



Finn Mortensen: Per Orchestra

FINN MORTENSEN: Symphony · Pezzo orchestrale · Evolution · Per Orchestra

Münchner Rundfunkorchester · Terje Mikkelsen, conductor

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Terje Mikkelsen undoubtedly has a certain sense for bringing great, unknown music to his listeners. He was the first to record Grieg' symphony, and has recently released premiere recordings by composers including Svendsen, Halvorsen, Alnæs and Tellefsen. As the second recording in a close co-operation together with the Münchner Rundfunkorchester, Mikkelsen is releasing the highly rewarding and rich orchestral works of Finn Mortensen.

Finn Mortensen (1922-83) is one of those composers whose ideas and aesthetics seems to come into vogue long after their own time. The first Professor of composition at the Norwegian Academy of Music, Mortensen became the inspirator for a generation of composers, bringing ideas first hand from Darmstadt as well as Stockhausen's master classes at Studio für Elektronische Musik.

Generous modernism – through twelve-note music and beyond

Very much inspired by Bruckner, Finn Mortensen's symphony is a structural masterpiece in a late romantic style, loaded in emotional content. It has been commented on how Mortensen, himself audibly (?) a natural romantic, could become the foremost spokesman for international modernism in Norway. To him twelve-note music possessed an obvious great potential for emotional expressivity. In the time to come his compositions became much freer, and in his 'neo-serial' compositional style of 1970 melodic and tonal elements played an important part.

Mikkelsen the 'enabler'

"Something as rare as an extrovert, proactive, conductor. Mikkelsen is an enabler; one who makes things happen." This is the characteristic from IMG's Andrew Jaimeson, and it is a precise description of the man who studied with Mariss Jansons during his many years in Oslo, as well as with Panula at the Sibelius Academy. Now, some 50 CD releases later, Terje Mikkelsen inspires and gets results with the top orchestras. In 2010 he toured with St. Martin in the Fields in Spain. The same year In 2010 he brought the Tchaikovsky Orchestra for a big tour in the UK to great critical acclaim, returning in 2011 with Czech National Symphony orchestra. In November this year he will take the München Rundfunkorchester on a tour to Spain where they among other works will perform the first symphony by Eyvind Alnæs.

Crossing borders

Having held the post as Chief Conductor in Riga, Tübingen and Kiev, Mikkelsen is also in demand for his great abilities with such artists as Misha Maisky, Renee Fleming, John Lill and Michael Rudy. Now in September 2011, Mikkelsen leads the Münchner Rundfunkorchester in a spectacular recording with Keith Emerson on piano and keyboards in his famous compositions "Tarkus", "The Endless Enigma", "Piano Concerto" and a world premiere of his newly written work, "After all of This".

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"– Dette er en utgivelse som setter ny standard for Mortensen-fortolkning. Terje Mikkelsen dirigerer radioorkestret i München, en lysende prestasjon. Endelig får vi høre Finn Mortensen spilt uten forbehold og med dyp innsikt i musikkens klangkvaliteter. [6 Ståle Wikshåland / Dagbladet]"



"– Musikken er bredt anlagt, med lange, himmelvendte bevegelser [...] Den høye kvaliteten på fremførelsen her, ved Münchner Rundfunkorkestra under Terje Mikkelsen, understreker bare det fulltonende, sedate ved musikken. [Erling Sandmo / Morgenbladet]"

"– Ei innspeling der både tolking, utføring og opptaksteknikk er av like imponerende kvalitet. Ho kan lyttast til som ei reise i den kunstnarlege utviklinga til komponisten, frå seinromantikk til seriell tolvtoneteknikk. [Sjur Haga Bringeland / Dag og Tid]"

"– Terje Mikkelsen og München-orkesteret er ikke tynget av historiske fotnoter og gamle kontroverser i norsk offentlighet. De går inn i verkene, spiller dem med imponerende klangbehandling og formsans, og demonstrerer med sine fire overbevisende tolkninger at dette er musikk som hører hjemme i en større europeisk sammenheng, monumental orkestermusikk som fremdeles er aktuell selv om det er et halvt århundre siden verkene ble skrevet. [6 Peter Larsen / Bergens Tidende]"



"– Fire av den norske etterkrigsmodernistens orkesterverk skinner i oppsiktsvekkende intense og varme farger på denne CD-innspillingen. Å høre Finn Mortensens Symfoni op. 5, er som å tre inn i en stor ballsal. Her åpner perspektivene seg i uvanlig storslagen bredde, og fargene skinner som av edelt metall. Dette er noe av det mest storslagne vi har, og klangfargene minner om den mektige senromantikeren Anton Bruckner. Under den norske dirigenten Terje Mikkelsens ledelse kommer musikkens form og farge til sin rett. [Ragnhild Veire / NRK]"

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