

SJAELLA BIOGRAPHIE (DETAILED VERSION)

Their shared roots reach back to an age when emotions can flow unhindered. Their connections are deep, their enjoyment unlimited, and their inner strength grows wrapped in tenderness. *Sjaella* is the *soul* of the women who appear together on stage and have not lost a child-like experience of the world. Individuality and community come together as friends, in a playful meeting on an equal footing. There is movement, language, noise and sound, with shapes and images. There are bodies and faces, space and freedom, focus and shared breath. It is all of this that *Sjaella* experiences and seeks to share with the audience in a constant exchange of energy.

The voyage of discovery began for these artists in 2005, and it has now taken them around the world. For years now *Sjaella* has been a fixture on the universal vocal music scene, with concerts at renowned festivals: *Rheingau Musik Festival*, *Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen*, *Mosel Musikfestival*, *Musikfest ION*, and many more. The group has also won many prizes in competitions, including the festival *Tampereen Sävel 2015* in Finland. The ensemble has been on concert tours to Jordan, Azerbaijan, Hungary, South Africa, Belgium, Spain and Norway, and performed at famed concert halls like the Mozarteum Salzburg, the Wiener Musikverein, the Wiener Konzerthaus, and the Palace of Arts (Müpa) in Budapest.

Sjaella has a multi-faceted repertoire thanks to its vocal combination, which is underrepresented in the musical world. To brighten the scene with their rich tone, and to expand the range of works available for women's choirs, the singers have been working closely with composers for many years. They combine new works with old music, and devote their attention to folk songs from different cultures, while also harbouring a penchant for jazz. Some of their forays into a musical focus have been honoured by the music world. The album "Preisung" (2013, *querstand*) was nominated for the German Record Critics' Award, and "Meridiane - NORD" (2018, *Raumklang*) won the American CARA Award for Best Folk/World Album.

Every journey, every encounter, every collaboration with international artists opens new doors for *Sjaella*, inside and out. Different musical spaces open up, and worlds of ideas are discovered, just waiting to be revealed by these six young women. They see it as their task to rethink what we think we know, to find new sounds, and to bring all this into an artistic context. They consciously gave this intention a name in 2021 with "Origins". This album, released on *Outthere Music* and praised by the French newspaper *Le Monde*, is like life itself: a cycle made up of many smaller ones, which are shaped so differently that one often wonders how they could be connected when viewed up close. However, when viewed as a whole, the meaning becomes clear.

SJAELLA BIOGRAPHY (SHORT VERSION)

Their shared roots reach back to an age when emotions can flow unhindered. They have strong connections and limitless enjoyment. *Sjaella* is the *soul* of the women who appear together on stage and have not lost a child-like experience of the world. Community feeds on play and individual strength. There is movement, language, noise and sound, with bodies, focus, and shared breath. It is all of this that *Sjaella* experiences and seeks to share.

The voyage of discovery began for these artists in 2005, and it has now taken them around the world. *Sjaella* has been a fixture on the universal vocal music scene for years, performing concerts at renowned festivals, and winning first prize at many competitions. The ensemble has recently been on concert tours to South Africa, Belgium, Spain, and Norway.

Every journey, every encounter with international artists opens new doors for *Sjaella*, behind which musical spaces and worlds of ideas are revealed. These six young women see it as their task to rethink what seems well-known, to find new sounds, and to bring everything into an artistic context. The album *Origins*, released on *Outhere Music* in 2021, is like life itself: a cycle consisting of many smaller ones, connected in a way that can only be seen when appreciated as a whole.