



Gisle Kverndokk: Fuge der Zeit

GISLE KVERNDOKK: Mass for six voices · The seven last words of Christ – for six singers, two string quartets and piano · Fuge der Zeit – for six singers, string orchestra and organ. Text from The Book of Ecclesiastes and poems by Paul Celan

Nordic Voices · members of the Norwegian Radio Orchestra · Rolf Gupta, conductor

– Norwegian composer Gisle Kverndokk writes staggeringly inventive choral music, hair-raisingly exciting, unbearably beautiful passages following moments of electrifying intensity or ear-popping dissonance. [Ronald E. Grames / Fanfare]

Writing music for Nordic Voices is to push the boundaries of what you believe is possible. Kverndokk has written an entire album for Norway's leading vocal ensemble.

When partnering with Nordic Voices, Kverndokk is allowed to go to the core of his musical expression on this release. Nordic Voices attracts international attention not only with their musical level, but also with the strong commitment to new music. Recently named 'Performer of the Year' by the Norwegian Society of Composers for their outstanding work, Nordic Voices present three new and strong pieces here.

Mass for six solo voices + two pieces with orchestra

The starting point for the mass was a 'Missa Brevis' commissioned by Nordic Voices to Fartein Valen Days in 2002. Kverndokk developed the melodic themes based on Fartein Valens 2nd sonata, while the lyrics are the traditional Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus and Agnus Dei. "It is not only Fartein Valen's music that has inspired me. The sound of the words made me examine the sound of the vowels, which all have different overtones" says Kverndokk. The two pieces with orchestra are 'Fuge der Zeit', written to Gloger Festival in Kongsberg, and 'The Seven Last Words of Christ' – a further development of the music to his opera 'Påske' (Easter), based on Strindberg's drama, which premiered in the spring of 2014.

Kverndokk

The name Gisle Kverndokk (1967) is often tied to opera and musicals. 'Around the World in 80 Days', commissioned for the opening of the new opera house in Oslo, is just one of many music dramatic works from his hand in recent years. A number of his musicals and operas have been performed on stages in Norway, Finland, Germany, Switzerland, Austria and the USA. In addition he writes music for radio productions, theatre and film, as well as chamber and orchestral music.

Nordic Voices

Nordic Voices (formed in 1996) consists of Tone Braaten, Ingrid Hanken, Ebba Rydh, Per Kristian Amundrød, Frank Havrøy and Trond Reinholdtsen. All of the members are graduates of either the Norwegian Academy of Music or the Opera Academy in Oslo. The ensemble's well-conceived and creative concert programming – often involving a subtle element of humor – had led them to become a much sought-after group on the international scene.

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"– De eminente sangerne i Nordic Voices gjør igjen en strålende innsats. Den tidvis komplekse harmonikken krever overskudd, men det låter gjennomgående både lett og naturlig, noe som også må skyldes Kverndokks kyndige grep om stemmene. [Emil Bernhard / Morgenbladet]"

"– På utgivelsen «Fuge der Zeit» rendyrker og kultiverer Gisle Kverndokk de aller fineste sidene av sitt komponisttalent. [5 Ståle Wikshåland / Dagbladet]"



"- Hele spekteret i Kverndokks uttrykkskraft kommer frem i det som er et av hans store verk. Nordic Voices' fremføringer er fremragende. [Guy Rickards / Klassisk Musikkmagasin]"



"- Jo da, det er åpenbart en tid for alt. Også for å lytte til denne cden som inneholder noe av den fineste vokalmusikken komponert her til lands. [Egil Baumann / Klassekampen]"