

- 4'50 1 Kalla februari dagar - Robin Williamson **
 1'56 2 Så lycklig e'ja' - Mike Heron *
 9'43 3 **Alice-svit:** Den galne hattmakarns sång / Häxans hatt - Robin Williamson **
 3'51 4 Kusin kålmask - Mike Heron *
 4'44 5 Träd - Mike Heron **
 2'37 6 Kate Tok - Mike Heron **
 4'14 7 En ljus palett - Mike Heron **
 5'27 8 **Vatten-svit:** Noas broders son / Vattensång - Robin Williamson **
 2'57 9 Rider ut storm - Robin Williamson **
 2'39 10 L'oud (Sardis) - Robin Williamson (instrumental)
 5'02 11 **Lyrisk svit:** Vid sköna sollandets kust / Tills här blir där - Robin Williamson **
 2'31 12 Kanske nå'ngång - Mike Heron **
 4'00 13 Kinavitt - Mike Heron **
 2'47 14 Svart Per-Ola - Mike Heron **
 3'23 15 Igelkottasång - Mike Heron *
 3'37 16 Vakna, ni som sova - Mike Heron **
 4'14 17 Min första kärlek - Robin Williamson ***
 2'42 18 Sången utan slut - Heron / Williamson (instrumental)
 5'01 19 Klipper av banden - Robin Williamson **
 3'23 20 Hittar till öar - Mike Heron **

Swedish lyrics: * KajMagnusson
 ** Stellan Sagvik
 *** Håkan Johansson / Stellan Sagvik

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Songs from these Incredible String Band LPs:
 The Incredible String Band 2, 5, 12
 5000 Spirits or the Layers of the Onion 3a, 7, 13, 15, 17
 Wee Tam & the Big Huge 4, 8a
 Hangman's Beautiful Daughter 3b, 8b
 Changing Horses 16
 I Looked Up 14
 Be Glad for the Song Has No Ending 18
 U 19
 Liquid Acrobat as Regards the Air 11b
 Earthspan 11a
 No Ruinous Feud 9
 Hard Rope And Silken Twine 1, 6, 10, 20

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The Incredible String Band was - and is - icons for many music fans under 60's - and early 70's and were also sources of inspiration for the Beatles, Stones and Led Zeppelin. The main authors, the Scots Mike Heron and Robin Williamson, created world music long before the concept was conceived with an aesthetic that led the way, it was an exciting musical world to discover and develop - and even more so with instruments that no one either heard of or could play. ISB was also one of the bands that appeared at the legendary Woodstock Festival. Among those who hungrily awaited each new song, LP, concert from the ISB, was the prospective members of what became Musikgruppen RAA, Sweden's today oldest functioning world music band formed in 1973, around the time that ISB made their last concerts together. Music by Mike Heron and Robin Williamson has been part of the RAA-repertoire ever since. Now is the time to take a holistic approach to the former inspirers ISB; a CD entirely devoted to the ISB music, and also with Swedish lyrics. We are not trying in any way to copy the originals (they are already), and "do it again but in Swedish", but we play on in the tradition of ISB, using what instruments are in the vicinity and in your own way! Both Heron and Williamson has given the project their blessing and we hope that our contribution to ISB cannon will spread contentment and a lot of recognition memory and perhaps inspire even the "unsaved" to familiarize themselves with the Incredible String Band's own recordings - most of them now available on CD - and also play on in this its own sensual world.

Both Mike Heron and Robin Williamson are today highly active, after a long series of solo productions, several reunions and re-releases. Heron is working with several different groups of young musicians, including his daughter, and in conjunction with them performing his songs. Williamson travels around the world as Celtic bard, storytelling, singing, inspiries and fascinates, often together with his wife Bina.



Robin Williamson today, a contemporary Celtic bard with at least as many stories as strings of the harp

Mike Heron today, an entertainer who continues to interpret his songs from his youth

Publisher Warner / Chappell owns the rights to most of these songs and wants to be paid in order for us to print our own Swedish lyrics here, therefore, they are omitted.

