

PK SVENSEN trombone MALMÖ SYMFONIORKESTER

conductors Terje Boye Hansen and Christoph König

CONCERTOS & FAIRYTALES

"Jeg fant, jeg fant!" sier Askeladden og tar vare på alt det andre overser. Han er i besittelse av en kreativ intuisjon som overvinner alle negative krefter; han overgår det rasjonelle og oppnår sine målsettinger, som vanligvis består i Prinsessen og halve Kongeriket. Nettopp den Askeladd'ske intuisjonen har vært underliggende drivkraft når PK Svensen, en av landets fremste trombonister, gir til beste fire norske funn av noen verker for trombone og orkester.

"I found! I found!" says Askeladden, the hero of countless Norwegian folk tales as he picks up numerous strange and seemingly worthless objects from the road, objects everybody else would go by without noticing. Askeladden possesses this uncanny creative intuition which outwits any sinister force, and helps him in his quest to achieve his aims - most frequently being marrying the Princess and ruling half the Kingdom. The Askeladden creativity has been the underlying power source when one of Norway's most prominent trombonists, PK Svensen, gives away four Norwegian treats for trombone and orchestra.

Wolfgang Plagge

Concerto op. 138

Egil Hovland

Concerto op. 76

Magne Amdahl

Elegi

Torstein Aagaard-Nilsen

Fanfares and Fairytales



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constellations. The Trombone Concerto op.136 is a result of this particular interest as well as a close and good cooperation with PK Svensen, whom it was written for. The work is set in three substantial movements, the first a slightly ironic game of motifs and ideas, the middle movement a grave double fugue, and the concluding Finale an intense journey in 7/8 time putting the soloist's endurance to the ultimate test.

Wolfgang Plagge's music is being performed by musicians, ensembles and orchestras all over the world, and his reputation as a composer is ever growing. In 1996 he was created "Composer of the Year" with the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra. He received the American ASCAP Award for 2001 and won the Vokal Nord composers' contest 2003.

Like Plagge, **Torstein Aagaard-Nilsen** (*1964) also belongs to the younger generation of Norwegian composers. He was born in Oslo, but grew up in Kabelvåg in Lofoten, Norway. In 1983 he moved to Bergen for studies at the Manger Folk High School. In 1984 he also began studying mathematics at the University of Bergen, and joined Manger Musikklag, one of Norway's leading brass bands, conducted by Michael Antrobus. He played the cornet with the band for five years. Several of his earliest performed works were written for Brass Band. Between 1986 and 1990 he continued his studies at the Bergen Music Conservatory. Gradually his contact with the contemporary music scene in Bergen resulted in commissions from the Norwegian section of ISCM, the BIT 20 Ensemble, the Music Factory and the Autunnale Festival in Bergen. Simultaneously he wrote his first works for brass band. Aagaard-Nilsen completed his national service in the armed forces as a composer/arranger for the professional military bands in Norway, a cooperation which has continued today.

In 2004 Torstein Aagaard-Nilsen founded the BrassWind Festival in Bergen, a festival organized with help from members of Manger Musikklag. BrassWind focuses on new compositions for brass, wind and percussion. At the festival, Aagaard-Nilsen also presents new ways of utilising school bands in the field of contemporary music.

Aagaard-Nilsen now enjoys an international reputation for his music for Brass and Wind Bands and Ensembles. Cooperation with some of the best brass players in Europe has resulted in several concertos for brass instruments and orchestra – among these his Trombone Concerto No. 2, entitled

"Fanfares and Fairytales", written for PK Svensen and given its first performance in Malmö with PK as the soloist. About this work, which is also the title work of this entire CD, the composer states: "There is an air of excitement over the fairytales where anything can happen and where the powers of Chaos always are to be taken into consideration. I wish to work within a type of expression where there is room for freedom and fantasy, rather than static forms and structures. I am fascinated by the notion of the imaginary story-telling, of the story that is not, but still can be told; thus, a story is being created through tonal strings and structures dictated by Music itself.

In working on "Fanfares and Fairytales" I felt the need of a hectic working pace. There is not the sense of a soloist being accompanied by an orchestra and there are a lot of different things going on at the same time as several musical structures meet and part all the time. Some times they compete; sometimes they cooperate in layers of activity with different dynamics. I consider the work to be active and extrovert – some kind of an extended Fanfare, perhaps. All the different Fanfare building blocks have been inspired by fairytale imagery and are characterized by sudden ideas and notions that sometimes threaten to topple the entire basic structure...The last part of the piece is made up of some kind of varied recapitulation where the material deployed earlier is being developed even further all the way until it moves to an abrupt ending, like most fairytales I ever read."

PK SVENSEN

