



LONG BIO

Mary Read was formed as a stand-alone project in 2016 by Lars Nerback, Teresa Axner and Magnus Nygard. With backgrounds in folk and electronic music respectively, they brought an eclectic mix of flavours to the collaboration. Influenced by historical events and oral storytelling, they created a musical theatre piece called “The Life and Death of Mary Read”, telling the story of the titular real life pirate, from whom they also took their name.

The band’s mix of neofolk, dark ambient and industrial, blended with elements from Nordic traditional music, chanson and other folk genres quickly gave them a cult following. When they played Gotland’s Medieval Week festival in the summer of 2017, the shows sold out - at a point where no recording of the music existed yet.

The three collaborators decided to continue working together, and in the spring of 2018 they released *The Life and Death of Mary Read* - a concept album featuring music from the stage show. In the summer of 2018 more touring followed, and in February 2019 they released the single *Störtebeker*.

In March 2019 Magnus Nygard left his spot as a permanent member of the band, choosing instead to focus on other projects. At this point, the band’s sound had evolved. Their general interest in folk and acoustic genres had narrowed to a closer focus on the mournful and rhythmically complex sound of traditional Swedish fiddle tunes, and the percussive elements had grown darker and more rhythmically intense. Over time, they have come to regularly switch up their electronic sets with minimalist acoustic interpretations of their material on accordion, vocals and frame drum.

During 2019, Mary Read toured Sweden and Germany with their new project *Dunsany Dreaming*, where they combine poems by the early 20th century author Lord Dunsany with original compositions and traditional Swedish folk tunes. They are currently in the studio, working on an album version of *Dunsany Dreaming* which will be released in 2021.

Mary Read can also be heard as guest artists on the upcoming album of Rozalind MacPhail, a Canadian flutist and electroacoustic performer, currently nominated for ECMA’s “electronic recording of the year”.