



Broken Line

X2 · BROKEN LINE - FOR STRING QUARTET · X3 · NICHT - FOR VOICE AND ENSEMBLE · X4 · SHADE - FOR DOUBLE STRING TRIO · X5 · NILS HENRIK ASHEIM: X1 ·

Vertavo String Quartet (Berit Cardas, fiolin · Øyvør Volle, fiolin · Henninge Landaas, viola · Bjørg Værnes Lewis, cello) · Aida-Carmen Soanea, viola · Louise Hopkins, cello · Isa Gericke, soprano · Sveinung Bjelland, piano · Tom Ottar Andreassen, flute · Hans Christian Bræin, clarinet · Eirik Raude, percussion

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This year the Vertavo will perform in some of the most prestigious concert halls in the world, including Carnegie, Wigmore and Brahms-Saal. Their special affinity for contemporary music has led them to give commanding performances of works by Ligeti, Adès, Widmann and Nørgård. Here the Vertavo presents an exclusive and captivating recording of music by Nils Henrik Asheim.

Postponing the result, cultivating the music of the moment

Nils Henrik Asheim (b. 1960) combines a strong grip on the overall form with a fascination for details strung loosely together. His music is original and challenging, but at the same time it strikes many people at home – playful yet serious. In the title work Broken Line Asheim describes playing techniques with words such as rust, grey, stone and flame. Music that stops in order to present its surface, freezes, can paradoxically give a simultaneous feeling of depth. In the violin/cello piece Navigo the each player control the order of the various components, not knowing what the other musician is planning. In Chase this idea is continued: dividing a string sextet into two trios. In Nicht, on the other hand, the composer is totally in control over all the parameters – all the way. Asheim has also, himself well known also as an improviser, inspired the Vertavo to go beyond the written music on this recording – in the miniatures entitled x1–x5.

Vertavo String Quartet

The Vertavo discography includes Nielsen, Schumann, Brahms, Grieg and Debussy, all for SIMAX Classics, as well as the Mozart and Brahms clarinet quintets with Martin Fröst for BIS Records. Their Debussy and Grieg quartets received the Diapason d'Or and was highly praised by Gramophone magazine: "Captivating performances which get right to the heart of these intensely emotional works - Not to be missed." Their recording of the complete Bartók Quartets, released in November 2001 was the BBC Music Magazine "Recording of the Month" in May 2002.

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