

PAX is a concept in which music, lyrics and the sacred space of the cathedral energize each other in these performances of new works by Norwegian composers who all approach the theme of peace with their own individual reflections and interpretations. The music is composed specifically to be performed and recorded as an immersive experience.

- 1 Martin Ødegaard: PAX
- 2 Cecilie Ore: Speak LOUDER!
- 3 Eyolf Dale: A Current Peace
- 4 Stine Sørli: Pollination
- 5 Martin Ødegaard: LUX

## Ensemble 96

Nina T. Karlsen conductor Current Saxophone Quartet

Recorded in DXD 24bit/352.8kHz

■ 5.1 DTS-HD MA 24/192kHz ■ 7.1.4 Dolby Atmos 48kHz

■ 2.0 LPCM 24/192kHz ■ 7.1.4 Auro-3D 96kHz

+ mShuttle MP3 and MQA

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AURO 3D

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Ensemble 96 & Current

PAX

Every autumn since 2011 the chamber choir Ensemble 96 and its conductor Nina T. Karlsen have arranged a concert with the title “Peace”. The Current Saxophone Quartet has played at two of these concerts. This is a series of concerts in which music, church interior and message succeed in energizing each other in performances of works whose music and texts approach the theme of peace in different ways, with their own individual reflections and interpretations. An important mission of the concert series is to perform new works by Norwegian composers, and this recording features several of the works which received their first performance at these concerts.

Martin Ødegaard’s *PAX* (2017) for saxophone quartet, choir and vocal sextet is a musical commentary on Arnold Schoenberg’s *Friede Auf Erden*. The text consists of just two words: *pax* and *friede*, and this very simplicity grips the listener more and more firmly as the music unfolds and grows.

Cecilie Ore’s *Speak LOUDER!* (2019) for choir and soloists is a powerful statement on humankind’s assertiveness towards our planet. In the words of Ore and her librettist Bibbi Moslet: “In the last 40 years the population of the earth has doubled. At the same time more than half of all animals, including insects, fish and birds, have disappeared. Over-population is the most serious problem we face in the world today, but is the one that is least talked about. With reference to Genesis 1:28, we want to highlight old dogmas to which we should no longer subscribe, while at the same time we want to give a voice to threatened and extinct species on which the earth’s eco-system is dependent. Why have we humans forgotten that all these species are essential for our own survival?”

Eyolf Dale’s *A Current Peace* (2021) for saxophone quartet was written for the Current Quartet during the pandemic.

In Stine Sørli’s *Pollination* (2010, arranged for SATB and four soloists in 2020) the flowers have a voice. The English text, abounding with Latin flower names, has been written by the composer. The sound world itself is inspired by sounds heard in nature, as well as by noise and electronic sounds – this is a world full of antagonisms and threats, with life-giving pollen dancing in the air alongside life-threatening dust and pollution.

Martin Ødegaard’s *LUX* (2019) for saxophone quartet, double choir and three female voices is built around two lines from the “Lux aeterna” section of the Catholic Requiem. This text was intended to give people hope – of peace, of rest, and of eternal light.

The Norwegian chamber choir **Ensemble 96** consists of 26 singers, and it has won recognition both through its many first performances of contemporary music and its prize-winning recordings. The choir’s two albums *Immortal Nystedt* (2L, 2005) and *Kind* (2L, 2010) were both GRAMMY-nominated in the categories Best Choral Performance and Best Surround Sound. Its album *So Is My Love* (2L, 2017) was GRAMMY-nominated in the category Best Surround Sound. *Immortal Nystedt* was also selected by the newspaper Morgenbladet in 2011 as one of Norway’s 100 best albums of all time.

Ensemble 96 resolutely aspires to maintain a distinct profile as an ensemble celebrating contemporary music. New music by Norwegian composers has long been the choir’s hallmark, and the ensemble regularly commissions and performs new compositions. The choir has also given the first performances in Norway of a large number of works by foreign composers. In addition, the choir has collaborated with visual artists, performance artists, actors and dancers in exploring and extending the boundaries of the concert experience.

**Nina T. Karlsen** has a Bachelor in Music Education, a Masters in Conducting, and has taken further education in church music at the Norwegian Academy of Music, where she is currently a research fellow and lecturer. She was Cathedral Musician from 2012 to 2020 at Tønsberg Cathedral, and she has worked with many different ensembles both as singer and conductor. She has also commissioned a number of works by composers from both inside and outside Norway, and given their first performances. She is in constant demand as free-lance conductor and pedagogue.

Karlsen has been conductor and artistic leader of Ensemble 96 since 2011. Their first recording together was the album *So is my love* (2L, 2017). She also conducted the ensemble in the title song of the album *Come to the Edge!* (Grappa Aurora Music 2019), a collection of vocal music by Cecilie Ore, and they collaborated again on Bjørn Morten Christophersen's album *Lapse of Time* (SIMAX Classics 2022).

