

*The* REYKJAVÍK  GRAPEVINE

SPECIAL ISSUE 2017: NORÐUR OG NIÐUR



SIGUR RÓS ARE SEEING OUT 2017 IN STYLE. THEIR NORÐUR OG NIÐUR FESTIVAL PROMISES TO FILL THE HAZY VOID BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR WITH MUSIC, ART, LIGHT AND COLOUR. INSIDE: WE TALK TO THE BAND ABOUT CREATING THE FESTIVAL; THE ARTISTS NOT TO MISS; THE FULL SCHEDULE; AND LOTS MORE.

SCHEDULE, INFORMATION, GUIDES AND INTERVIEWS



# A Different Tempo

amiina on scoring silent movies and feeling free

Words: Alice Demurtas

Photos: Courtesy of amiina

Nothing says Sigur rós like a winter music festival that also includes lectures, dance performances and movie screenings. But hey, if there is someone who can pull off squeezing a lecture on extraterrestrial life between a twirl of baton and a harpist's performance, that's indeed Sigur rós.

## Like an oscillating pendulum

Among the impressive list of artists who hopped on board with the Norður og Niður festival is the prodigious ensemble amiina, who worked with Sigur rós in the late '90s and for the following decade.

Their impossible-to-categorise, man-on-wood orchestral performance at Airwaves oscillated between theatre, cinema and music like an unstoppable pendulum.

The group was providing the soundtrack to a screening of the 100-year-old silent film 'Fantômas.' The movie was in turn funny and ridiculously dramatic, but it was through amiina's live soundtrack that it acquired a soul. Every low and high point of the movie—the accidents, the gunshots, the smooches and the over-acted fights—was highlighted and emphasised in an exciting performance by the ensemble that was literally one of a kind.

"It's tempting when you're scoring a movie like this, which is quite abstract and doesn't really have a clear story, to just improvise, go with the flow and interact with it live," says band member Sólrún Sumarliðadóttir. "But we decided we wanted to sort of work the film and make it easier for us and for the audience to stay focused, because the tempo of the film is quite different from the tempo we're used to today. Some scenes are excruciatingly long and sort of about nothing, while others that have a lot going on and are over in a moment."

## Framing Fantômas

Amiina was originally asked to score the second of five movies in the 'Fantômas' series, on the 100th anniversary of the films, when French film company Gaumont restored the old 1913 film to a 4k resolution. The project, which was sponsored by various European cultural institutions, was curated by Yann Tiersen, best known for his 'Amélie' soundtrack.

Scoring a movie is an art in itself. One needs to be able to capture the weight of every single moment and put it into a melodic perspective. And if the creative process involved in making an album weren't already difficult enough, the fact that there are points to connect and structures that need to be adhered to makes scoring a movie a different endeavour altogether. Far from being claustrophobic, however, the architecture of the movie ended up being almost liberating.

"In a way it's nice to have a frame to work into—it releases the pressure of inventing the frame yourself," Sólrún explains. "It's also quite clearly defined in sections, so it was tempting to define the characters and sections and really work on the details."

The process was quick but intense, and after a three-week-long tour de force, amiina was done. It's hard to do the results justice in words. Between the thrill and excitement of the movie and the jaw-dropping talents of the band, amiina's performances are well-rounded experiences that need to be felt first hand.

# South And Up?

Don't get lost in the Norður og Niður schedule

Words: John Rogers & Jessica Peng

With 46 fascinating artists already announced for the inaugural Norður og Niður music festival, and more to come, we thought we'd offer you a few choice picks from the lineup. Here are a handful of artists you should firmly ring on the schedule.



JÓFRÍÐUR

Jófríður Ákadóttir has grown from her folk roots to being one of the most well-known faces of the Icelandic music scene. Her first solo album, 'Brazil,' felt like a creative breakthrough, and it's full of surprises live, when Jófríður brings together an ever-evolving ensemble of talented musicians to create fresh new takes on her songs.



GYÐA VALTÝSDÓTTIR

One of the founding members of the much-admired collective Múm, Gyða's solo work has blossomed in recent years. Whether reinterpreting works from the classical canon on her 'Epicycle' LP, playing dusty desert ballads on solo guitar, or performing the world's most soft and sensual rap track, Gyða's performances are mesmerising and hypnotic without fail.



BLANCK MASS

Starting out as one half of noise duo Fuck Buttons, Benjamin John Power's solo incarnation Blanck Mass was great from the beginning. His first album was a lush and gorgeous soundscape of organic ambient material, while his more recent work has a harsher edge, veering into the territory of experimental techno. Either way, it's gripping stuff.



