

## KIYO – Artist Information



**S**he sings of departure and wanderlust, hail and storm - with a sensitivity and melancholy, it gets under your skin: "Parting Lights" is Kiyo's musical debut. In short, "Parting Lights" is an indie pop album with acoustic elements. Keeping a clear distance to fast-moving plastic pop, the album is honest, handmade music, carried by the empathetic voice of the young newcomer.

Kiyo appears thoughtful, bedding her clear voice on atmospheric electronic sounds. One of the most distinctive elements of the album is the piano, played by the artist herself - dramatically, for example in the song "Magnolia". Recurring dialogue partner is the acoustic guitar, masterly played by producer Rolf Munkes. Cello and string parts as well as deep, resounding drums contribute to the warm and acoustic sound of the music.

It is also the countless details that make the album live: the playful laughter in "Confessions", one deep breath and the leap into the neighbour's pond. The bells in the title tune "Parting Lights" that alluringly call to departure into stormy times; And the rain in "Mary" that patters on the window, that sounds like longing after forgiveness and safety.

The album contains one cover - "Fool in Love" by the rock band "Empire". All other songs were written by Kiyo. In September 2016, she and Rolf Munkes went into production at Empire Studios in Bensheim, Germany. Together, they arranged the ten songs and experimented with different sounds and playing techniques. During the time of nine months, a sound style was developed that lies somewhere between acoustic, singer songwriter and pop. If one expects superficial chart music, they won't find it here: the album is complex, the

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singer empathetic, the sentiment at times deeply melancholic, then suddenly full of hope and curiosity.

In her songs, Kiyo processes personal experiences of the last years. Whenever she experiences something, there's a first little spark. With this, she works at the guitar - a melody emerges. Coming from there, Kiyo often writes text simultaneously with music. She writes of seeking and finding, coming of age, of love and break-up. But the album also tells us from beautiful small moments - from a walk through the cold, from blueberries at midnight on the bed. Once an idea for a song is born, nothing can hold Kiyo back until the song is completed. This is how the songs "Confessions" and "Any Place" were written.

The 28-year-old from Mannheim was brought up with music: She began a classical piano education with 5 years. Beginning from a small age, she sang in choirs and took part in musical competitions like "Jugend musiziert". She taught herself guitar with 14. At the same age, she started playing in bands and songwriting. The daughter of Vietnamese immigrants was born in Duesseldorf, Germany. Her music is inspired by singer songwriters like Nick Drake, Elliott Smith and Bon Iver. Influences from classical composers like Chopin and Debussy give her piano play the sounding brilliance.

With producer Rolf Munkes, Kiyo has a real guitar professional of the old school at her side. Quality music is a real handcraft for him and has to always be honest and authentic. Munkes plays in several rock bands, currently in "Crematory". He has worked with international rock stars like Neil Murray, former bass player of "Whitesnake" and with former singer of "Black Sabbath", Tony Martin. Also he was on tour with German comedian Bülent Ceylan.

## Short Information

"Parting Lights" is the debut album of 28-year-old artist Kiyo. The indie pop album with acoustic elements is honest, handmade music, far away from fast-paced plastic pop. In ten songs, Kiyo sings of wanderlust and change. The sentiment is often thoughtful and sensitive, atmospheric electronic sounds transport melancholy and longing. The sound is completed by powerful, hopeful ballads and countless details in the music.

Kiyo wrote all of the songs herself, only "Fool in Love" is a cover of the rock band "Empire". In September 2016, she went into production with Rolf Munkes at Empire Studios in Bensheim, Germany. Together, they arranged all of the songs and, during a time of nine months, developed the sound of the album, that lies somewhere between acoustic, singer songwriter and indie pop.

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