



## 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 a storytelling stage show based on their new project *Dunsany Dreaming*, which they had been working on since 2018. The project combines poems by the early 20th century author Lord Dunsany with original compositions and traditional Swedish traditional music, and explores - among other things - the roots of fantasy literature and its connection to WWI.

During the summer of 2020 they continued the project by recording a studio album version, and at this point Magnus re-joined the band. The recorded version was highly anticipated by fans, as evidenced by the fact that the Kickstarter campaign financing the release reached its funding goal in less than six hours. The album was released on May 28th 2021, and by now the *Dunsany Dreaming* project includes several creations spanning different forms of media - among others a book of photography, an instrumental companion album and a limited handmade cassette tape edition.