

## **Reviews in English "Sing a Song fighter!" Blood Music 2006**

### **Blood Music – Sing A Song Fighter UNCUT , 4/5**

#### ***Swedish folk hero's enchanting solo debut***

Along with Jenny Wilson, Blood Music's Karl-Jonas Winqvist is known to countless sensitive Swedes as one of the founder of indie darlings First Floor Power. Sing A Song Fighter! casts Winqvists as a Jens Lekman-esque wit who can charm with lines as facile as "I say, Hi'/To people who pass me by/ And I don't know why" (from the Belle & Sebastian-hued "The Hair"). But he impresses most as the narrator trapped at awkward gatherings ("It's A Party") and when tenderly prising coupledom apart ("There Is A War In Almost Every Corner")

### **Piers Martin, Uncut, September 2006**

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### **Blood Music – Sing A Song Fighter, Record Collector, 4/5**

#### ***Sweden's finest export since Ikea and Abba...***

Lo-fi singer-songwriter stuff with an electronic edge, Blood Music is the alias of Karl-Jonas Winqvist, on solo duty from sweet Swedes First Floor Power. There are traces of neo-folk oldies like Nick Drake here, and newbies such as José Gonzales, but Winqvist also has a more playful, pre-playschool, vibe to him.

His little-boy-lost Wonder and naïve wisdom is contagious. Check for example, the poppy Hefner-isms of opener Wintercold, or the dimple dissection of relationships in ruin on There Is A War... Very few artists could take the words 'I may be evil, but you are the devil, girl' and turn them into the most adorable of lines. Utterly delightful in so many weird ways, this little beauty is limited to just 1000 copies worldwide, so get hold on one while you can.

### **Ian Fletcher, Record Collector, September 2006**

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### **Blood Music – Sing A Song Fighter (Static Caravan) Birmingham Post 4/5**

Thanks to Jens Lekman, Swedish electro folk-pop is – if not quite as popular as Ikea – a popular export among the indie cognoscenti. Karl-Jonas Winqvist has succeeded in crafting a number of sweetly idiosyncratic pop songs, with his off-kilter vocals at the centre.

The perfect distillation of this is the jaunty And She Is the Future, where guitars and keyboards collide to add a blistering climax. Much of this is an acquired taste, but it's a warm and engaging record with plenty to offer to willing ears. Equally gifted with lyrics and melodies, he deserves success with this utterly charming record.

### **Simon Harper, Birmingham Post, October 9, 2006**

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### **Blood Music – Sing A Song Fighter (Static Caravan) (Boomkat.com)**

There's quite a nice story behind the pun-tastic 'Sing A Song Fighter!', Karl-Jonas Winqvist (aka Blood Music) spent a great deal of time in hospital for various brain operations and ended up in a bed next to a rather inquisitive older gentleman. Out of touch with 'modern music' he would quiz our protagonist day after day about the state of the music scene, about genre and about pop videos. After some time, Winqvist needed to leave, and was told "You are not a singer-songwriter, you are a sing a song fighter.", a phrase which never left him. All the while this was happening he was busying himself writing the album, which he started in 2003 but thanks to the trips to the hospital, ended up taking a lot longer than he had initially expected. Surprising then that the record sounds totally coherent and never once feels slapped together, the detailed and light-hearted production never taking a turn for the worse, and more interestingly given his medical condition the album is rarely less than triumphant and up-beat. I'd like to reference the classic pop of the Beach Boys, the Beatles or The Kinks... albeit produced with the aid of a few synthesizers, a laptop and some broken drum machines. The Swedish certainly seem to have the right idea at the moment – they've always managed to put a happy face on things, remember the Wannadies... I'm pretty sure they were Swedish, and they were marvelously chirpy. 'Sing A Song Fighter!' is a perfect release for Static Caravan and should appeal to the masses of fans who enjoyed Tunng's debut album 'Mother's Daughter And Other Stories' – simply gorgeous.

<http://www.boomkat.com/item.cfm?id=22282>

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### **Blood Music – Sing A Song Fighter, Songs Illinois, Wednesday, July 26, 2006**

*The total inanity of half-year top ten lists or why Blood Music's Sing A Song Fighter! (Static Caravan, August) would be near the top of my list*

It's half year top 10 list time again (urgh!) and as you can imagine all the same old bands are represented on everyone's "indiecorrect" lists. If I had to compile such a list for 2005 **Blood Music's Sing A Song Fighter!** would have been near the top. And the beautiful thing about great-hard-to-find imports is that they eventually get reissued abroad. So to start my list off for 2006 I'd add *Sing A Song Fighter!* again, as it's been picked up for wider release by Static Caravan (Darren Hayman, Tunng).

