



Ida Sand

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The Gospel Truth

ACT

Special Guests:  
Raul Midón; Joe Sample  
Steve Gadd; Nils Landgren  
Magnus Lindgren; The ACT Jubilee Singers

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ACT 9518-2

LC 07644



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Whilst **Ida Sand's second ACT album True Love** was to some extent a family affair - an homage to her husband Ola Gustafsson and new born daughter - her third ACT CD "The Gospel Truth", signals a return to her roots and a unique combination of European and American soul. Released two years after True Love, The Gospel Truth presents the Swedish singer following on musically from her 2007 ACT debut, Meet Me Around Midnight", which captivated listeners with a sound which was "distinctively earthy, soaked with the blood of the blues, saturated by gospel, weathered by jazz and infected by soul" (Jazzthing).

Ida Sand's career began with the church choir. Her father was a well known Swedish opera singer and her mother is still a church organist. As such, Ida learnt to play not only the cello and piano but also sang in several choirs from the age of eight. It was not only Scandinavian choir music that influenced her but also America's gospel choirs. With the world hit "Oh Happy Day" by the Edwin Hawkins Singers, a gospel craze swept across Sweden in the early seventies which in turn led to gospel queen Mahalia Jackson becoming one of Ida's very earliest influences alongside the Swedish gospel pianist Per-Erik Hallin. Captivated by this music, Ida soon discovered the world of soul and fell in love with its masters, such as Ray Charles and Aretha Franklin.

**"I grew up with a clear idea of religion," says Ida Sand.** "This has changed a bit now that I'm an adult but I still carry the belief with me, deep in my heart." Her latest album, The Gospel Truth, is the musical expression of this sentiment and many of the songs on it have been with the singer for a long time. "For example, I have never sung Nina Simone's I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free before but it is one of the songs of my childhood." However, the album doesn't only feature the soul heroes of her childhood like Sam Cooke, Donnie Hathaway and Stevie Wonder (with a brilliant version of Have a Talk With God). Genuine surprises are also included, such as Madonna's Like A Prayer, John Hiatt's Have A Little Faith and I Wanna Know What Love Is by the band Foreigner, which were part of her teenage years and twenties. "It was a challenge to transfer also these songs from my wilder teenage years to the soul cosmos," explains Sand. "And, of course, I didn't want it to be solely a gospel album which would have been too one-sided."

**Vitality, suspense and considerable musical scope** are provided not only by Sand's earthy and variable piano playing but also by select guest stars - in particular Nils Landgren who produced the album together with Siggie Loch, and who plays not only the trombone but also the trumpet. As Landgren has also been a member of the famous US band Jazz Crusaders for some time, he was also able to get Joe Sample to join in with his grooving, murmuring playing of the Fender Rhodes, and the great drummer Steve Gadd on A Change Is Gonna Come. Sand's husband, Ola Gustafsson, is also featured on the lap steel guitar as is her friend of many years, woodwind player Magnus Lindgren.

**A very special track is the magnificent vocal duet** with blind singer and guitarist Raul Midón, who is extremely prominent back home in the USA. "During the Christmas tour with Nils, I saw a video of one of his performances and was completely spellbound. Nils knew him and so I ventured to ask Raul if he would like to accompany me on Bobby Scott's "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother". I didn't expect anything which was why I was even happier when it worked out," says Sand.

**The choir, without which the The Gospel Truth could hardly have been realised,** remained as the last building block. "A normal gospel choir seemed too flat," says Sand. "Then Siggie Loch had the idea to simply ask our Swedish colleagues." This was how the ACT Jubilee Singers were born, with Jeanette Köhn, Sharon Dyll, Rigmor Gustafsson and Jessica Pilnäs. This unparalleled combination of voices can be heard on four tracks and goes far beyond the usual description of a just 'backing singers'.



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**Yet despite all the famous music names supporting on this new recording**, none of them ever force themselves into the limelight. On *The Gospel Truth* it is Ida Sand who remains solely and justifiably at the fore - possibly the best European soul voice in recent years.

**The CD:** *The Gospel Truth – Ida Sand – ACT 9518-2 - LC 07644*

**Line Up:**

Ida Sand / vocals, piano & keyboards  
Mattias Torell / guitars  
Thobias Gabrielson / bass  
Anders Hedlund / drums & percussion

**Special Guests:**

Raul Midón / vocals  
Joe Sample / piano  
Steve Gadd / drums  
Nils Landgren / trombone  
Magnus Lindgren / woodwinds  
The ACT Jubilee Singers / backing vocals

**Tracks:**

01 Eyes On The Prize	07 Until The End
02 Ain't No Sunshine	08 I Wish I Would Know How
03 He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother	09 Have A Little Faith In Me
04 A Change Is Gonna Come	10 It Is To Know
05 Have A Talk With God	11 Like A Prayer
06 I Wanna Know What Love Is	12 God Only Knows

Produced by Nils Landgren and Siggie Loch. Recorded at Soundtrade Studios, Stockholm, by Jan Ugand. Additional recordings, mixed and mastered by Lars Nilsson, Nilento Studio, Gothenburg.

**Distributor:**

edelkultur (DE), edel Musica (AT), Musikvertrieb (CH), Challenge Records Int. (Benelux), Harmonia Mundi (FR), Harmonia Mundi (UK), Allegro-Nail Distribution (US), Naxos (SE/FI), A&N Music (GR), Andante Music (RO), Apostrophe (RU), AS Jahipaun (EE), C&L Records (KR), CD Bar (HU), Dargil (PT), DC Comp (UA), Outside Distribution (CA), Divyd (SK), Dukyan Meloman (BG), Egea (I), Equinox Music (TR), GIGI Distribution (PL), Gramofon (BA), Intek (SI+HR), Jassics (ZA), Jazzworld (HK), JSC "Bomba" (LT), Karonte (ES), Musikklosen (NO), One-Hifi (RS), Planet MGM Distribution (AU), Southbound Records (NZ), Sundance (DK), Videoarts Music Inc. (JP), 2HP (CZ)

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