DAN DEACON

The enchanting, incandescent, prismatic electronica of Dan Deacon has to be seen to be believed. Part of the same Baltimore-based 'Wham City' art and music collective that birthed Future Islands, Dan Deacon has been travelling the world for years, guiding ever-growing audiences to euphoric heights with his joyful, pulsating live show. Don't miss it.



SÓLEY, SIN FANG & ÚRVAR SMÁRASON

This power trio started off in 2017 with a pledge to make one song together each month. The results have been fascinating to hear, with a different artist taking the lead at various times. From lovelorn ballads to upbeat

Árni Hjrvar Árnason



# Depresso Tropicana

Árni Árnason's dinky, wonky alt-pop is all sun and sadness

Words: Jessica Peng

Photos: Karan Kandhari

It was one of those rainy days in London when Árni met up with his bandmates from The Vaccines in their recording studio. After a short exchange of small talk and jokes, everyone sat down and started their intense songwriting game. The goal of the game is to write as many songs as possible in a fixed short period of time.

As Árni started to churn out songs, he quickly realized that he did not have a lot of time to make decisions. B minor or G major chord? He had to think fast, or rather, not think at all. "Writing from your head means that you kind of end up writing songs that you think you want to write," Árni explains. "But if you take that off for a second and just force yourself to not think about what you're doing, in the end it's way more interesting and bizarre."

## Depresso Tropicana

After many rounds of songwriting games over the years, Árni started to notice something interesting. "In all of the things that I was writing, there was this thread that I wasn't expecting to come out of me," he says. "It's quite whimsical—a slightly light Hawaiian type of thing."

Árni took the materials back to his studio in East London, where he records everything. You probably think that the bass player of The Vaccines must have all kinds of fancy, expensive instruments in his studio. Well, you're wrong: "The studio is just full of crap, lots of knock-off old '80s synthesizers, beaten-up organs," Árni laughs. "Via that you get this dinky, wonky sound that I just love."

That was the birth of Árni's very own brand of music—Depresso

Tropicana. It's breezy and whimsical, but with a slight twist of sadness. It's like sipping a Mojito on a Californian beach with a broken heart. 'Bore You With My Melody' is such a song.

## Back to the roots

The Akureyri-born musician went to school in Reykjavik, and moved to London ten years ago. "I love London," Árni says. "It's the city where you can find anything you want, as long as you know what you're looking for."

This Christmas he will bring his whimsical tunes back to the Norður og Niður Festival in Reykjavik. He will play on December 27th, and you will get to hear the magic of his "shitty synthesizers."

## Looking ahead

"I didn't set out to make an album," Árni muses. "I didn't even set out to do anything else, other than just to play a couple of gigs for fun."

But life works out in mysterious ways. Since then he has been writing more and playing more shows. After the Norður og Niður Festival, he will be back in his studio in London, where he may continue to create his brand of Depresso Tropicana. "You never know," he finishes. "I might just get an album out."

alt-pop, this is one of the first chances the world will have to see them perform this intriguing project live.



#### Mary Lattimore

The *Norður og Niður* lineup is an exciting mixtape for Sigur rós fans, drawing together the web of strands that make up the band's musical DNA. Mary Lattimore's harp compositions perhaps bring some of the blissful, harmonic sound of their calmer moments. Check out her 2016 album 'At The Dam,' or the accompanying 'Collected Pieces,' for an introduction.



#### SIGURÚN

After touring the world as part of a brass section that backed up Björk, Sigur rós and Florence & The Machine, Sigurún Jónsdóttir is now spreading her wings as a solo artist. Her solo compositions are bold and confident, with almost industrial electronic productions underscoring a striking singing voice. One to watch.



#### Mogwai

The legendary Scottish post-rock band has been fascinating listeners since 1997. They have released nine studio albums over the years, including the eclectic 2017 album 'Every Country's Sun.' They've also scored soundtracks for various films and documentaries, further proving their musical versatility.



#### Dustin O'Halloran

Surreal, magical, and emotional, Dustin O'Halloran is an American pianist and composer who's scored soundtracks for many films, as well as releasing solo material. His hauntingly beautiful album 'Lumiere' from 2011 was also a huge success. Don't miss him—come bask in his otherworldly musical light.

#### amiina

Having worked with Sigur Rós for a long time as a string quartet, Icelandic band amiina make minimalist and adorable music. Their instrumentation is diverse, from strings to ambient electronics, and from harp to singing saw—you name it, they use it. Seeing them live will definitely be a fun and lovely experience.

# North And Down

Sigur rós brighten up the winter with their *Norður og Niður* festival

Words: John Rogers

Photos: Timothée Lambrecq

It was over ten years ago, in 2006, when Sigur rós last had a grand homecoming. The band had released a trilogy of albums—*Ágætis byrjun*, '(), and 'Takk'—that took the world by storm. They came back to Iceland for a victory lap of their homeland, staging shows for locals in remote corners of the country, from the Ásbyrgi canyon to Ólafsvík, Ísafjörður, Djúpvík, Seyðisfjörður, and more.