It's funny but at the time I declared this a "great" record (here and here) I'd only heard a handful of songs (even *I* have a hard time getting a hold of a small self-released Swedish pop disc). Also at the time I knew little of the history of the man behind Blood Music. I have since learned that Karl-Jonas was a founding member (along with Jenny Wilson) of the band First Floor Power. On top of that for much of the time before and during the recording of this record Karl-Jonas was either having brain surgery or recovering from brain surgeries. All of this only enhances the already stunning music on *Sing A Song Fighter!*

There's not much more I can say about the music of this band. Read my earlier posts if you're really interested in prose but if not just check out the songs below. The new song I've linked to is called "It's A Party" and it may seem a little Jens Lekmanish to you and you'd be right. In fact here's what the man himself said about Blood Music: "Karl-Jonas has made the song, I've been trying to write for ten years now". It seems like you can pre-order this disc now or even download the entire thing here.

<http://songsillinoismp3.blogspot.com/2006/07/total-inanity-of-half-year-top-ten.html>

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**Blood Music – Sing A Song Fighter** Americana-uk.com, September 19, 2006

*Like Herman Dune filtered through a laptop*

Fellow Scandinavians Herman Dune play a fractured version of folk music, and Karl-Jonas Winqvist (First Floor Power) does the same kind of thing using a different set of details, but underneath the hood they have the same engine. The songs are essentially simple things; usually a nursery rhyme melody on a bedrock of electronica accessorised with some 'real' instruments, a kind of lo-fi Notwist. Wisps of accordion and pulsing strings add substance to 'There is a War in Almost Every Corner' and there is a nice stillness to 'It's a Party' - based on piano, the electronic embellishments twinkle like stars in a frigid sky. The English as a second language adds charm to the vocals that get into some strange phrasing: 'And She is the Future' breathlessly pile words upon each other hyper-kinetic like 'Run Lola Run'. Wheezing saxophones usher in a surprising cover of the Roches' 'Runs in the Family' which gives the album a solid centre along with the warm tones of 'Rumours Travel Fast' that adds a shimmering mirage of pop with a chorus held aloft on bouncy strings. This is a well crafted and satisfying record.

<http://www.americana-uk.com/auk/modules.php?op=modload&name=Reviews&file=index&req=showcontent&id=2219>

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**BLOOD MUSIC Sing a Song Fighter!** [Make It Happen/Static Caravan, [gaz-eta.vivo.pl](http://gaz-eta.vivo.pl)

It's funny how those brown envelopes that I find in my mailbox sometimes contain the most surprising music. Take Blood Music, an outfit governed by one Karl-Jonas Winqvist - a Swede who began this one-man band [plus a ton of invited guests] a few years back. What was this guy after? Did he want to revolutionize music or did he simply want to commit some cohesive tunes down to tape? Folk music with a heavy pop leaning has rarely sounded this good. With sweetly sung vocals and a ton of piano and organ everywhere, you could almost mistake this for a high-school band audition tape. It's got that same sort of naiveté and honesty. On top of this, the music features thick layers of flutes and overdubbed choruses that sing joy and spring all around. Oddly enough, none of the short vignettes are dire or depressing in any sense. Add to this a cover featuring a lush Swedish forest [I assume the picture was taken in Sweden?] a bearded lead singer and brief but succinct pop tunes and you've got yourself just over half-an-hour of the most frivolous and care-free music you're bound to hear this year.

Don't be scared, my friend. Go forth bravely into nature and get lost in the beauty of audio delights that await you. Sing a song that makes you happy!

Tom Sekowski

[http://www.gaz-eta.vivo.pl/gaz-eta/recenzje/gazeta.php?nr=43&id=s\\_10](http://www.gaz-eta.vivo.pl/gaz-eta/recenzje/gazeta.php?nr=43&id=s_10)

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### **Blood Music Sing A Song Fighter! soundsxp.com**

It's quite easy to stereotype Swedish music but Blood Music - the solo project of Karl-Jonas Winqvist of Sweden's First Floor Power – doesn't go down the straight Scando-pop road. Instead it mashes up folk, chamber pop, and dance music and even a trace of jazz with an endless variety of arrangements that throw into the mix balalaikas, saxophone, strings, vocoders and congas.

'There Is A War In Almost Every Corner' is the stand out song, a combination of old-timey folk, with accordion wheezing away, and some sneaky dance moves, suggestive of the Fence Collective, though the Scots have never sung anything as whimsical as "I go to the market every day/ you know why? Soup without ingredients is like love without the beating heart". The lovely detail – lyrical as well as musical - of 'And She Is The Future' is another positive, Karl-Jonas adopting a David Byrne style conversational voice to describe the girl who breaks from her past to find a new life in Berlin. 'Runs in the Family' is a cover of a song by quirk-folk female NY trio The Roches while 'It's a Party' continues the Scandinavian theme of downbeat singing about parties as if they're funerals (see also Jens Lekman and El Perro Del Mar recently).

You can compare it to the melancholic pop of Jens Lekman, Darren Hayman or Belle and Sebastian but the fact that Daniel Johnston is one of Winqvist's all-time heroes is a pretty good indicator of the quirky heart-on-sleeve pop tunes contained within.

*Article written by **Ged M**, Sep 5, 2006.*  
<http://www.soundsxp.com/3336.shtml>