

# KAT STEIH

## *Hymns of the Huron*

RELEASE DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2019



***In my home towns of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, the Huron River is a place where people go to punctuate important experiences in their lives. I called the album Hymns of the Huron, because the songs are a blend of folk, rock, and spirituals that prioritize feeling over thinking, with their emphasis on mantra-like hooks and melodies. Hymns of the Huron is a healing experience that makes connections between feelings, healing and relationships. I hope that, when others listen, they'll be able to express and understand their own experiences in new ways.***

Kat Steih is an artist, musician, and educator with a philosophy of using improvisation to express the "emotion of the moment." She is distinguished by her joyful and affective live performances, as well as her reputation as a creative maverick whose prolific output demonstrates her ethos of "expression over perfection." She is an accomplished vocalist, sound designer, and composer, who has performed throughout the United States and worldwide, with a focus on free, powerful expression the whole time. Her latest work, however, has touched audiences with its simplicity, authenticity and relaxed resonance. It was recorded at Willis Sound in Willis, Michigan by Ben Lorenz and Jim Roll, and released independently on September 15th, 2019.

Kat's artistic path has not always been a smooth one. She's had to overcome obstacles including learning disabilities, performance anxiety, and singing difficulties, which culminated in vocal surgery and a period of vocal rest when she could only speak for a few moments per day. *Hymns of the Huron* is her first after this time of trials. Her voice is in full fledged wonder zone, with warbles, sweet tones and full body, calling to mind divas like Nina Simone and Joni Mitchell.

What sets this album above the composer's previous work is how intimate and natural the songs are. The album opens with the pensive "Hole in My Heart", a simple tune with the voice out front and minimal ukulele accompaniment. It then jumps into the upbeat banger, "I Hope I'm Doing the Right Thing." "Motherless Child" is eerie and dark with piano accompaniment, while the track "I Haven't Seen," is reminiscent of an Ella Fitzgerald rendition of Billy Strayhorn's "Lush Life," both in its lyric and melodic lines. "12<sup>th</sup> House Affair" has a Joni

Mitchell meets flamenco vibe with its compelling phrygian melodicism. "Don't Push Me Away" is deeply soulful and is the kind of tune you'd want to belt at full voice while driving along the river that this album was named for. Bluesy electric piano riffs dance with Kat's voice over a background of mellow drums and harmony vocals. The final track, "You're Not Going to Lose Me" is a stunning example of the power of a simple lyric delivered passionately. There's an unexpected modulation in the middle of the tune that gives the piece a cinematic quality. The album as a whole is compelling, gorgeous, and meditative.

### TRACK LIST

1. **Hole in my Heart (1:37)**
2. **I Hope I'm Doing The Right Thing (1:58)**
3. **Motherless Child (3:51)**
4. **I Haven't Seen (2:59)**
5. **12th House Affair (3:19)**
6. **Don't Push Me Away (4:19)**
7. **You're Not Going to Lose Me (4:20)**