


NJÅL SPARBO

TIDA VEIT



QCD 9412- TIDA VEIT!

Njål Sparbo - voice

Björn Nyman - clarinets

André Orvik - violin

Vegard Johnsen - violin

Jon Sønstebø - viola

Sverre Barratt-Due - cello

Steinar Haugerud – double bass

Karl Seglem – goat horn

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1 Det finst ei stille

Music by Ståle Kleiberg (b. 1958)

Arr. for voice, Bb clarinet, and string quintet by Njål Sparbo

Lyrics by Helge Torvund (b. 1951)

Det finst ei stille
som fråværet av bier i januar
Lyden av det
som ikkje tek plass
Songen av det
som aldri vert sagt
Det finst ein pause
når folk snakkar saman
fem hundre millisekund
før neste replikk frå den andre

Det finst noko uhøyrleg
som omgir steinane
ute på det frosne jordet
og det utstoppa ekornet
bak glaset i skapet i gangen
i den store skulebygningen
Det finst ein stad
der alle desse lydlause stundene
er samla
til ei overdøyvande
fruktbar stille
som ventar på oss

2 If thou must Love Me

Music by Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Arr. for voice, Bb clarinet, and string quintet by Geoff Lawson

Lyrics by Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861)

If thou must love me, let it be for nought
Except for love's sake only. Do not say
"I love her for her smile – her look – her way
Of speaking gently, – for a trick of thought
That falls in well with mine, and certes brought
A sense of pleasant ease on such a day" –
For these things in themselves, Belovèd, may
Be changed, or change for thee – and love, so wrought,
May be unwrought so. Neither love me for
Thine own dear pity's wiping my cheeks dry, –
A creature might forget to weep, who bore
Thy comfort long, and lose thy love thereby!
But love me for love's sake, that evermore
Thou mayst love on, through love's eternity.

3 Barcarole

Music by Gisle Kverndokk (b. 1967)

Voice, Bb clarinet, and string quintet

Lyrics by Sigbjørn Obstfelder (1866-1900)

Skjulende skygge,
sænk dig!
mens båden taust
glider.

Verden er søen -
stille.
Alene hun
ånder:

Stille, i Bølger!
Stille!
Alene hun
ånde!

Alene du,
Elvi,
og stjerner, hav,
kysse, -

alene vi,
Elvi,
i denne blå
hvælving!

Her vil jeg ligge -
længe.
Mens båden taust
glider.

Her, i din dybe
hår-elv.
Og kind imod kind.
Gjem mig!

Her vil jeg sove -
længe.
Mens månen taust
glider.

Alene du,
Elvi,
og stjerner, hav,
kysse,

alene I
våge!
at ei min sjæl
såres.

4 Nøkkerose

Music by Knut Vaage (b. 1961)

Voice, Bb clarinet, and string quintet

Lyrics by Torgeir Rebolledo Pedersen (b. 1949)

nøkkerose nøkkerose
Rose reist fra jordas indre

hva er det med verden
som du så villig lar deg strekke av

hva er det med lyset
som du så villig lar det vekke av

hva er det med mørket
som du så villig lar deg lukke av

en natt dyp er ditt godnatt
en dag dyp er ditt goddag

nøkkerose

5 Auge i vind

Music and lyrics by Karl Seglem (b. 1961)

Voice and goat horn

Eg veit ikkje
kva det er som skjer
Men det er vel
noko vi kanskje kan forstå
midt i den kjærleik

som opnar seg, lik eit vindauge
blånande mot eit mørker

Då opna du også
ditt vinaduge mot det stupande mørkret
i alt eg såg
og vi pusta oss innover
mot ein alltid tilbakekommande
og alltid bortfallande stad
der gamle
hender falda seg i bønn
som tårer i skingrande gamal musikk
langsam musikk

Å, gje oss
den langsame musikken
Gje oss den langsame musikken
vi aldri før har høyr
og alltid har visst at var der
Den langsame musikken
som var der før kleda vi alltid har vilja vere
og som fortel det vi alltid har vore

aldri har vore
Eg ber om ei ny gammal rørsle
som er til
for å forsvinne
slik ein haustdag
forsvinn
i sitt mørker av regn
Rekk meg ei rørsle
Og så la oss forsvinne i den

6 Lost in life

Music by Henrik Hellstenius (b. 1963)

Voice, Bb clarinet, and string quartet

Lyrics by Øyvind Rimbereid (b. 1966)

I am lost in life

Identified

Asleep

My presence is lost

I loose myself

The feeling

All the inner and outer events seem like a dream

I do not feel truly touched

Desires

The impressions of myself

I am here

I am lost

7 Black

Music by Maja Solveig Kjelstrup Ratkje (b. 1973)

Voice, bass clarinet, and string quintet

Lyrics by Aasne Linnestå (b. 1963)

Our purest eyes and the strongest hands

I love the ground on where we stand

Black is the colour of the blue despair

When the ground is soft and the end too near

Black is the colour of a love affair

Love of lovers, cause well they know

Yes, well they know the grounds to love

And still is hope

and time will come when we must be as one

Black is the colour of a love affair

And the priests come near

Black is what they wear

Black is the colour of the sleeping air

In a night of fear.