Flash forward to 2017, and Sigur rós are coming home once more—but this time, they're bringing some friends. Their brand new festival, *Norður og Niður* ("North and down" in English—a euphemism, roughly, for "Everything's going to hell"), started as a simple idea. The band would stage a series of headline shows at Harpa in that hazy, lazy, period between Christmas and the New Year. The idea of support acts came up, and the project snowballed as the wish list grew. Soon enough, Sigur rós realised they'd almost accidentally created a music festival.

## Great expectations

"Originally it was just the idea that we'd play a show in Iceland at the end of this tour," says Georg Hólm, the band's bassist and sometime spokesperson. "We didn't want to play in Laugardalshöllinn again, because we always play there—and we have this beautiful room in

Harpa. It's smallish, but it's still a beautiful room. We knew that we would play multiple nights. And it wound itself up and became more than just three or four Sigur rós shows. We invited more and more people to come along. And it became a festival."

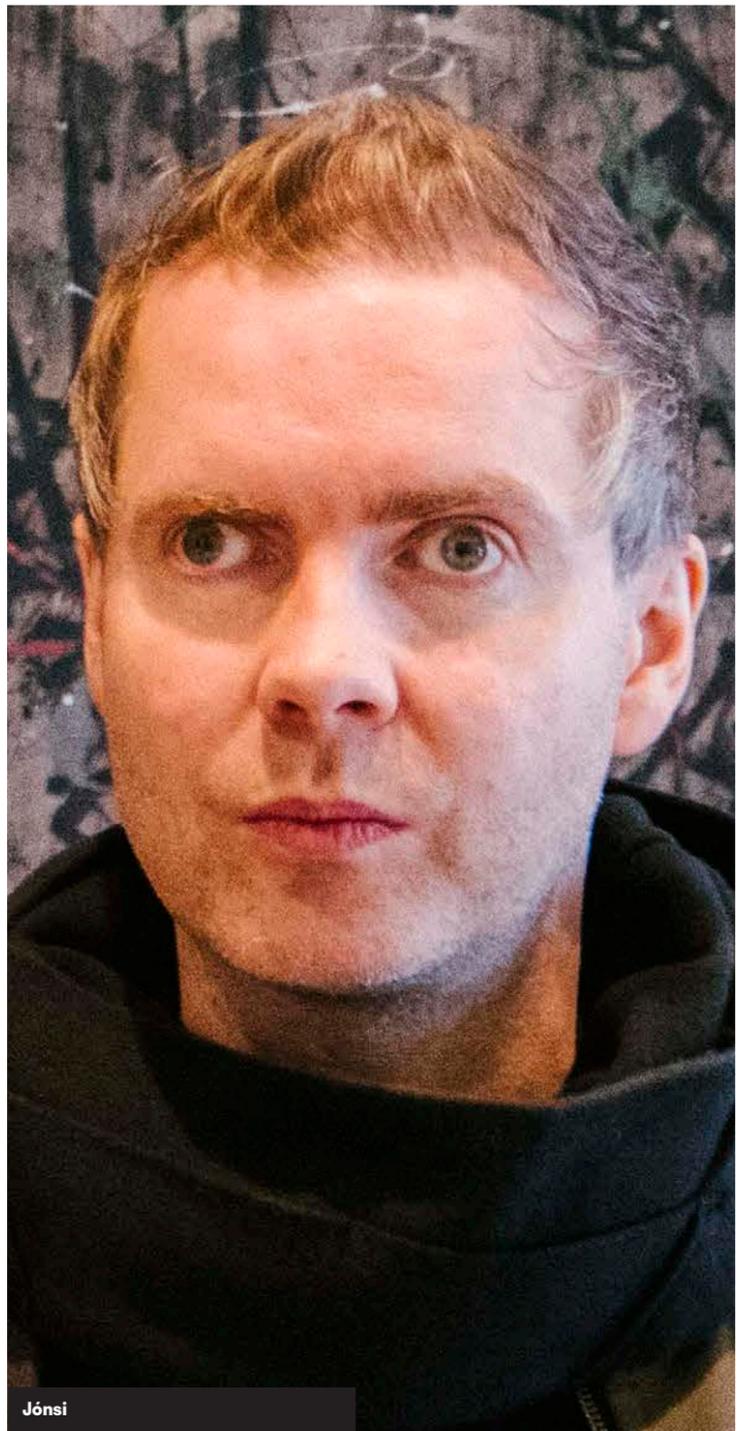
"Elborg is a beautiful room," says Jónsi, the band's frontman. "I like the colour. When you walk into Harpa it's a little like walking into an airport. We want to change the feeling when you walk in, so it feels nice, instead of cold. It's a nice time of year to do something like this—between Christmas and New Year is a little depressing and dark, so it'll be nice to do something fun. People will have somewhere to go and have drinks and see good music." Adds Georg: "We're working on making it nice inside. It'll be pretty spectacular, I hope."

