nuances of colours, weight and the atmosphere of rhythms. In "Northern Nights" people are given the opportunity to find a piece of mind, reminded of the power and beauty of the movement, weather and volcanos, dynamic waterfalls and the silent cold winter nights.



FILMS

Images of Iceland

One of the best ways to know a country is through its cineastes. The selection of these 4 films gives a little impression of Iceland:

Ransacked, 2016, by Pétur Einarsson about the financial collapse of Iceland in 2008 and a family willing to fight. The author himself has been working in the financial sector until 2006.

Of Horses and men, 2013 by Benedikt Erlingsson, who won the prize for the best new director of the year at the festival in Sant Sebastian. The film is about the nature in Iceland and the relationship on horses and human beings.

Backyard, 2009, by Árni Sveinsson, showing a jam session celebrated in his house with the very best musicians of Iceland of the moment. With Múm, FM Belfast, Hjaltalin and Sin Fang Bous, and other groups

Bokeh by Geoffrey Orthwein and Andrew Sullivan. This Science-fiction drama is about the experience of an American couple travelling to Iceland, discovering one morning that they are the only survivors of the planet. The première of this film in Spain will be at La Mercè.

MERCÈ 2017 Del 22 a 25 de setembre Ciutat convidada: REYKJAVIK							
	TRADICIÓ	MAC FESTIVAL	BAM		MERCÈ MÚSICA	FOC	
	Pça Sant Jaume	Ciutadella / Pg Lluís Companys	Plaça dels Àngels	Pl. Joan Coromines	Parc de Nou Barris	Espigó del Gas	CCCB
dv 22	18:30 Pregó 19:45 Toc d'inici	20:30 Domo /Islandia 22:00 INGVAR BJÖRN (Terra Forma) 01:00 MILKYWHALE					
ds 23		12:00 Domo /Islandia 15:30 HALLDOR MAR 22:00 INGVAR BJÖRN (Terra Forma) 01:00 MILKYWHALE			OBC GUDRÚN ÓLAFSDÓTTIR 21:00-22:15	Pirotècnic SIGRÍÐUR SOFFÍA NÍELSDÓTTIR 22:00	Ransacked - P. Einarsson Horses and men- B.Erlingsson Backyard- Á.Sveinsson
dg 24		12:00 Domo /Islandia 15:30 HALLDOR MAR 22:00 INGVAR BJÖRN (Terra Forma) 01:00 MILKYWHALE	20:15 Emmsjé Gauti 21:45 Samaris 23:15 Reykjavíkurdætur 00:45 Kiasmos	pendent JFDR 21:00 Ólöf Arnalds 22:30 Glowie 00:00 Grísalappalísa			Ransacked - P. Einarsson Horses and men- B.Erlingsson Backyard- Á.Sveinsson
dl 25		12:00 Domo /Islandia 15:30 HALLDOR MAR 22:00 INGVAR BJÖRN (Terra Forma)					

REYKJAVIK ARTISTS - LA MERCÈ 2017			
VENUE	ARTIST	PERFORMANCE	NUMBER OF SHOWS
Parc de la Ciutadella	INGVAR BJÖRN	Terra Forma	4 nights / From 20:30pm to 1:30am: September 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th
Parc de la Ciutadella	FULL DOME SHOW - ICELAND IMAGES		4 days and 4 nights / From 20:30pm to 1:30am: September 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th
Parc de la Ciutadella	MILKYWHALE	Concert	3 nights / 3 concerts: September 23rd, 24th and 25th
Parc de la Ciutadella	HALLDOR MAR	Concert	3 days / 3 concerts: September 23rd, 24th and 25th
Bam-Plaça dels Àngels	EMMSJÉ GAUTI	Concert	1 concert, September 24th
Bam-Plaça dels Àngels	SAMARIS	Concert	1 concert, September 24th
Bam-Plaça dels Àngels	REYKJAVÍKURDÆTUR	Concert	1 concert, September 24th
Bam-Plaça dels Àngels	KIASMOS	Concert	1 concert, September 24th
Bam-Plaça Joan Coromines	JFDR	Concert	1 concert, September 24th
Bam-Plaça Joan Coromines	ÓLÖF ARNALDS	Concert	1 concert, September 24th
Bam-Plaça Joan Coromines	GLOWIE	Concert	1 concert, September 24th
Bam-Plaça Joan Coromines	GRISALAPPALISA	Concert	1 concert, September 24th
Parc de Nou Barris	GUDRÚN ÓLAFSDÓTTIR + OBC	Concert	1 concert, September 23rd
Espigó del Gas - Platges	SIGGA SOFFÍA	Fireworks	1 show, September 23rd
CCCB		Films from Reykjavik	September 23rd and 24th