

INNER
VOICE
ASJA
VALČIĆ
SOLO



 **QUINTON**


An artist's solo album is always a rite of passage. Sometimes it marks the beginning of their creative output. Sometimes it is a way of going in a new direction, an opportunity to explore a different voice. Or, as in Asja Valčič's case, the consolidation of their individual artistic vision. Valčič's solo cello album is the logical next step in a path of excellent musicianship and mastery. Having left an admirable career in classical music behind to develop as an improvising musician, Ms Valčič's has become a household name both as a performer and a composer in Austria, her chosen home, and beyond. One need just look at the list of music collaborations to understand that this is no ordinary cellist, but a seasoned musician who understands her craft and can bring that extra something to the table.

Her aptly titled new album "Inner Voice" is an ode to the cello. Unlike other solo works by improvising artists, Asja Valčič does away with the gimmickry of effects and loops, making use of her impeccable technique to explore the natural sound possibilities her instrument has to offer. There are

moments of driving passion, as in the flamenco inspired "Love Story", but also beautiful instances of fragility like in the whistled harmonics theme of "Free Spirits". The smooth, velvety timbre that most people have grown to associate with the cello is present throughout, but the more impish and raw groove-based aspect of the instrument also gets paid its due attention. Ms Valčič's virtuosity is put to good use throughout, but it never takes centre stage for its own sake - on the contrary, it serves the music and the story it wants to tell. The album begins in the fiery balkan landscapes, on a "Macadam Road", an idea of home, moving forward towards freedom, love, and the peace of finding an "Inner Voice". There is a beautiful balance between groove-driven passages, lyrical melodies, and the use of aural space. This is an album that portrays an artist come into her own, a voice that doesn't need or want to hide from anyone or anything; and a listening experience all the more wonderful for it!

Emily Stewart

Recorded and Mixed by Sebastian Schneider
at Lunar Mind Studio St Pölten
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 **QUINTON** – the art of recording arts

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ASJA
VALČIĆ
CELLO

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|---|--------------|-------|
| 1 | Home Island | 5'11" |
| 2 | Macadam Road | 4'58" |
| 3 | Balkan Rush | 4'24" |
| 4 | Free Spirits | 5'50" |
| 5 | Tango | 3'14" |
| 6 | Love Story | 6'25" |
| 7 | Runaway | 2'47" |
| 8 | Inner Voice | 5'39" |

