

THORESEN: *Sea of Names plus*

Maiken Mathisen Schau, fl; Trond Schau, p
2L 127 [SACD] 71 minutes

Lasse Thoresen (b 1949) has been a professor of composition at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo since 1988. These selections span the years 1976 (*With an Open Hand or a Clenched Fist?*) to 2012-13 (*Sea of Names*). They are for piano, solo flute, or the two together. Sometimes there is extra percussion when the flutist stomps her foot and extra timbre when she adds her voice, or reduces the air from normal playing to whistle tones. The richly sonorous recording presents all this range and variety.

Some of these pieces have been inspired by water or sunlight, but *Sea of Names* for flute and piano is based on the final cadenza in the violin concerto by fellow Norwegian Fartein Valen (BIS 1522, Sept/Oct 2008). The overall concept is often not all that far from the nature-based piano pieces of Edvard Grieg or the contemporary equivalent as offered by Rasmussen (Da Capo 8226567, Nov/Dec 2011). An actual "aquatic fugue" depicts flowing water as a genuine fugue for the piano. People who like the enigmatic piano pieces of Malipiero or the spectral music of Tristain Murail may find these selections contemplative and spectacular. They're certainly played to the hilt by the couple here, and the long title work is worth hearing, if only once, just for its dazzling assortment of sounds.

GORMAN