

Nordic Voices

Tone E. Braaten, Soprano
Ingrid Hanken, Soprano
Ebba Rydh, Alto

Per Kristian Amundrød, Tenor
Frank Havrøy, Baritone
Rolf Mange Schmidt Asser, Bass

Ardens Est Cor Meum Music from the time of Carlos V

Predicasti	Fra Olavsmusikken (ca 1100)
Vidi Speciosam	Thomas Luis de Victoria (1548 – 1611)
Agnus Dei	Pierre Manchicourt (1510 – 1564)
O Magnum Mysterium	Jacob Clemens Non Papa (1510 – 1555)
Nigra Sum Sed Formosa	Thomas Luis de Victoria (1548 – 1611)
Hei, Mihi Domine	Francisco Guerrero (1528 – 1599)
Quem Vidistis Pastores	Thomas Luis de Victoria (1548 – 1611)

Intermission

Alleluia	Fra "Olavsmusikken" (ca 1100)
Congratulamini Mihi	Thomas Luis de Victoria (1548 – 1611)
Ardens est Cor Meum	Thomas Luis de Victoria (1548 – 1611)
Exaltata est	Christobal Morales (1500 – 1553)
Vadam et Civitatem	Thomas Luis De Victoria (1548 – 1611)

"I speak Spanish to God, Italian to woman, French to men, and German to my horse" is a quote from the ruler of both the Spanish Empire (1516-1556) and the Holy Roman Empire (1519- 1558), as well as of the Habsburg Netherlands (1506-1556), Charles V. He was undoubtedly the most powerful man in the 16th-century Europe, from his teens until his death in 1558.

The music we have chosen for this program is mainly music from around the time of Charles V with the exception of the first piece in each set, which is a Norwegian Gregorian chant from the "Olavsmusikken" (ca 1100).

Since we now are enjoying the release of our latest CD containing music by the most famous composer in the 16th century Spain, Tomás Luis de Victoria, it feels natural to show you several of his brilliant compositions. "Ardens est Cor Meum", "Vidi Speciosam", "Vadam et Circuibu Civitatem", "Congratulamini Mihi" and "Nigra sum Sed Formosa" -- all are beautiful and very moving pieces. Cristóbal Morales was considered to be the most influential Spanish composer before Victoria. His "Exaltata est" is, together with the "Agnus Dei" by Pierre Manchicourt, "O magnum mysterium" by Jacob Clemens Non Papa, Francisco Guerrero's "Hei, Mihi Domine" can be found on Nordic Voices CD "Reges Terrae". A CD which we are proud to say was nominated for the Norwegian Grammy in 2007.

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Himmelske Fader "Heavenly Father"

Incipit oratio Jeremiae Prophetae
Solbøn
Iod, Manum suam Misit Hostis
Vidi speciosam

Thomas Luis de Victoria (1548 - 1611)
Lasse Thoresen (1949 -)
Thomas Luis de Victoria (1548 - 1611)
Thomas Luis de Victoria (1548 - 1611)

-Intermission-

Nigra sum sed formosa
Verklärung

Thomas Luis de Victoria (1548 - 1611)
Asbjørn Schaatum (1961 -)

Ardens est cor meum
Himmelske Fader

Thomas Luis de Victoria (1548 - 1611)
Lasse Thoresen (1949 -)

Himmelske Fader, *Heavenly Father* are the words from a very famous and religious Norwegian folk song. Together with the song "Solbøn" we'd like to take you through the Norwegian folk tune singing tradition in a nice blend that includes microtonality and Tuvan overtone singing. In "Himmelske Fader" composer Lasse Thoresen has developed his own musical landscape from one rendition of this song. The text is a prayer asking that all people be granted some salvation during their lives, and in a beautiful way these words also sum up the other texts of this program.

The program is a mixture of Nordic contemporary music, combined with the masterly skills of the Spanish Renaissance composer Tomás Luis de Victoria. Victoria was born in Sanchidrián in the province of Ávila, Castile around 1548, and died in 1611. He was indeed the composer that defined the Spanish vocal music in this period and his music expressed the passion of Spanish mysticism and religion. Asbjørn Schaatum wrote the piece Verklärung for Nordic Voices in 2003.

Some of the works by Tomás Luis de Victoria in this program will be available on a new recording by Nordic Voices due for release in 2017. The balance of the works are found on our "Lamentations" CD.

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**Nordic Voices
 An Evening of Commissions**

Lasse Thoresen	Solbøn, Opus 40	11,20´
Asbjørn Schaatun	Verklärung	07,30´
Henrik Ødegaard	O Magnum Mysterium	11,15´
-intermission-		
Lasse Thoresen	Himmelske Fader, Opus 40	14,30´
Maja Ratkje	A Dismantled Ode to the Value of Art	14,00´

This program is titled "Nordic Voices" because it consists of music commissioned by the group over the years. The pieces are all by Norwegian composers and demonstrate a wide range of music.

One of Nordic Voices' main goals is to be in the forefront of research into vocal art. This means to explore -- as they did in the Concrecence project which led to the Djánki Don recording (2008) -- new vocal techniques and new ways of using the classically trained voice. The two pieces by Asbjørn Schaatun and Henrik Ødegaard are found on this recording. Ødegaard has used the well-known Latin text "O magnum mysterium" which describes the great mystery – the birth of Jesus Christ. Lasse Thoresen's two pieces, "Solbøn" and "Himmelske Fader", are both from his opus 42, a work which won the Nordic Council Music Prize in 2010 and is featured on the CD "Himmelkvad" (2012). "Solbøn" is a prayer to the sun to shine upon our children, while "Himmelske Fader" is a wish that all humans will meet the blessing of the Lord. Both Lasse Thoresen and Henrik Ødegaard use folkloristic elements in their composing, such as timbre elements derived from the Norwegian *kveder* tradition, as well as micro tonality and overtone singing, giving the pieces new tuning and timbre dimensions.

Nordic Voices has not yet recorded the last pieces in this program, the music by Maja Ratkje.