

Unique blend of strength and vulnerability

Singer and songwriter Frederikke Bohr is making her debut on the EP “Unbreakable”, which came to be over the course of some turbulent years where she was searching to find herself, her voice, and her musical standpoint.

To Frederikke, the voice is the starting point. From a very small age, it was obvious to everyone around her that she had a special gift. When she was two years old she easily learned melodies and lyrics by heart and as a young teenager she impressed with her vocal abilities singing Whitney Houston’s version of “I Will Always Love You” in front of an audience so captured and moved by her singing, one could hear a pin drop to the ground.

She was fascinated with the voice as an instrument and how everything was built anatomically. It was particularly exciting when at the doctor’s she was examined and looked at in a special device that via a tube could look down to her vocal cords, so she could see how they were interacting and working while singing. But her voice would also turn out to be her biggest challenge when one day, years later, it disappeared.

“I had been singing in an unhealthy manner for a long time and had to go through surgery to remove nodes on my vocal cords about 10 years ago. It turned out to be a long and difficult process to find my voice and myself anew and the rest of my 20’ies was affected by stress, insecurity, depression, and doubt. From feeling completely free when singing on stage, I now felt scared and inhibited,” Frederikke says of the tough years. On top of this, she had another letdown, as the school she was about to graduate from, The Rhythmic Music Conservatory, chose to fail her at the graduation concert.

“They didn’t think I was convincing on stage and they felt my concert lacked coherence. It was a dark time and, indeed, I doubted if I would ever again be able to sing the way I once could,” she says.

“It has been an important process for me. From always putting all my identity into my voice and singing, I now was forced to look at myself without exactly that. For what if I couldn’t sing anymore? I got to know myself better as a person – without the voice and the singing, just as a human being. And that has made me stronger.”

It wasn’t until the year 2016, when Frederikke started her vocal training with vocal coach Anne Rosing, that she received the tools to build a strong body and voice and to use the body as a part of the instrument.

From singer to singer songwriter

Frederikke Bohr has been singing and experimenting with her instrument for as long as she can remember. In her childhood home, in the community outside of Copenhagen where she grew up, and where she would often sit by the family’s grand piano and sing and play her favorite songs. And in the Children’s Choir of the Royal Danish Academy of Music where she was accepted at 10 years old. Here she became a part of a creative and musical environment. In 2007 when attending a pre-school course (before applying for the Rhythmic Music Conservatory), her songwriting started to take form and she wrote the song See Through You, which is featured on the EP.

“I was inspired and started to write more songs. After a couple years, when I was studying in the first year of the music teacher education at the Rhythmic Music Conservatory, I performed for the first time ever with a band and my own songs.” Ever since, she has given performances, written songs, recorded demos, and worked on her own material. “Slowly, writing has become a need,” she adds.

From the Rhythmic Music Conservatory to Berklee College of Music

In 2008 Frederikke was accepted to the Rhythmic Music Conservatory. She was looking forward to being surrounded by skilled musicians and developing in an inspiring environment. Instead, she felt a snobbish and prejudiced attitude towards what good music is. Moreover she found the work discipline – and practicing one’s instrument – among many students and even teachers to be sloppy. She often felt alone with her music and had a hard time finding her place. The wish to explore the music she had always been drawn to and the wish to take her singing skills and her music to a higher level, made her look into schools abroad.

A friend from high school recommended Berklee College of Music in Boston to her, and Frederikke went to study one year from 2012-2013.

“Berklee was a huge place with lots of space for the individual student to grow and lots of different musical genres to dive into. It was amazing to feel like the small fish in the big ocean and to attend classes with many inspiring teachers and students who all worked hard on their dreams and goals, and with whom I still have contact today. I felt at home as a singer and musician and I had thorough training in music theory and ear training. It was both hard and amazing to be alone abroad, and I felt at once more lonely and more at home than ever before. My time in the US has been essential to me in many important ways and it has strengthened my faith in myself as well as in my music.”

Music is the source to energy and joy

Frederikke hopes that anyone who listens to this EP will find the songs interesting and relevant and that she will be able to reach a larger audience with her music.

And she is excited to perform the songs live at concerts where she will have the direct contact with the audience that she loves and where she can show them her love of music and hopefully make them forget time and place for a while.

“It’s a very special feeling when many people at once listen to you and time stands still – and likewise when I, together with the band, succeed in spreading energy that makes people “groove” along and dance,” Frederikke says – and adds that she has a basic need to use her voice and express herself in front of an audience.

“I’m a person with a high energy level and if I don’t perform and sing regularly and release this energy, I feel the energy is turned inwards against myself and I become anxious and depressive. The most important sources of energy, joy, and freedom are music and singing, and that is why I could never do without. Life would be so gray.”

The EP “Unbreakable” is Frederikke’s first release and she is both excited and nervous, but most of all she is looking forward to sharing the music with whomever wants to listen.