

# GiG with Umph – Westerburgh & Micaela

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*A Duo with umph. Westerburgh & Micaela arrived at a packed Knäppingsborg and this summer's second GiG.*

## The voices, attitude and performance as KEB

**It's 'sold out' and packed.** Westerburgh & Micaela came home to GiG at Knäppingsborg with their mix of folk, country and pop. The voices go well together, they're tight and sing with umph. The voices, attitude and performance are reminiscent of KEB, in those days.

They do the hard-to-sing Man O Constant Sorrow so you fall in love. Then Johan Petterson takes the stage as a guest, with that honour.

**Even though I'm there with plenty of time to spare it's still full and hard to find a place to sit at the little town-square at Knäppingsborg.** I huff and I puff and suddenly find myself in the midst of everything and can go nor here nor there. But I am offered a space with a larger group of people.

Big drops of rain start to fall just as the duo Westerburgh & Micaela take stage. For me, the duo is a completely new acquaintance but hardly unpleasant. On the contrary. On the contrary.



*Driven. Behind the artist Westerburgh lies Dennis Westerberg.*

**Micaela Petersson is an educated musical-stage artist but is also a light-and-sound technician who has worked a lot at Arbis.** Folk, country and pop are her musical genres. Dennis Westerberg, with the stage name Westerburgh, has also worked with music during most of his life and spent a lot of that time abroad. He has been in bands hired for weddings and private functions but also played as a troubadour at bars and pubs.

The collaboration started four years ago when Dennis heard Micaela sing and asked her if she wanted to form a duo with him. Bullseye. Their voices melt together beautifully and they are incredibly tight. They work a lot abroad and they've spent time in Australia where they amongst other things played at IKEA in Brisbane.

**I end up in the middle of a big family-gathering, as it is clearly not a usual occurrence that the duo perform on their home turf.** There are hugs and warm embraces. There is certainly another audience as well, an audience similar to myself, who is curious about the music we're about to hear. Anticipation is in the air.

We are promised a mix of something old, something new, some originals and some covers. It's really the only thing I perceive of what the artists are saying because of the constant noise around me. There's talk and laughter - and I can understand that it's fun to socialise, but shouldn't one try to listen as well?



Voices, attitude and performance. *Westerburgh & Micaela* have played together for four years.

**The music I hear well though - and I like what I hear.** The voices fit well together, they are tight and they sing with a certain umph, which is something I like. Even during the slower numbers the songs have this umph, as in the sad Blues *If I Can Walk With You In The Rain*. A song which fits quite well on this rainy Wednesday night.

**Freeze moment? Yes, the night contains two.** The first is the hard-to-sing *Man O Constant Sorrow* from the film *Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?* by the Coen brothers. The Duo pulls this off in a wonderful way. And I almost fall in love!

The other is the song that Micaela Petersson sang the night Dennis Westerberg asked about a potential collaboration. That night she sang it with Johan Pettersson, artist and actor who is currently rehearsing *Söderkåkar* right here in Knäppingsborg. But tonight he is listening to his friends and graces the stage to perform Woody Guthrie's *Hard, Ain't It Hard*. Here is freeze-moment number two. It is SO good and it clearly shows that the three of them are having fun!

**My mind is drawn to the trio KEB and their performances at the Theatre Bar at Palace, during that time.** Sure, KEB had a different set-up but still. The voices, the attitude and the performance remind me of them. And it's not a bad comparison considering that both the K and the E have had successful careers in the music business (Kalle Bäckström as folk musician and Elisabeth Andreassen as schlager-winner).

The negative of the night: The constant talking and laughing which drowned all the stage-chat. Both sad and rude.

The positive of the night: To once again exclaim that Norrköping is indeed full to the brim with musical talent!

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