

PRESS RELEASE

West of Eden

Songs From Twisting River

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A year ago, West of Eden were a band torn apart. In the aftermath of the ambitious and critically acclaimed album "Safe Crossing" everything suddenly drew to halt. The band's guitarist David Ekh was hit by illness and had to give up music. Shortly thereafter another member of the band retired. "That winding river called life suddenly took a new, darker turn. For a short while there we had only three band members remaining. That we'd be standing here a year later with a new album in our hands felt quite unrealistic at the time" says Martin Schaub.

"But somewhere we found the strength to turn the blackness into something creative. The songs suddenly started coming again, and we felt that now, being without electric guitar and electric bass, it was time to finally make that acoustic album we had talked about for so many years."

So it was decided: Damien O'Kane who'd worked a lot with one of the band's great role models, Kate Rusby, was asked to produce the recordings, and to West of Eden's great delight he said yes. Pär Öjerot and Martin Holmlund made their entrance in the band, and with them came new energy and a new sound. And so in November 2013 West of Eden flew to Pure Studios in beautiful Yorkshire for a week of intense recording.

The result is a more acoustically based, stripped-down and folksy album that breathes both sadness and joy. Grief over what will never return is to be found in songs like River



Fowey and Song For A Rover, but the band do not wallow in the melancholy, delivering songs like the tongue in cheek Spelling Song together with more archetypal West of Eden-songs such as Bird Of Passage and the Nick Drake-scented Garden Out Of Time.

An impressive string of great musicians lined up behind West of Eden to further enhance the results. "Songs From Twisting River" features exclusive guest appearances from among others Michael McGoldrick frp, Mark Knopfler's band, Ron Block of Alison Krauss & Union Station, and Kate Rusby.

Although much has changed – members leaving and tragically passing away – West of Eden's main ingredients remain. This time, however, they have taken a courageous step to the side, found a narrower, and perhaps little more winding road where the song in its purity is more in focus than ever before.

"Of course we are proud of the album", says Martin, "That goes without saying, but we're just as proud of how we picked ourselves up on the count of nine and came back!"

West of Eden are: Lars Broman, Martin Holmlund, Ola Karlevo, Jenny Schaub, Martin Schaub and Pär Öjerot .



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