

**Mallory Chipman / *Songs To A Wild God*****Release Date: Sept. 27. 2024****Mallorychipmanmusic.com**

Mallory Chipman seems connected to things most of us aren't. It's reflected in her music, a sonic smorgasbord that captures the awesomeness of nature, and how we relate to it. After creating an internationally acclaimed EP inspired by birdsong, 2023's *As Though I Had Wings*, Mallory is returning with *Songs To A Wild God*, 10 new songs offering a tour of what she describes as, "my reverence for the wild mystery that keeps my feet on solid ground in a world that is spinning by me at rates I can hardly fathom sometimes."

Powered by her multi-octave voice, the sound of *Songs To A Wild God* ranges from cinematic folk-rock to intimate spoken word observations. Aiding Mallory in her role as producer is her long time engineer at Edmonton's Riverdale Records, Scott Franchuk, along with multi-instrumentalists Brett Hansen and Nico Humby, drummer Jon Guenter, bassist Connor Walsh, saxophonist Mark DeJong, and vocalist Esther Forseth. While Mallory has often leaned on her formal musical education on previous releases, she says that this time she wanted to rely solely on her gut and intuition. The results speak for themselves, as *Songs To A Wild God* hearkens back to when artists such as Joni Mitchell, Van Morrison and Sarah McLachlan built their reputations through a musical connection to nature.

"I used to try to fit myself into a box," Mallory says. "I would constantly ask myself, what would be most marketable? Will the audience be confused or rejected if I hop from genre to genre? Will people roll their eyes if I sing over and over about what I believe in? In the making of this album, I learned that I am a product of my influences—and that's not something to escape, but rather embrace. I have felt myself become liberated from industry expectation and free to journey wherever the art takes me. That's why I believe this album to be my best work yet."

Those words are backed up by several songs like "I Am Slumber," which begin simply with familiar acoustic chord progressions before exploding out of the speakers with euphoric blasts of intertwined vocals and electric guitars. It's the kind of sound that can't be planned, but only carried out by musicians with undeniable chemistry. That notion is confirmed with the epic "Big Sky Country," recorded live-off-the-floor with a chorus of 14 voices. Mallory also notes "Old Man River"—a duet with fellow Edmonton singer and actress Kaeley Jade—as a personal favourite, written to highlight the threat of long-term droughts in southern Alberta.

"I really tried to capture a duality of electronic and acoustic elements on the album as a whole," Mallory says. "Some of my favourite tracks are probably the ones that embody this balance between synthesizer and acoustic piano, electric and acoustic guitars the most. 'Same Hands' is one example, with the lyrics presenting another dichotomy about how the very same hands we use to express love are also used to inflict pain on those around us."

It also needs to be mentioned that at the core of *Songs To A Wild God* is the work of Tom Hirons, whose poem "Sometimes A Wild God" has become a touchstone for many other artists seeking to reconnect with the natural world. If such a piece of writing could have a soundtrack, Mallory Chipman's new album would easily be the perfect complement.