

Sumie — Stardust In Valleys

A mother, singer, songwriter and artist, Sumie has been writing songs for most of her life, composing her world as it grows and contracts with the years. Since her first recordings emerged in 2008, she has been quietly building a [catalogue](#) of delicate folk songs released on UK label Bella Union. She now returns in 2026 with a new album, *Stardust In Valleys*, to be released on June 12th via Anna von Hausswolff's Pomperipossa imprint.

In recent years, Sumie has found herself learning to live alongside a serious illness as an uncomfortable companion. After profound health setbacks, she turned to her craft with new eyes, writing music that holds life a little closer.

These songs are presented as *Stardust In Valleys*, her first full-length album since 2017's *Lost in Light*. The result of an intensive week of recording sessions with celebrated producer Filip Leyman, her new album reflects on what it means to walk in a shadow while capturing the extraordinary beauty of what cannot last.

Sumie's songs are prayers, windows into scenes of her life. Over thirteen tracks, she conjures vignettes of golden memories, tracing her footsteps with renewed grace. Whispering messages to people and places, she moves between the living and the dead, fleeting as the changing light on an autumn day.

Sumie's vocals stand proud. Over softly fingerpicked guitar, she sings with a resilient tone, her voice largely unaccompanied, save for duets with her most important people: her daughter, son and best friend. Spacious instrumentation builds across the album, with trumpet, drums, strings and piano gathering around her, guided by Filip Leyman's careful hand.

On *Dahlia*, the album's first single, Sumie recalls a love story from her past that proved impossible to sustain. Our narrator reflects on what is lost and what is found in the many true loves of our lives. A "turn to ocean blue" describes a willingness to surrender, to try everything, to let love take over completely, even when there are no guarantees.

Moments & Martinis is an especially poignant note, as Sumie arranges a meeting with a ghost. A song about connection beyond loss, she invites us to break through the glass ceiling of our mortal world into an unbounded dimension. For Sumie, this frontier remains open, and she sings of finding lost loved ones in the sparkle of chandeliers and as they sing through the wind in the trees.

Stardust in Valleys is a deeply personal, revelatory work that sees Sumie transforming. Her health issues have certainly changed her, but they have not slowed her down. Instead, her story has given her the seeds of creation and allowed her to blossom.

Tomorrow is a wilderness. Time is an unknowable distance. Yet there is beauty in not knowing. There is light to be found in every moment. Sumie embraces the present and allows both its fragility and its wonder to become part of the music.

Text by Jamie Hudson



1. Daydreamer
2. The Poet
3. Dahlia
4. Red Kite
5. Stardust In Valleys
6. Gläntan
7. Light Lee
8. Wild Child
9. Island
10. Nina
11. Moments & Martinis
12. Törnrosa
13. My Arms

sumie.bandcamp.com/album/stardust-in-valleys