Kalla februaridagar - Robin Williamson
(Cold Days of February) Swedish lyrics: Stellan
RW introduces this as "a song about war" marking the pathos which followed him through his life as an artist (from **Hard Rope and Silken Twine** 1974 - the last LP)

Håkan: *accordeon*
Kaj: *coimbra*
Stark: *bass*
Stellan: *Vocal soloist, Mehan harp*

Så lycklig é jag - Mike Heron
(How Happy I Am) Swedish lyrics: Kaj
One other extreme compared to the previous song - burlesque with hangover punch and beer belly - represent the range of ISB music! (from **The Incredible String Band** 1966 - the 1st LP)

Bert: *Vocal soloist, damra*
Håkan: *accordeon, backing vocal*
Kaj: *mandolin, backing vocal*
Stark: *bass*
Stellan: *guitar, backing vocal*

Alice Suite:

Den galne hattmakarns sång - Robin Williamson
(Mad Hatter's Song) Swedish lyrics: Stellan
Two songs in suite, based on "Alice in Wonderland" - the first an almost stoned dream with many allusions in text and tone and hypnotic cluster echoes. (from **5000 Spirits or the Layers of the Onion** 1967)
Håkan: *accordeon*
Kaj: *coimbra, bouzouki*
Stark: *bass*
Stellan: *Vocal soloist, guitar, tárógató*

(Musikgruppen RAA was founded in 1973, much inspired by The Incredible String Band's music and overlapped in a way, ISB, who finished appear as "original" group 1974. Four of the founding members of the RAA is still accounting for an unbroken 45-year tradition since the Incredible String Band was formed in 1965 :-)

Håxans hatt - Robin Williamson
(Witches Hat) Swedish lyrics: Stellan
The dreamy Alice-theme still linger under another magical hat, in the form of a paraffin stove. (from **Hangman's Beautiful Daughter** 1968, the fourth LP, which meant the breakthrough for the ISB, who got the Beatles, Stones and Led Z among their fans.)
Bert: *darbouka*
Håkan: *Vocal soloist, accordeon*
Kaj: *coimbra*
Stark: *bass*
Stellan: *C-clarinet, guitar*

Kusin kålmask - Mike Heron
(Cousin Caterpillar) Swedish lyrics: Kaj
MH has a preference - on the early records - to write narrative ballads, often with insects and animals in the center (from **Wee Tam & The Big Huge** 1967)

Bert: *Caterpillar Vocal soloist*
Håkan: *accordeon*
Kaj: *Vocal soloist, damra*
Stark: *bass, backing vocal*
Stellan: *guitar, backing vocal*

Träd - Mike Heron
(Tree) Swedish lyrics: Stellan
A tape hiss filled recording transferred from our first LP of 1979, a dear song to us, which also seems to mean a lot for Mike Heron as ISB has recorded it several times (first time on the LP **The Incredible String Band** 1966)

Arnold: *guitar, backing vocal*
Bert: *flute, backing vocal*
Kaj: *mandolin, backing vocal*
Stark: *bass, backing vocal*
Stellan: *Vocal soloist, guitar*

Kate Tok - Mike Heron
(Dumb Kate) Swedish lyrics: Stellan
A burlesque report from the saloon in northern Alaska (from **Hard Rope and Silken Twine** 1974)

Bert: *harmonica, backing vocal*
Håkan: *accordeon, backing vocal*
Kaj: *banjo, jaw's harp, backing vocal*
Stark: *bass*
Stellan: *Vocal soloist, bass clarinet, guitar*

(The colourful 5000 Spirits cover)



En ljus palett - Mike Heron
(Painting Box) Swedish lyrics: Stellan
We played this song a lot in the middle of the 70's, but then it disappeared from our active repertoire, for now resuscitated in principle the same robes as then.
(from **5000 Spirits or the Layers of the Onion** 1967)

Bert: backing vocal
Håkan: accordeon
Kaj: coimbra, backing vocal
Stark: bass, backing vocal
Stellan: Vocal soloist, guitar, tinwhistle x3

Water Suite:

Noas broders son - Robin Williamson
(Son of Noah's Brother) Swedish lyrics: Stellan
By far the shortest song in ISB's cannon has become with us the counterpart to Williamson's contemporary epic bard-narrative, with evocative soundscapes - see example CD The Celtic Bard on GASON.SE (everything in our version is made acoustically, no electronic sounds, but much echo ;-)
(from **Wee Tam & The Big Huge** 1968)

