

# esther bertram – Biography



## SHORT: Biography

Esther Bertram- vocalist, musician, composer and producer, is known throughout Europe for her work as a solo artist, front girl for German world music band Dissidenten, and her various duo constellations, her most recent being the collaboration with German producer "Mr One-Love Criminal". Like her diverse heritage - Finnish and Australian, Esther has always struck a unique balance between contemporary folk and electronic pop – light and dark – analogue and digital.

After re-locating from Australia in 2001 the last 10 years have been a constant tour of Europe, 1st with her live electronic duo Pixiefish, then with Dissidenten as their lead singer, then in various duos while also playing solo between the many projects. Whilst residing in Berlin and Brighton in the U.K., these times have seen the young star performing at: MIDEM in Cannes, Madrid's Summer Festival in the Plaza Major/Spain, Faces Festival and The World Village festival in Helsinki/Finland, the International Peace Festival in Assisi/Italy and Czechs equivalent to Woodstock with their Trutnov Festival and many more in-between. Esther has released numerous albums of both folk and electronic styles and has been nationally recognized in magazines, radio and television in various European countries.



# LONG: Biography

## ESTHER BERTRAM

Composer/Producer/Performer of contemporary acoustic folk, electronic and world music styles. Born 30 May 1978 in Canberra/Australia, with her Mother's side of the family originating from Lapland/Finland. Esther Bertram currently resides in Europe and has done since 2001.

From age 6, Esther studied an advanced music program in conjunction with the Canberra School of Music for her entire primary school life. After completing high school Esther went on to complete a diploma of Composition at Central Queensland's Conservatorium of Music before going on to do a bachelor of arts, majoring in Composition at Southern Cross University, Lismore. She received the conservatorium's prize for composition both years she attended and also won the city of Mackay's song writing contest in 1998.

In 1999 Esther began producing music and formed a live electronic chill-duo called Pixiefish and produced and released her 1st album of electronic music in 1999 – "Pixiefish Anyway". Almost directly from study in 2001 she moved to Germany and toured with Pixiefish playing at large German festivals such as The Love Parade in Berlin, The Antares festival and The Voov experience. Pixiefish music was included on various chill compilations such as Grooves 'N Vibes. In 2002 her Pixiefish duo released - Pixiefish "Treptow" and in 2003 - Pixiefish "Stars".

At the end of 2001 Esther joined as lead singer the Germany based "Godfathers of Worldbeat" (Rolling Stone Magazine) world music cult band Dissidenten. She then toured extensively with their live remix project in Germany and Spain for the following 3 years playing large concerts at venues and festivals. In this time she collaborated with the Drummer and percussionist Marlon Klein, producer of artists such as Gary Wright, George Harrison, Stephan Eicher, Angelique Kidjo and Sven Väth. Klein produced her 1st 2 solo albums "Urban Angel" 2004 and "Alchemy of the Heart" 2007 which were both released independently and distributed nationally throughout Germany and received quite some radio play and magazine exposure.

"What masses of singers are looking for is delivered in an instant by Esther Bertram" (JAZZTHETIK Magazine February 2004)<sup>[1]</sup>

"Authentic style and uniqueness, her radiating voice has powerful passion, ethereal nuances and folk/pop sensibility" (Audio Magazine March 2004)<sup>[2]</sup>

Klein and Bertram went on to play many venues and festivals in Germany, Spain and Finland to support the releases. Simultaneously Esther won an EMI song writing competition in Berlin in 2003 and collaborated with House music producer/DJ Tyree Cooper. In 2005 Esther branched into a little more world music and wrote some music for her good friend and college Manickam Yogeswaran's album "Peace for Paradise". Esther then moved to the U.K. and in early 2007 began producing her 1st solo electronic project Lumi-nance.

After arriving in the U.K. Esther began dabbling in music for advertisement in doing a couple of projects such as music for a Russian IKEA television add and a German BMW add.

In June 2007, Esther wrote and produced her next album "Mango Love" in collaboration with Howard Tonkin on guitar. Then in 2008 Esther began a collaboration project with a German producer called Mr One-Love Criminal with this duo due to release their 1st album "Under the City Tree" sometime in 2011 or 2012.

In 2009 Esther formed a duo with her friend Sharon Lewis (of Pooka fame) "Dawn of the Swan".

In 2010 Esther collaborated with her conservatorium buddy Charlie Meadows, and Australian Jazz guitarist to write another album in the jazz and world realms "The Tea House". Esther went on to produce it and release it herself followed by another 2 months touring Europe in the summer of 2010, performing at festivals such as Appelpop in The Netherlands and the Ferrara music festival in Italy.

The extensive touring over the past years has taken her to various countries including, Spain, Italy, Finland, Sweden, Germany, Austria, Netherlands, France and Czech Republic, with various press and media appearances on TV, radio and magazines.

## DISCOGRAPHY

Albums to date include:

- \* 1999 - Pixiefish "Anyway"
- \* 2002 - Pixiefish "Treptow"
- \* 2003 - Pixiefish "Stars"
- \* 2004 - Esther Bertram "Urban Angel"
- \* 2005 - Pixiefish "Three"
- \* 2007 - Esther Bertram "Alchemy of the Heart"
- \* 2008 - Esther & Howard "Mango Love"
- \* 2009 - Lumi-nance "Snow"
- \* 2010 - Esther Bertram "The Tea House"
- \* 2011 - (not yet released) The One-Love Criminal and Esther Bertram "Under the City Tree"