



# Héléne Renaud

## The Bells of Freedom (EP)

20 August 2021

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FOR FANS OF: Hem, Claudine Longet, Cat Power, Ane Brun, L (Raphaële Lannadère), Dusty Springfield, Mariee Sioux, Sibylle Baier, Kirsty McGee

*"Timeless... there's a sublime intimacy in her singing that sounds like she's in the same room, serenading you. This, along with gorgeously crafted songs strewn through a West Coast sun-flared filter, reveals a vision that is equal parts classic and contemporary."* — Eric Shea, Senior Curator, **Pandora** (about **The Bells of Freedom**)

*"The Brittany-raised singer writes classic sounding folk-pop songs and delivers them timelessly."* — **SF Weekly** (about **Héléne Renaud**)

**LOS ANGELES, CA: HÉLÈNE RENAUD presents new single "Summer Love" and announces upcoming EP, *The Bells of Freedom*.** The latest release from folk artist Héléne Renaud is a summery album, sporting a '60s feel and Renaud's clear, sweet vocals over an arrangement of soft percussion and acoustic guitar. Gentle harmonies frame this bouquet of love songs, just in time for midsummer romance and back-to-school nostalgia. Produced by **Pat Sansone** (Wilco, The Autumn Defense), co-produced and recorded by Renaud and **Caleb Conner** (Deathstar Studios), and mastered by **Michael Hynes/Nomatic Studio** (Robyn Hitchcock, Preacher Stone), ***The Bells of Freedom*** is an aural weekend away, your retro sidewalk-café soundtrack.

With lyrics that wrap around the coastline, ***The Bells of Freedom*** represents Renaud's ode to California. "When I moved here, it was a way of liberating myself from my former life," Renaud explains. "I was fascinated by the culture of the Beat generation — a way of life that feels free and unrestrained." Arriving in Los Angeles, she moved several times, finally landing in a spot "with a nice window with trees and birds outside" where she was inspired to create a set of new songs. For the first time in a while, she felt open to love. "That's really what these songs are about — what it's like to open your heart."

Purple jacaranda blossoms and long days dot lead single "Summer Love," where Renaud's sweet, bird-song soprano winds around light bossa-nova instrumentation. Though the freedom she sings of in "The Bells of Freedom" is personal, she acknowledges the song can mean different things to different people, always expressing a kind of longing that is universal. Delicate harmonies and Latin rhythms bring a warm glow to encouraging self-talk in "The Angels Sing." Rounding out the EP, "Let There Be Time" features a musical feel drawn from Simon and Garfunkel or Leonard Cohen, while in "What Will Tomorrow Bring," Renaud's elastic voice is wistful and encouraging. Given all the challenges of our current era, from pandemic to global warming to political uncertainty, Renaud hopes the album can give people a sense of the possibilities in their own lives. "It's about opening your life — taking the small risks that move our lives forward and open us to the beauty of new things."

Hailing from Brittany, France, Renaut was classically trained in violin. She taught herself drums, guitar and ukelele and burnished her chops in the San Francisco folk scene before releasing several EPs and an LP (*The Deer Convention*) to critical acclaim. After successful tours of the east and west coasts and Europe, Renaut moved to Los Angeles. The sun-drenched city deserves its own credit on *The Bells of Freedom* — tender and intimate summery songs.

## HÉLÈNE RENAUT

### **Summer Love** (single)

Release Date: (digital only) 6 August 2021

### **The Bells of Freedom** (EP)

Release Date: (digital only) 20 August 2021

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Cover design: Héléne Renaut

## FOR SHARING

Bandcamp: <https://helenerenaut.bandcamp.com/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/wingeddeer>

Website: <https://www.helenerenaut.com/>

## FOR REVIEW & AIRPLAY

Private full stream: <https://soundcloud.com/wingeddeer/sets/the-bells-of-freedom/s-7RFy6weCQbP>

Download via Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/iqz7qls2r3b2bvj/AAAA2xgBLKPBInpkmWWbNV9Qa?dl=0>

Online press kit: <https://www.helenerenaut.com/epk>

Press contact: [info@helenerenaut.com](mailto:info@helenerenaut.com)

## SOCIAL

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wingeddeer>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HeleneRenautMusicPage>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wingeddeer>

## PEOPLE ARE SAYING:

*"Timeless... there's a sublime intimacy in her singing that sounds like she's in the same room, serenading you. This, along with gorgeously crafted songs strewn through a West Coast sun-flared filter, reveals a vision that is equal parts classic and contemporary."* — Eric Shea, Senior Curator, Pandora

*"A voice like crystal bells. A singular style... magical."* — Ruthann Friedman

*"Beautiful vocal harmonies... a sense of saudade."* — Andres Renteria (Nick Waterhouse, José González, Father John Misty, Mia Doi Todd)

## CREDITS:

Music and lyrics by Héléne Renaut

Vocals, guitars, ukelele, strings, keys: Héléne Renaut

Percussion, keys: Caleb Conner

Bass: Caleb Conner (tracks 1-3,5), H  l  ne Renaut (track 4)

Mellotron flute: Pat Sansone (track 1)

Produced by Pat Sansone; recorded and co-produced by H  l  ne Renaut and Caleb Conner at Deathstar Studios

Mastered by Michael Hynes (Nomatic Studio)

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#### TRACK LIST:

1. Summer Love\*\*
2. Let There Be Time
3. The Bells of Freedom
4. The Angels Sing
5. What Will Tomorrow Bring

\*\* Single