Bert: VERY SERIOUS voice-over
Håkan: Munk Choir, mandilla, damrilla, nilharpa, waterglass
Kaj: Munk Choir, coimbrillo, bouzoukillo, waterglass
Stark: bass
Stellan: Munk Choir, waterglass

Vattensång - Robin Williamson
(Water Song) Swedish lyrics: Stellan
(from **Hangman's Beautiful Daughter** 1968)

Håkan: alto recorder, waterglass
Kaj: waterglass, backing vocal
Stark: bass
Stellan: Vocal soloist, guitar, waterglass, mbira

Rider ut storm - Robin Williamson
(Weather the Storm) Swedish lyrics: Stellan
A stormy striking in the "ISB / RAA-do-a-hillbilly" - bag
(from **No Ruinous Feud** 1973)

Bert: harmonica, backing vocal
Håkan: accordeon, banjo, backing vocal
Kaj: guitar-steel, Jaw's harp, backing vocal
Stark: bass
Stellan: Vocal soloist, guitar

L'oud (Sardis) - Robin Williamson (instrumental)
An Arab fragrant introduction in 13/8 measure by Williamson to a long Heron suite called Ithkos. The basis for our revamped version was obtained from our radio recording in Gothenburg in 1976.
(from **Hard Rope and Silken Twine** 1974)

Arnold: frame drum Bert: guitar
Håkan: accordeon Kaj: bouzouki
Stark: bass Stellan: flute, Bb-clarinet, voice

Lyrical Suite:

Vid sköna sollandets kust - Robin Williamson
(Banks of Sweet Italy) Swedish lyrics: Stellan
One of Williamson's most beautiful songs, combined in a suite with another of the most beautiful ;-) taken from two different ISB LPs. (the first is from **Earthspan** 1972)

Arnold: backing vocal, percussion
Bert: guitar, backing vocal
Kaj: mandolin, backing vocal
Stark: bass, backing vocal
Stellan: Vocal soloist, guitar

Tills här blir där - Robin Williamson
(Till Here Is There) Swedish lyrics: Stellan
The ISB original was performed with solo voices and fragile recorder playing - delightful!
(from **Liquid Acrobat as Regards the Air** 1971)

Arnold: Vocal soloist, percussion
Bert: Vocal soloist, guitar
Kaj: mandolin, backing vocal
Stark: Vocal soloist, bass
Stellan: Vocal soloist, guitar

Kanske nå ngång - Mike Heron
(Maybe Someday) Swedish lyrics: Stellan
One of Heron's playful songs that we made into a more emotional epic with ears to the east
(from **The Incredible String Band** 1966)

Bert: harmonica, backing vocal
Håkan: accordeon, backing vocal
Kaj: domra, mandolin, backing vocal
Stark: bass
Stellan: Vocal soloist, guitar, tinwhistle

Kinavitt - Mike Heron
(Chinese White) Swedish lyrics: Stellan
Introduction song from the LP, which became the gateway to the ISB for many - including renowned for its "bowed gimbr" - an African instrument that Williamson innovatively played with a bow, something like that had never previously been heard. We use a Transylvanian tárogató.
(from **5000 Spirits or the Layers of the Onion** 1967)

Håkan: accordeon
Kaj: coimbra, backing vocal
Stark: bass
Stellan: Vocal soloist, guitar, tárogató

Svart Per-Ola - Mike Heron
(Black Jack Davey) Swedish lyrics: Stellan
Another recording that we drew from our first double-LP from 1979. Svart-Per was our constant starter at our concerts for over 20 years sure, but we have not gotten tired of him - when all else fails, we say: "Oh, we play Svart-Per."
Also this song ISB has recorded several times.
(first time on **I Looked Up** 1970)

Arnold: recorder, harmonica, backing vocal
Bert: autoharp, backing vocal
Kaj: banjo, backing vocal
Stark: bass, backing vocal
Stellan: Vocal soloist, guitar

Igelkottasång - Mike Heron
(Hedgehog's Song) Swedish lyrics: Kaj
Another example of that MH has a penchant to write on small animals and their unexpected behavior.
(from **5000 Spirits or the Layers of the Onion** 1967)

Håkan: accordeon
Kaj: Vocal soloist, coimbra
Stark: bass
Stellan: C-clarinet, backing vocals, sand egg



(Rose and Licorice were members of the band during the years 1968-1971 and -1972. Rose [to the right] later became a record producer and mayor of the town of Aberystwyth, while Licorice not been heard from since 1990 - one rumor says that one day she just walked out in the desert and disappeared, while another says she now lives chosen anonymous in California, "hidden in the open").