## Old losers

The lineup includes established artists like Jarvis Cocker and Kevin Shields, post-rock acts such as Mogwai and Stars Of The Lid, and up-and-coming musicians like harpist Mary Lattimore and emerging electronica star Kaitlyn Aurelia Smith. "It was a lot of fun at the beginning," says Georg. "We thought, 'Who do we want?' and started writing down names. Then another name pops up, and another."



Georg Hólm



Jónsi

"There are a lot of old losers like us," smiles Jónsi. "Kevin Shields and Jarvis Cocker have been around the block. We met Kevin when we were playing in Spain, a long time ago. It'll be fun to do something together. We grew up with My Bloody Valentine, I have great memories of being sixteen years old in a rehearsal space, blasting 'Loveless' through a guitar amp and lying on the floor really drunk. It's amazing."

"Then there are some newer things," Jónsi continues. "We've been spending more and more time in LA, and Mary Lattimore and Kaitlyn Aurelia Smith and Julianna Barwick—they live close to me, so we kind of hang out. They're really nice people."

It's a rich musical menu, and the band are gratified at how many artists have agreed to play, given the timing of the festival during the holiday season. "We're really happy and amazed how many people said yes," says Georg. "There are even more acts that we haven't even announced yet. It's amazing how many great bands agreed to this. It's not the easiest time of the year to get people to come, during the holiday season."

## Bland í poka

The lineup forms an interesting diagram of Sigur rós's diverse and widespread musical mores and influences. As well as friends and family (both proverbial family, and in some cases, literal family), many of the artists playing are Sigur rós collaborators, old and new.

"Dan Deacon did an arrangement for us when we played at Disney Hall in LA," says Jónsi, becoming animated at the memory. "He's a Baltimore guy, so we know him a little bit from there. Stars of

the Lid is one of my all-time favourites. They never play! So it'll be really good to see them, actually."

"There are bands like Mogwai who we've played loads of shows with in the past years," says Georg. "It's a 'bland í poka'—a mixed bag, when you go to the shop and put your 500 króna on the table for a mixture of candy."

## ET phone home

Music is just one piece of the *Norður og Niður* puzzle, and Jónsi and Georg are keen to talk about additional events, from dance performances to artist collaborations to lectures. The band will also unveil unreleased work at the festival, with The Icelandic Dance Company performing to a previously unheard piece. Some specially-pressed vinyls will be on sale—including a solo electronica album from Jónsi, highlights of the generative music from the 'Route One' project, and solo material by Alex Somers—with limited edition handmade artwork.

"We didn't want it to completely be a music festival," says Georg. "It's an art thing, or even wider than that. We have people giving lectures, like Nelly Ben Hayoun, who works with NASA and SETI. She's a really interesting character—super intelligent, and out there, to say the least. She'll be talking about the search for extraterrestrial life. There'll be little things for everyone, and lots going on for free."

"It's been a lot of work," finishes Jónsi, laughing. "But it's going to be a lot of fun, too."

# NORÐUR OG NIÐUR

ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT HARPA. SCHEDULE IS CORRECT AND  
REFER TO NORDUROGNIDUR.IS OR THE NORÐUR  
PLEASE NOTE SIGUR RÓS SHOW TICKETS ARE SOLD OUT

WED  
DEC  
27<sup>th</sup>

## ELDBORG

20:00 Sigur Rós

## SILFURBERG

16:00 Dimma

20:00 Sigur Rós's Gloomy Holiday

22:30 Blanck Mass

## KALDALÓN

14:30 Kristín Anna

21:35 Alexis Taylor

23:45 Árni

## NORÐURBRYGGJA

12:00 Flow VR (all day)

12:00 Gramophone Installation (all day)

22:35 Alex Somers

## HÖRPUHORN

18:00 Hallowing Opening Ceremony

18:30 Hilmar Örn Hilmarsson, Steindór  
Andersen and Quartet, Iceland  
Chamber Choir and Special Guests

## RIMA

13:00 Nelly Ben Hayoun presents  
'Disaster Playground'

15:45 Screening 'The Golden Waterfalls  
of Strandir'

16:00 Andri Snær Magnason presents  
'Light in the Last Age of Glaciers'

16:45 Screening Andri Snær Magnason  
'Dreamland'

20:00 Helium Karaoke

## EYRI

19:15 Reykjanesbær Music School  
Bell Choir

## KOLABAR

17:00 Ingi Garðar Erlendsson presents  
Stiginn / Stigin

23:30 Alexis Taylor (DJ Set)