Black is the colour of a word

8 Welt

Music and lyrics by Eivind Buene (b. 1973)

Voice, Bb clarinet, and string quintet

Welt, Welt, O Welt, Welt

9 Sostenuto

Music and lyrics by Eivind Buene (b. 1973)

Voice, Bb clarinet, and string quintet

Leise flehen meine Lieder
Eine trübe Wolke in der matten Luft
In der stillen Hain hernieder
Liebe komm zu mir.

10 Tida veit

Music and bass lyrics by Kristin Bolstad (b. 1981)

Voice, bass clarinet, and string quintet

Alt i meg er i endring,
er i rørsle.

Lagar spor i meg
av tid.

Tida samlast i meg,
Vardar mitt eige landskap.
Kvistar den løypa eg tek ut.

Rundt i ring, sikk sakk,
eller beint fram,
stoppar opp?

Berre tida veit.

PRODUCER: NJÅL SPARBO

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Njål Sparbo

After his inaugural concert in 1991, Njål Sparbo has emerged as one of Norway's most dynamic and versatile vocalists, with an exceptionally expansive repertoire that spans opera, art song, and sacred music. His keen interest in contemporary compositions has resulted in numerous commissions, world premieres, staged productions, and recordings. His engagements encompass major Norwegian opera companies, orchestras, and choirs, as well as performances in Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, England, Scotland, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Romania, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Russia, Ukraine, Japan, South Korea, and the USA.

"Norwegian songs have played a vital role in my entire professional journey. Upon receiving the State Work Grant in 1997-1999 and 2005-2008, I embraced the opportunity to delve deep into the Norwegian song repertoire. Norwegian composers are frequent features in my concert programs, and I've actively participated in numerous premieres. This anthology presents a collection of songs that I cherish from various eras. While the majority of these songs were initially composed for voice and piano, I chose to enrich the recordings by collaborating with a diverse ensemble of musicians, infusing the renditions with richer nuances, heightened fullness, and musical contrasts.

For further information, please visit www.sparbo.com and www.quattro.no

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Norwegian Songs Vol. 1: Norge, mitt Norge! ('Norway, My Norway!') contains music and folk tune arrangements by composers born between 1812 and 1881. This era has bequeathed us with songs that hold a revered place in the Norwegian cultural heritage. While some may appear overly nationalistic by contemporary standards, during their time, they epitomized a crucial sense of national consciousness. In the recording, Knut Nystedt and Njål Sparbo adapted a selection of songs for voice and string quintet.

Norwegian Songs Vol. 2: Natt og Dag ('Night and Day'), contains music from composers born between 1882-1952. All songs are adapted for voice, harp, and string quintet by Njål Sparbo. The selection, while not aiming for comprehensiveness from a music-historical perspective, is instead curated based on personal enjoyment, rarity, and suitability for arrangements with bass-baritone, harp, and string quintet. The recording highlights works by 18 Norwegian composers who, beyond the national romantic period, explored new forms of expression, skillfully blending elements from both European and Norwegian art song traditions.

Norwegian Songs, Vol. 3: Verdens veier ('Ways of the World') contains music from composers born between 1946-1963, adapted for voice, clarinet, and string quintet. The song selection involved dialogue with composers, most of whom reworked and adapted the pieces themselves. Exceptions include Ketil Bjørnstad's 'Grensen' ('The Border'), Halvor Haug's 'Til hjertene' ('To the Hearts') and Per Arne Glorvigen's 'Verdens veier' ('Paths of the World'), adapted for the ensemble by Njål Sparbo.

Norwegian Songs, Vol. 4: Tida veit ('Time Knows') includes music from composers born between 1958-1981, with arrangements for voice, clarinet, and string quintet, except Henrik Hellstenius' "Lost in Life," set for voice, clarinet, and string quartet. The composers created most of the arrangements, with the exception of Ola Gjeilo's 'If thou must love me,' arranged for the ensemble by Geoff Lawson, and Ståle Kleiberg's 'Det finst ei stille' ('There Exists a Silence'), arranged by Njål Sparbo. Karl Seglem's 'Auge i vind' ('Eye in the Wind') is originally written for solo voice, but the composer graciously contributed to the recording with his goat horn.

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