

## After 30 Years Backing Other Artists, This Swedish Duo Finally Chose Their Own Songs

For thirty years, Karin Thyr and Göran Eriksson built careers helping other artists tell their stories. This year, they finally decided it was time to tell their own.

The Swedish husband-and-wife duo, who perform as Thyra & Magnolia Road, are having the busiest season of their lives: a new single, "Time is Money," a summer tour across Sweden, a recent appearance on TV4's *Bingolotto* and two of their longtime Nashville friends, co-writer Chris Roberts and musician Mark Evitts, flying over to join them on stage.

The momentum is new. The craft isn't. Their recordings have accumulated more than 74 million Spotify streams, and their acoustic interpretations of Robyn's "Dancing On My Own" and Katy Perry's "Firework" were certified Gold and Platinum by IFPI. They describe their sound as "Swedicana" — a blend of Scandinavian storytelling, Americana, and fifteen years of songwriting in East Nashville.

The two met on tour thirty years ago. "There was never a moment where we 'started' writing together," Karin says. "Creating was just a natural outcome of being together. Thirty years later we're married, and we still write our songs on the same couch where we've had our worst arguments."

For most of those years, their own music waited. "We were touring with other artists, raising kids, making it all work and when you're doing that, 'someday' is a very easy word to keep saying. Life is very good at filling every space you don't actively protect."

Fifteen years ago they began making songwriting trips to Nashville, finding a home in the East Nashville community — a connection you can hear in *Nashville Songs & Stories* (2020) and the EP *Stockholm Tennessee* (2022). Fittingly, their two biggest Spotify cities are Nashville and Stockholm.

Last year came the decision to stop waiting. The single "Country Song" was released in January followed by "Time is Money" a song about what the grind costs you in the moments that actually matter, and the crossroads where you choose each other, or don't.

Ask what they're most proud of, and it isn't a song. "It's that we're still here — still together, still curious about each other, after 30 years of life, kids, and tours. The songs aren't written about a life, they're written inside one. That's not something you can fake, and we think people can hear it."

The secret? "Patience and let's be honest, that's mostly Göran's patience with me," Karin laughs. "Neither of us gives up at the same time. When one of us is done, the other one keeps going — lifts you up, picks you back up. Then we switch."

Thirty years after meeting on tour, Thyra & Magnolia Road sound like a band at the beginning of something. "It feels a little funny that it took us 30 years to get here," Karin says. "But maybe that's the point. Some things need exactly that long."