THU  
DEC  
28<sup>th</sup>

## ELDBORG

20:00 Sigur Rós

## SILFURBERG

16:00 Bergrun

18:40 Mammút

22:10 GusGus

23:30 Kevin Shields

## KALDALÓN

14:30 Kjartan Holm and Caleb Smith

21:15 Mary Lattimore

23:45 Kaitlyn Aurelia Smith

## NORÐURBRYGGJA

12:00 Flow VR (all day)

12:00 Gramophone Installation (all day)

22:20 Alex Somers

## HÖRPUHORN

16:00 Annual Icelandic World-Champion  
ship Ginger Cookie Competition

17:00 Reykjanesbær Music School  
Bell Choir

17:45 Jo Berger Myhre and Ólafur Björn  
Ólafsson

19:00 Gyða

## RIMA

13:30 Dean DeBlois presents 'Heima'

20:00 Helium Karaoke

## EYRI

19:45 Kórus

## KOLABAR

22:00 Kjartan Holm (DJ Set)

# NORÐUR SCHEDULE

AT TIME OF PRINTING BUT DETAILS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.  
OG NIÐUR APP FOR THE MOST RECENT UPDATES.  
OLD SEPARATELY TO NORÐUR OG NIÐUR PASSES.

FRI  
DEC  
29<sup>th</sup>

## ELDBORG

20:00 Sigur Rós

## NORÐURLJÓS

16:00 Jóhann Jóhannsson

20:30 Dustin O'Halloran

23:00 Peaches

## SILFURBERG

17:45 JFDR

19:00 Dan Deacon

23:00 Mogwai

## KALDALÓN

14:15 Hugar

21:15 Julianna Barwick

23:00 Brassgat í bala

## NORÐUBRYGGJA

12:00 Flow VR (all day)

12:00 Gramophone Installation (all day)

22:35 Alex Somers

## HÖRPUHORN

16:30 Rex Pistols

17:15 Sigrún

19:00 Brassgat í bala

## RIMA

12:00 Daniel Bjarnason presents  
'Under The Tree'

20:15 Jarvis Cocker presents  
'The Extraordinary'

21:30 Helium Karaoke

## FLOI

16:00 Iceland Dance Company  
'The Great Gathering'

18:00 Iceland Dance Company  
'At Dusk, We Embrace'

## KOLABAR

22:00 Special Guest DJ Set

SAT  
DEC  
30<sup>th</sup>

## ELDBORG

20:00 Sigur Rós

## NORÐURLJÓS

14:45 Liminal Soundbath

20:40 Sin Fang, Sóley & Örvar Smáráson

22:30 Jarvis Cocker

## SILFURBERG

18:30 Stars of The Lid

00:00 Ulrich Schnauss

## KALDALÓN

14:10 Amiina presents 'Fantomas'

21:35 Gyða

23:30 Mr. Silla

## NORÐURBRYGGJA

12:00 Flow VR (all day)

12:00 Gramophone Installation (all day)

21:00 Alex Somers

## HÖRPUHORN

17:15 Eiríkur Orri Ólafsson

19:00 Julianna Barwick

11:30 Special Guest DJ Set

## RIMA

12:00 Hilmar Örn Hilmarsson and  
'The Show Of Shows'

20:00 Helium Karaoke

## FLOI

16:00 Iceland Dance Company  
'The Great Gathering'

18:00 Iceland Dance Company  
'At Dusk, We Embrace'

# NORÐUR OG NIÐUR: MEET THE ARTISTS



PEACHES

Over forty artists across four days and nights. Take the time to get acquainted with the full Norður og niður line-up.

## SIGUR RÓS'S GLOOMY HOLIDAY

A Christmas revue show like no other. The season's best-loved festive songs as you've never heard them before. Delivered by an eclectic and unrepeatable cast of national treasures and indie superstars, plus big band led by Samúel Jón Samúelsson.

SILFURBERG DEC 27

## HALLOWING - OPENING CEREMONY with HILMAR ÖRN HILMARSSON, STEINDÓR ANDERSEN, KÓRUS and ICELAND DANCE COMPANY

A pagan blessing, an ancient rhyme, some stirring singing and a wild dance. Welcome to Norður og niður! HÖRPUHORN DEC 27

## ALEXIS TAYLOR

The Hot Chip hitmaker plays a stripped back set with a piano and vocals, his solo offerings embedding wistfulness and bittersweet melancholia into pristinely rendered pop songs.

KALDALÓN DEC 27

## BLANCK MASS

One half of Fuck Buttons, Benjamin Powers, packs a punch with his solo project Blanck Mass. His live show conjures up rapid-fire beats with heavy slabs of bass and foggy explorations of dark ambience.

