



Bergen Big Band / Dag Arnesen: Norwegian Song IV

DAG ARNESEN: Missing You · On Granite · Reminiscence 5 · EDVARD GRIEG: Gangar · Våren · Arietta · Ved Rondane · TRAD. : Mellom bakkar og berg · Astrid mi Astrid

Bergen Big Band · Dag Arnesen, piano · Ole Jakob Hystad, tenor saxophone, soprano saxophone · Kjetil Traavik Møster, tenor saxophone, soprano saxophone · Are Ovesen, trumpet · Michael Barnes, saxophone ·

Jan Kåre Hystad, saxophone · Elisabeth Lid Trøen, soprano saxophone, tenor saxophone, flute

"With this CD I would like to help to preserve the Norwegian treasure trove of songs, and at the same time make more people aware of Edvard Grieg's music."

Musician, composer, bandleader and arranger Dag Arnesen has had a lifelong relationship with the music of Edvard Grieg. Together with his trio he has enjoyed extraordinary success with his "Norwegian Song" recordings, where treasures from the Norwegian song heritage have been interpreted with a jazz flavour. On the fourth record in this series the trio has been replaced by Bergen Big Band, and this time Arnesen has written entirely new arrangements for Grieg's music and a selection of Norwegian folksongs.

Dag Arnesen studied classical piano with Jiri Hlinka, but is today one of Norway's foremost jazz pianists. "When I began my 'Norwegian Song' project in 2006, it was because I wanted to draw inspiration from Norwegian music. For most of my musical life I have been deeply involved in American jazz, and now I wanted to try to create a symbiosis between Norwegian and American music," Arnesen says. "With this CD I would like to help to preserve the Norwegian treasure trove of songs, and at the same time make more people aware of Edvard Grieg's music."

Dag Arnesen has been a member of Bergen Big Band for many years, and the band has meant a lot to him as a musician. "Through our collaborations with major international big-band leaders, the group has grown and has developed a very special ensemble feeling. Throughout the years there have been countless memorable concerts and superb recordings."

An unusual big band

Bergen Big Band (BBB) is one of Norway's leading big bands. It was established in 1991 as a continuation of Bergen Band. Among the artists they have collaborated with are The Core, Berit Opheim, Phil Woods, Paquito de Rivera, Joe Henderson, Maria Schneider, Diana Krall, Sissel Kyrkjebø, Andy Sheppard, Gianluigi Trovesi, Mathias Eick, Dino Zaluszi, Gustavo Bergalli, Knut Kristiansen and Jan Magne Førde. "Crime Scene", a work the band commissioned from Terje Rypdal, was released as a CD by ECM in 2009.

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