



Independent Artist Kat Steih Releases Third of 3 EPs in Series “Songs from a Faraway Galaxy ... and West Park”

*Completing the cycle of EPs recorded during the
pandemic*

(ANN ARBOR, MI – February 21, 2022; source: Kat Steih) — Alt-folk artist Kat Steih is proud to announce the release of her final cycle of songs recorded during the pandemic.

Presented as a series of three EPs, the first four-song EP debuted in August 2021 and was warmly received by reviewers and fans. The second was released in November 2021 with an intimate acoustic release show. The third EP will debut with a release show on March 25, 2022 at Willis Sound in Willis, Michigan.

About the Album *Songs from a Faraway Galaxy ... and West Park*

“This album fits the vibe that I noticed a lot of reviewers talked about this year,” Kat observed. “NPR Music’s staff, for example, noted in their year-end wrapup that they were ‘drawn to albums by artists making breakthroughs, moving forward with clarity, without balking at the obstacles falling in their way.’”¹

“This album draws on my life experiences as a female-identifying person, and it’s about female empowerment from a number of different angles. These are ‘post-love songs’ that go beyond the traditional cocoons of relationships, family and work,” explains Kat. “I am influenced by how Kate Bush and Björk write about complex emotional experiences. The realities of *Songs from a Far Away Galaxy ... and West Park* were not always realities that I wanted, and they were authentic. Through this album I was able to express them and then accept them.”

Despite the album being written during dark years and addressing themes of addiction, breakups, family trauma and loneliness, the music is upbeat and bouncy power pop produced with colorful synths, driving drums and catchy musical melodies. “I think my perseverance kicks in hardest during difficult times,” laughs Kat, “and it manifests as this big burst of energy that pops out a melody to carry me through.”

Completing the Series

Rather than releasing all of these songs as one album, Kat realized that they made more sense as a cycle of three EPs.

“When I was sequencing the album, I found that the songs naturally fell into three groups: one that had an autumnal feel, one with a sort of bare winter desperation, and one that felt like flowering spring,” says Kat. “I then remembered a remark I heard from Rick Rubin on a podcast where he said that if he and Tom Petty released *Wildflowers* today, they might release it in smaller groups of songs. That essentially gave me permission to do this,” she says with a laugh.

“Now that the third EP, the spring one, is being released, we can put them all together. Another way we are coming full circle is that we’re having the release show at Willis Sound, which is where I recorded my first album.”

One of the songs in the first cycle, “She’s a Genius”, piqued the interest of reviewers like Christopher Porter (A2 Pulp), who said, “I usually associate Ann Arbor vocalist Kat Steih with a sort of folky, jazz-inflected amalgam, but [“She’s A Genius”] is a trippy—and humorous—new-waver.”

“Kat’s songs have a direct form, with memorable melodies that feel personal and fresh,” producer Samn Johnson reflects. “I found it natural to add harmonic context and instrumental development to her ideas. I particularly enjoyed this multi-genre approach as it has been a wonderful opportunity for me to explore and integrate different sounds as a producer.

“Kat’s overarching creative personality is evident across this record and it has been a joy to work with her,” Samn reflected.



More About Kat Steih

Kat Steih’s vocals are complex and rich with a shimmer of high frequencies. At times they quiver with self disclosure, at other times they are smooth like home-made honey. In *Songs from a Faraway Galaxy...and West Park*, we also hear her in a more rock vocal texture in songs that are exciting and filled with purpose. Her focus on

arching melodies reaches across genres into different soundscapes, emphasizing the hook and relishing the thrill of expression over a thriving beat.

The shifting variety of Kat's albums shows that she is a permeable artist whose ideas meld with the ideas of her collaborators. Her philosophy is "expressing the music of the moment". She has travelled and studied in different musical contexts, including when she studied songwriting and electronic music production in Denmark in 2016-2017 and recorded a two-track EP with Danish folk artist Per Worm. After moving back to the States she recorded the Americana album *Hymns of the Huron* at Willis Sound in Willis, Michigan, released in 2019.

Kat is an educator who focuses on working with neurodiverse students and mentoring female artists. She graduated with a dual physics and music degree and tutors physics and math as well as teaching improvisation and music. In all this we can see that she is someone who enjoys merging different influences into her own forms.

Learn more about Kat at www.katsteihmusic.com

MEDIA NOTE:

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Visit this link for pre-release digital review copies of *Songs from a Far Away Galaxy ... and West Park*: <https://soundcloud.com/katsteih/sets>

¹NPR, "The Best Music of 2021":

<https://www.npr.org/2021/12/01/1054332263/the-50-best-albums-of-2021-page-3>