SILFURBERG DEC 27

## DIMMA

For over a decade Reykjavik's Dimma have brought the A-game as Iceland's premiere league heavy rockers. The powerful four piece's explosive live show earned them Best Local Live act for 2016.

SILFURBERG DEC 27

## ANDRI SNÆR MAGNASON

Acclaimed Icelandic writer and thinker Andri Snær Magnason presents a wide-ranging discussion 'On Time and Ice - Living in The Last Age of Glaciers' plus Q&A. RIMA DEC 27

## TÓMAS GUÐBJARTSSON

Tómas Guðbjartsson premieres his short film 'The Golden Waterfalls of Strandir'. RIMA DEC 27

## KRÍSTIN ANNA

One time múm member Kristín Anna reveals new music from her forthcoming song cycle 'I must be the Devil', performed on a grand piano and featuring some extraordinary guest musicians. Unique and bewitching. KALDALÓN DEC 27



BLANCK MASS

## HILMAR ÖRN HILMARSSON, STEINDÓR ANDERSEN AND PÁLL GUÐMUNDSSON with STRING QUARTET and ICELAND CHAMBER CHOIR + special guests

Sigur Rós collaborators on the fabled orchestral work, Odin's Raven Magic, Hilmar Örn Hilmarsson, Steindór Andersen and Páll Guðmundsson break out the one-and-only stone marimba for a moody and moving evening in the winter gloaming.

HÖRPUHORN DEC 27

## INGI GARÐAR ERLENDSSON

'Stiginn / Stigin (The Stair / The Points)' 80 performers in two youth wind bands - Skólahljómsveit Austurbæjar and Skólahljómsveit Kópavogs - occupy all the spaces of Harpa performing Erlendsson's ambitious, interactive piece. HARPA DEC 27

## ÁRNI

The Vaccines bass player makes a profound musical detour. Via woozy sci-fi popicana and depresso tropicana Árni has created the perfect soundtrack to an early morning space age pool party.

KALDALÓN DEC 27

## NELLY BEN HAYOUN PRESENTS 'DISASTER PLAYGROUND'

The 'Willy Wonka of design and science' Dr Nelly Ben Hayoun presents her feature film 'Disaster Playground', investigating outer-space catastrophes and beyond. She'll speak on 'Designing The Impossible', exploring the hyperreal, where fiction is as truthful as reality, and premiere an animation set featuring the International Space Orchestra of NASA scientists covering Sigur Rós favourites. RIMA DEC 27

## ALEX SOMERS

Composer, musician and producer, Alex Somers presents a new musical installation, combining gramophones, transistors and celeste, harmonium and pianettes to a dazzling mesmeric effect.

NORDURBRYGGJA DEC 27-30

## FLOW VR

Experience FLOW VR meditation technology; combining progressive, cutting edge meditation techniques with advanced virtual reality.

NORDURBRYGGJA DEC 27-30

## KEVIN SHIELDS

Musical ringleader of legendary indie band My Bloody Valentine, Kevin Shields is one of modern rock's great auteurs, building a reputation as one of the world most original guitarists on the basis of three fabled albums. Performing in Iceland for the very first time.

SILFURBERG DEC 28

## GUSGUS

The daddies of Icelandic dance music GusGus have explored every avenue of electronic music, from techno to trip-hop, house to progressive trance and pop. Biggi Veira and Daníel Ágúst will bring a powerful set filled with beats, grooves and vocals. SILFURBERG DEC 28

## MAMMÚT

After a year visiting far flung corners of the world in support of their critically acclaimed album 'Kinder Versions', Reykjavik five piece Mammút return to Iceland for their full blooded live show filled with electric atmosphere. SILFURBERG DEC 28

## MARY LATTIMORE

LA based harpist Mary Lattimore experiments with her harp through various effects to dazzling results. She's recorded and performed with musical luminaries from Thurston Moore and Sharon Van Eten, to Jarvis Cocker and Kurt Vile. KALDALÓN DEC 28

## KAITLYN AURELIA SMITH

Riding high on praise for her latest album, the bubbling, effervescent 'The Kid' Kaitlyn Aurelia Smith visits Iceland for the first time with her one woman electronic show. "Sparks a bodily pleasure alongside her music's cerebral delights" - Pitchfork.

KALDALÓN DEC 28



MOGWAI

## KÓRUS

The choir collective pulls together 30 active forces in the Icelandic music/art scene, meeting every week to sing new music together. Kórus devotes itself to singing pieces composed by choir members.

EYRI DEC 28

## KJARTAN HOLM AND CALEB SMITH

Having worked together since 2012 on various projects Sigur Rós touring guitarist Kjartan Holm and filmmaker Caleb Smith present a new work bringing together sonic and visual textures, manipulating video footage using video degrading equipment and an experimental soundscape to match.

