

Nordic Voices

Suggested Programs for February 2017 North American Tour *page 1 of 4*

SENSE AND NONSENSE

Solbøn, from Opus 42	L.Thoresen, (1949-)
Selections from Nonsense Madrigals	G. Ligeti (1923 – 2006)
- The cuckoo in the pear-tree	
- The alphabet	
- The Lobster Quadrille	
Per duo coralli Ecco che ciel	L. Marenzio (1553 – 1599)
Le Chant des Oiseaux	C. Janequin, (1485 – 1558)
Intermission	
Bia, bia lite bân	F. Havrøy (1969 -)
Diphonie op. 39	L. Thoresen (1949 -)
“Nonsense” Nonsense I, III, V	G. Petrassi (1904 – 2003)
Trois beaux oiseau du Paradis	M. Ravel (1875 – 1937)
A Dismantled Ode to the Value Of Art	M. Ratkje (1973 -)

Nordic Voices – 2017 North American tour program - *Beata es virgo Maria*

Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548 – 1611)	Quem vidistis pastores
Henrik Ødegaard (1955)	O magnum Mysterium
Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548 – 1611)	Vidi speciosam
Antonio Lotti (1667 – 1740)	Crucifixus
Claudio Gesualdo (1566 – 1613)	Tenebrae Facte sunt

INTERMISSION

Giovanni Gabrieli (1554 – 1612)	Beata es virgo Maria
Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548 – 1611)	Salve Regina
Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548 – 1611)	Surrexit Pastores
Lasse Thoresen (1949)	Solbøn

Beata es virgo Maria is divided into two parts. Starting with the nativity of Jesus, we feature *Quem vidistis pastores* by Tomás Luis de Victoria, the most famous composer of 16th-century Spain. The contrast of this beautiful Renaissance music with the next piece, *O magnum Mysterium*, by the Norwegian composer Henrik Ødegaard, is huge. This piece is magnificent in its contrasts itself, with all the different vocal techniques. The fact that Victoria not only was a composer, but also an accomplished organist and a singer becomes clear to us in his *Vidi speciosams* with its clear melodic lines.

From the nativity of Christ, we have moved through the Virgin Mary's life and we face the crucifying of Jesus in the pieces *Crucifixus* by the Italian composer Antonio Lotti - this version made for 6 voices - and we end the first half with a stunning piece by Carlo Gesualdo *Tenebrae factae sunt*. In this piece he paints in dramatic strokes the death of Christ.

"Blessed are you, O virgin Mary, who bore the Lord, the Creator of the universe". These first words in Giovanni Gabrieli's piece open the second half. Gabrieli was one of the most influential musicians of his time, and represents the culmination of the style of the [Venetian School](#), at the time of the shift from [Renaissance](#) to [Baroque](#) idioms. We continue with two pieces by Victoria, *Salve Regina*, traditionally sung at the end of a priest's funeral Mass, and then *Surrexit Pastores*, the good shepherd has arisen.

The Norwegian composer Lasse Thoresen has worked extensively with Nordic Voices developing a unique vocal ensemble style using elements of Norwegian folk singing, micro tonality, overtone singing and spectral harmony. His *Solbøn* has become one of Nordic Voices signature pieces and - being a prayer to the sun to shine down on us and keep everyone safe from troubles - it feels like a natural last piece of this program.

Nordic Voices – 2017 North American tour program – Everything's Gonna Be Alright

Lasse Thoresen	“Diphonie I, op. 39”
Gavin Bryars	“Poi che voi et io” (From <i>Second Book of Madrigals</i>)
Frank Havrøy	“So, ro, rara”
Giovanni Gabrieli	“Scherza Amarilli”
Luca Marenzio	“O Verdi selv'o dolci fonti e rivi”
Shara Worden	TBA
Luca Marenzio	“Per duo coralli”
Giovanni Gabrieli	“Se cantano gl'augelli”
Frank Havrøy	“Bånsull”
Gavin Bryars	“I' vidi in terra angelici” (From <i>Second Book of Madrigals</i>)
Maja Ratkje	“A Dismantled Ode to The Moral Value Of Art”

At one spot in Star Wars V, Luke Skywalker asks Yoda whether the dark side of The Force is stronger. Yoda looks at him and answers that the dark side is “quicker, easier, more seductive”. In times like these it is easier to think of all the bad things happening than the good ones, and regard the bad ones as something constant.

In this program Nordic Voices presents music from the light side of The Force, so to speak. The program is about love, about comfort and about playfulness. It is about focusing on the good sides of life, and about singing music that makes our cheeks turn a little bit redder.

Lasse Thoresen's “Diphonie I, op.39” is a powerful opening of the program, with versatile use of the six voices. Through a playful, folkloristic palette, Lasse plays with vocal effects such as overtone singing and Norwegian *kveding*, creating an almost surreal landscape of sounds. The two pieces by Gavin Bryars are both from his collection *Second Book of Madrigals*. Both songs are on texts by the Italian Renaissance poet Francesco Petrarca. His love sonnets to his beloved Laura have become icons of Renaissance poetry, set by numerous composers. Gavin Bryars follows up the madrigal tradition, and has set an intimate musical space for his texts. The madrigal tradition is well taken care of through the works of Giovanni Gabrieli and Luca Marenzio. Represented here are vivid and colourful examples that celebrates love between humans.

Shara Worden is an American singer-songwriter. She is well known also under the artistic name *My Brightest Diamond*, under which she has composed and released several CDs. During 2016 she will compose a new piece for Nordic Voices, to be premiered during the “Everything's gonna be alright” tour.

The two lullabies presented in this program are both Norwegian folk tunes. They represent a Norwegian folk music tradition that is extremely rich, and one can find different versions of these folk songs all over Norway.

Maja Ratkje is one of Norway's most prolific composers. Her music is widely performed, and she is well known as a singer within contemporary and experimental genres. Her piece “A Dismantled Ode to The Moral Value Of Art” concludes this concert. Through a chaotic and deconstructed musical world, she takes us through the ninth symphony of Ludwig van Beethoven, through extended and extreme vocal techniques, before finally concluding with a quote by Neil Young and the lyrics “everything's gonna be alright”. We hope that we can contribute to an evening of light, love, humour, and vocal playfulness.

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All New

Lasse Thoresen	<i>Solbøn</i>	10
Gavin Bryars	Book of Madrigals: Book Two, no. 4: <i>Poi che voi</i>	4
Cecilie Ore	<i>Dead Pope on Trial!</i>	20

Intermission

Gavin Bryars	Book Two, no. 8: <i>I'vidi in terra</i>	4
Lasse Thoresen	<i>Himmelske Fader</i>	14
Gavin Bryars	Book Two, no. 10: <i>Una candida serve</i>	4
Maja Ratkje	<i>A Dismantled Ode to The Moral Value of Art</i>	10