



# IRRBLOSS

A CONCERT BASED ON THE POEMS OF SIGNE AURELL

NOT THE SWEDISH IMMIGRANT STORY YOU'RE USED TO



Signe Aurell was a Swedish immigrant and poet, and one hundred years after their publication her poems have been set to music by Maja Heurling and Ola Sandström. In 1913, she traveled alone from Sweden to Minnesota, where she worked as a laundress and seamstress. When not working in the homes of others, she wrote labor poetry. Meanwhile, another Swedish immigrant and activist, Joe Hill, was found guilty of murder in a case that gripped the US. In 1919, Signe self-published a poetry collection in Swedish, Irbloss (Will-o'-the-Wisp), featuring her lyrically powerful work. Her poems, mostly unknown until now, tell of homesickness and the struggle for a better tomorrow. Today, Heurling and Sandström's musical compositions blend folk music and the Swedish visa-tradition to amplify the importance and continued relevance of Signe's words.

## BAND MEMBERS

### Maja Heurling - Vocals and guitar

Maja is a songwriter with a feel for nuance of lyrics and melodies. Her previous work includes songs based on the life and work of Swedish author Moa Martinson.

### Ola Sandström - Vocals and guitar

Ola is a composer and musician who is critically acclaimed for setting Swedish poet Tomas Tranströmer's poetry to music.

### Livet Nord - Violinquintone

Livet has played with bands like the New Tide Orquesta, Kaja, and Nord/Långbacka/Dahl. In 2015, she was named Artist of the Year by the Swedish Gala of Folk and World Music.

### Daniel Wejdin - kontrabas

Daniel is an intuitive musician who has played all over the world with bands such as First Aid Kit, Kultiration, Råfven, Ara, and Kaja.

## REVIEWS

**"Absolutely wonderful songs!"**

– Göran Greider

**"Down to earth and powerful."**

– Sydsvenskan

**"Light and dark meet in lyrics that will make you sit up and listen."**

– Gefle Dagblad

**"Unbelievable that Aurell's work hasn't been recognized here in Sweden"**

– TT

**"Ask any refugee that you cross paths with and you'll almost certainly hear similar stories of longing for the familiarity of home."**

– Lira Musikmagasin

The program lasts 1 hour and 10 minutes as either one or two sets, although shorter programs are available.

## CONTACT

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