

Kari Heimen

<https://kariheimen.no/>



Photo: Elisabeth Jøraholmen.

Kari Heimen is an artist, composer, percussionist, and joiker, performing both original and traditional North and South Sami joiks alongside the frame drum. She is a Sea-Sami and many of her joiks are influenced by the nature and the coastline in her homeland, Sápmi.

Kari uses the frame drum in other ways than those traditionally associated with joik. She plays, among other things, with finger techniques that originate from India and the Middle East, which gives a groovy and at times meditative expression. While trying to preserve and retain the uniqueness of joik, she is adding something new to her performances, both vocally and rhythmically. Her distinctive, modern joik style draws from multiple musical traditions, blending Indian and Middle Eastern rhythmic techniques to create hypnotic and groove-driven performances. A fearless innovator, Kari brings joik to new sonic landscapes.

Kari is a recipient of Sami artist state grant and is currently working on her first solo album, which will be released in the fall of 2026. With her band HEIMEN, she has released two albums—the latest exploring the impact of Norway's forced assimilation of the Sami people.



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