Vakna, ni som sova - Mike Heron
(Sleepers Awake) svensk text: Stellan
A song that was sung in the original four-part a capella - a dared to approach from a group that was known to mix all kinds and many instruments. We do "contrary" and parts in a mixture of Bellman, Taube and Dowland ;-) (from **Changing Horses** 1969)

Håkan: guitar
Kaj: keyed fiddles
Stellan: Vocal soloist

Min första kärlek - Robin Williamson
(First Girl I Loved) svensk text: Håkan och Stellan
Secure the RW song that many have young, hot, downy and meaningful memories of love, and in particular the lines "Well, I never Slept with you, though we Must Have made love a thousand times, But we were very young, Did not Have No Place To Go"
- A wonderful summary of the first love and deeper perspective on the subsequent life seen in retrospect (from **5000 Spirits or the Layers of the Onion** 1967)

Håkan: Vocal soloist, guitar
Kaj: guitar, steel
Stellan: bass guitar, oud



(The back of the LP 5000 Spirits in which Robin's name appeared under Mike's face and vice versa - created some confusion with the audience... ;-)

Sången utan slut - Mike Heron / Robin Williamson
The strange, but typical movie *Be Glad for the Song* has no Ending (is now on DVD), accompanied by a near half hour long instrumental suite with 7-8 parts, put together by material from both MH and RW.

We do a full-fledged version that homage to the skillful and innovative use of sound-on-sound technology that ISB made use of - long before there were no multi-channel tape recorders in the most well-stocked studios (Sgt Pepper did a good example into a single four channel and ISB had no more to fiddle with). Here, we use only about twenty channels in a bolero fragrant "arranged by" orderly chaos instruments while some slightly confused coffee boiling figures (from the movie? ;-)) are trying to hum the tunes...
(from **Be Glad For the Song Has No Ending** 1970)

Bert: voices - Håkan: saz - Kaj: domra - Stark: bass
Stellan: C-clarinets, flutes, alto flutes, alto clarinets, tárogató, oboes, tinwhistle, sampled percussion

Klipper av banden - Robin Williamson
(Cutting the Strings) svensk text: Stellan
The pantomime "U" tells about a big flop, but given how the music is sounding on the double-LP that was released, with all its mottled and sprawling, it must - quite apart from the scenic qualities - have been a remarkable spectacle. There will probably not be any preserved filmed material - the 70s were still exempt from wearable digital cameras / film mobiles - unfortunately...
(from **U** 1970)

Bert: The old man's voice, vocals
Håkan: guitar, vocals
Kaj: coimbra, vocals
Stark: bass, vocals
Stellan: celtic lyre, chanter, alto recorder, tenor recorder, bass recorder, vocals

Hittar till öar - Mike Heron
(Maker of Islands) svensk text: Stellan
One of the last songs that ISB released as a group, on their last LP - **Hard Rope and Silken Twine** 1974

Håkan: guitar
Kaj: coimbra
Stark: bass
Stellan: Vocal soloist, trumpet, alto flute, bass flute, Meghan harp

THE INCREDIBLE RAA BAND in early 70's



Stellan



Stark



Bert



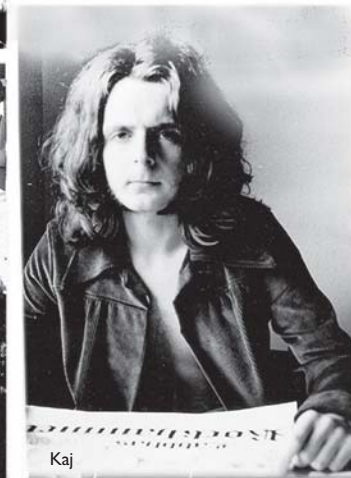
Arnold



First RAA-rehearsal in 1973



Håkan



Kaj