KALDALÓN DEC 28

## GINGERBREAD COMPETITION

Annual Icelandic World Championship Ginger Cookie Competition Rules are simple, you may work solo or in teams but all members must be present at the judging, exterior surfaces must be edible, and you will be judged on originality, design, and of course, taste. Celebrity judges, entertainment, and tasty treats galore. Enter at gingercookie@niceland.com

HÖRPUHORN DEC 28

## JO BERGER MYHRE AND ÓLAFUR BJÖRN ÓLAFSSON

Jo Berger Myhre & Ólafur Björn Ólafsson (sometime Sigur Rós pianist/percussionist) create music that's so sparsely populated, and its sense of space and scale so big, it's as if one is being deliberately invited to fill in the gaps to provide both detail and motive.

HÖRPUHORN DEC 28

## DEAN DEBLOIS PRESENTS 'HEIMA'

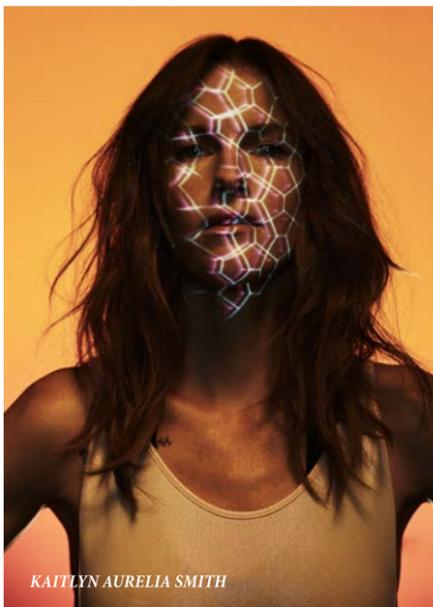
Two-time Oscar nominated, Golden Globe winning film director Dean DeBlois ('How To Train Your Dragon', 'Lilo & Stitch') introduces a screening of 'Heima', the documentary about Sigur Rós he directed in 2007.

RIMA DEC 28

## REYKJANESBÆR MUSIC SCHOOL BELL CHOIR

Bringing handbell playing to a new level, this 11 piece ensemble collaborates with the composer and arranger Ingi Garðar Erlendsson on pieces written by Sigur Rós.

EYRI DEC 27 / HÖRPUHORN DEC 28



KAITLYN AURELIA SMITH

## MOGWAI

Twenty years deep into their career, Scotland's Mogwai are now an immovable, centrifugal force in avant-rock. Riding high on the acclaim for latest release 'Every Country's Sun', they finish a year of festival appearances at Harpa.

SILFURBERG DEC 29

## JÓHANN JÓHANNSSON

The internationally acclaimed composer, musician and producer returns to Iceland for a one-off performance of 'Englabörn', his seminal debut album, originally released in 2002 and set for reissue in 2018.

NORDURLJÓS DEC 29

## PEACHES

Pushing buttons and boundaries with a sexually-charged blend of electronic music, hip hop, and punk rock, Peaches delivers one of the most raw and creative stage shows in popular music.

NORDURLJÓS DEC 29

## DAN DEACON

Blending pop culture with absurdism, Dan Deacon's super energetic live performances are matched by his crackpot electronica. His wonderfully interactive live show is like being inducted into a friendly cult.

SILFURBERG DEC 29



DAN DEACON

## DUSTIN O'HALLORAN

LA-based film composer, pianist and streaming playlist superstar is joined by a host of local musical luminaries to perform a meditative piece at Harpa.

NORDURLJÓS DEC 29

## JULIANNA BARWICK

Famed for her ethereal loops around largely wordless soundscapes, Julianna Barwick brings together gorgeous vocal melodies on top of experiments across song structure and time.

KALDALÓN DEC 29

## ICELAND DANCE COMPANY

with 'At Dusk, We Embrace' by Erna Ómarsdóttir and Valdimar Jóhannsson to new music by Sigur Rós.

A midwinter night's dream where new music by Sigur Rós is met with the high pitched and breathy extreme physicality of Iceland Dance Company. Dancing, screaming and fighting to free themselves from the burdens of the past and embracing the endless night.

FLOI DEC 29 AND 30

## ICELAND DANCE COMPANY

with 'The Great Gathering' by Ásrún Magnúsdóttir and Alexander Roberts to music by various artists performing at Norður og Niður.

A large group of adults and children dance together with buzz in the ears, stereo of sound and steamy fog. Splashing in puddles with bleeding noses, they live in another world where they are never invisible. Spinning round and round – holding hands – the whole world a blur.

FLOI DEC 29 AND 30

## JFDR

The prolific songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Jófríður Ákadóttir (well known for her musical projects Samaris, Pascal Pinon, Gangly) plays cuts from her acclaimed debut long player 'Brazil' and beyond.

SILFURBERG DEC 29

## HUGAR

Neo-classicists and Reykjavik residents, Bergur Þórisson & Pétur Jónsson, join forces as Hugar to create ambient, blissed-out instrumentals that achieve a sonic cohesion rarely afforded in today's disposable musical culture.

KALDALÓN DEC 29

## BRASSGAT Í BALA

Sigur Rós's much-loved 'brass bastards', together again for the first time in years to present the awesome power of their assembled talents on trombone, trumpet and tuba. take a bow: Sammi, Snorri, Eiki, Ingi and Helgi.

KALDALÓN DEC 29

## SIGRÚN

Sigur Rós trombonist gives a solo voice and electronic performance, promising incantations, heavy electronic beats and enchanted stones.

HÖRPUHORN DEC 29

## REX PISTOLS

Rex Pistols is the new project by former Antimony front-woman Rex Beckett. Minimal synthpop grooves, goth blues, laden with lust and fear, boredom and decadence, vulnerability and obscenity.

HÖRPUHORN DEC 29

## DANIEL BJARNASON PRESENTS 'UNDER THE TREE'

Acclaimed conductor and composer and current artist in residence with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Daniel Bjarnason speaks before presenting, 'Undir Trénu (Under The Tree)', Iceland's official entry for Best Foreign Film at the upcoming Oscars, for which he composed the original score. With Gyða Valtýsdóttir's 'Epicycle' short, directed by Perry Hall.

RIMA DEC 29

## JARVIS COCKER

One of the most original and striking frontmen of recent years, the Pulp singer and 'greatest living Englishman', returns to Reykjavik with hot-off-the-press new material and favourites from his sparkling career.

NORDURLJÓS DEC 30

## STARS OF THE LID

"Stars of the Lid's fragile drone sculptures have gone from quiet critical sensation to the iconic standard for 21st century ambient." - Rolling Stone. Beatless soundscapes composed of droning, effects-treated guitars along with piano, strings, and horns makes for a mesmerizing live show.

SILFURBERG DEC 30

## LIMINAL SOUNDBATH

Bathe your ears under a flowing stream of sonic warmth from Sigur Rós frontman Jónsi joined by collaborators Alex Somers and Paul Corley, accompanied by Solblossi, a pulsating light source from designer Juan Azulay, that undulates in real-time to the hypnotic audio. Free Brennivín shot on arrival. BYO blanket/rug/pillow.

NORDURLJÓS DEC 30

## SIN FANG, SÓLEY & ÖRVAR SMÁRASON

Three of Reykjavik's most prolific and revered musicians have teamed up for a new project which has delivered a song-a-month project as a framework around a songwriting studio collaboration. They're now expanding it to a full live performance, making its debut this December.

NORDURLJÓS DEC 30

## ULRICH SCHNAUSS

The music of Ulrich Schnauss combines multi-layered synthesizers with beats and ethereal vocals, an aural escape route from the trappings of reality. "Touches the soul of the listener in a profound way." -Louder Than War.

SILFURBERG DEC 30

## AMIINA

Long-term Sigur Rós collaborators, Amiina make intelligent and imaginative usage of the different instruments and their varied and endless textures. 'Fantomas' is Amiina's most acclaimed work to date, and the band will perform it as live score to a silent masterpiece at Harpa.

KALDALÓN DEC 30

## GYÐA

Well known for both her distinctive voice and for her highly inventive and personal style of cello playing, Gyða will perform her own new compositions, soon to be released on an album co-produced by Alex Somers.

KALDALÓN DEC 30

## MR. SILLA

Mr. Silla is the solo incarnation of Sigurlaug Gísladóttir, known also for her work with múm, Snorri Helgasson, Mice Parade and Low Roar. Her sets stunning voice requiring little more in back-up than the minimalist, electronic musings of her laptop, and occasionally some live guitars from Tyler Ludwick.

KALDALÓN DEC 30



JARVIS COCKER

## HILMAR ÖRN HILMARSSON AND 'THE SHOW OF SHOWS'

Hilmar Örn Hilmarsson talks about Paganism, ahead of a screening of 'The Show of Shows', the amazing archive-based film about the history of circuses he co-scored with Sigur Rós's Georg Holm, Orri Páll Dýrason and Kjartan Holm. With 'Fantasy on Sarabanda' short by Guðbjörg Hlín Guðmundsdóttir.

RIMA DEC 30

## EIRÍKUR ORRI ÓLAFSSON

Sigur Rós brass arranger Eiki performs a soundscape installation with trumpet and electronics, plus guest Róbert Reynisson from múm.

HÖRPUHORN DEC 30



SIN FANG, SÓLEY & ÖRVAR SMÁRASON



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