The Norwegian saxophone quartet **Current** has, since 2010, been playing contemporary music to a wide public. By commissioning and performing new works from both established and young Nordic composers the quartet has accumulated a sizeable repertoire of significant contemporary music. It has collaborated with such composers as Olav Anton Thommesen, Arnt Håkon Aanesen, Allan Gravgaard Madsen and Johan Svensson. The quartet also works across genre boundaries: it has, for example, collaborated alongside opera singer Amelie Aldner, jazz vocalist Live Foyen Friis and noise musician Morten Minothi on different projects. Current has also toured, giving master classes, in many parts of Europe.

### **Speak LOUDER!**

Cecilie Ore (Text: Bibbi Moslet and Cecilie Ore)

*And God blessed them, and said unto them:  
Be fruitful and multiply!  
Replenish the earth and subdue it!*

*And God said unto them:  
Have dominion over the fish of the sea!  
Have dominion over the fowl of the air!  
Have dominion over every living thing that moveth upon the Earth!  
(Holy Bible, Genesis 1:28)*

*...but... the Bumblebee?  
Speak louder!  
...the South American Bumblebee...  
Louder! Speak louder, please!  
...What happened to the South American Giant Bumblebee?*

*It's threatened by extinction!*

*And what happened to the gorgeous Mountain Gorilla and the Golden mantled tree-Kangaroo?*

*Threatened by extinction!*

*What happened to the Mysterious Canterbury Mudfish, the exotic elegant European Eel and the Lake Victoria Deep-Water Catfish?*

*And many, many more...  
Threatened by extinction!*

*What happened to the Pink-headed Duck, the Yellow-crested Cockatoo, the Black-winged Starling, the Grey-headed Albatross and the Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird?*

*And many, many more...  
They are critically endangered!  
All of them are critically endangered and vanishing!*

*...and the Rhinoceros?  
Louder, please!  
...the West African Rhinoceros...  
Speak louder!  
...What happened to the West African Black Rhinoceros?*

*It is exterminated!*

*What happened to the Silver Trout, the Golden Toad, the beautiful Xerxes Blue Butterfly and the adorable Laughing Owl?*

*...and many, many more, many more...  
They are extinct! Lost and gone forever...*

*During the last 40 years the human population has more than doubled and during the same 40 years more than 50 per cent of all animals, insects, fishes and birds have disappeared.*

*When they are dead, they're dead... there's no coming back.*

*So, what do we do? What do we do? We dominate and subdue. We ignore and neglect that all these wonderful creatures are necessary for our survival.*

*When they are dead, we're dead... there's no coming back.*

*What do we do? We multiply and expand while all other species diminish and die.*

*And when we are dead, we're dead... there's no coming back.  
When we are dead, lost and gone forever...  
Then what do we do?*

### **Pollination**

Stine Sørli (text and music)

*Pollution, pollination, pollution, pollination  
The fog growing so thick, they could hardly remember*

*When all the roses are dead,  
what shall blossom on my grave?*

*She is crying now,  
but smiling in the mirror, see*

*Sedum kamuschaticum, acanthus mollis,  
draba aspera, allium sikkimensis*



*Gold diggers passing by  
Just crawl backwards in the line*

*Carbon desperately in a hurry  
to become diamond*

LUX

Martin Ødegaard

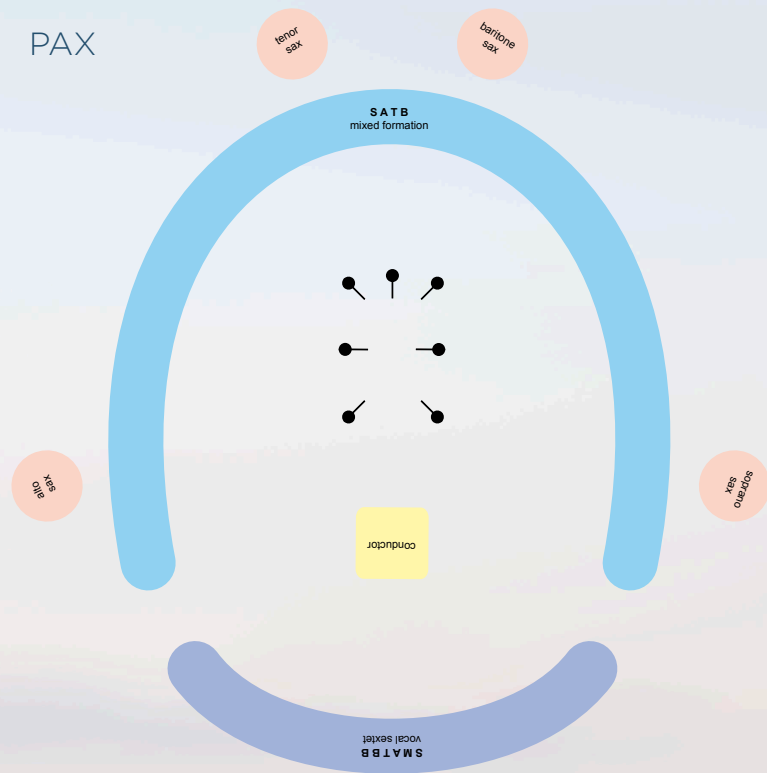
*Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.*







PAX



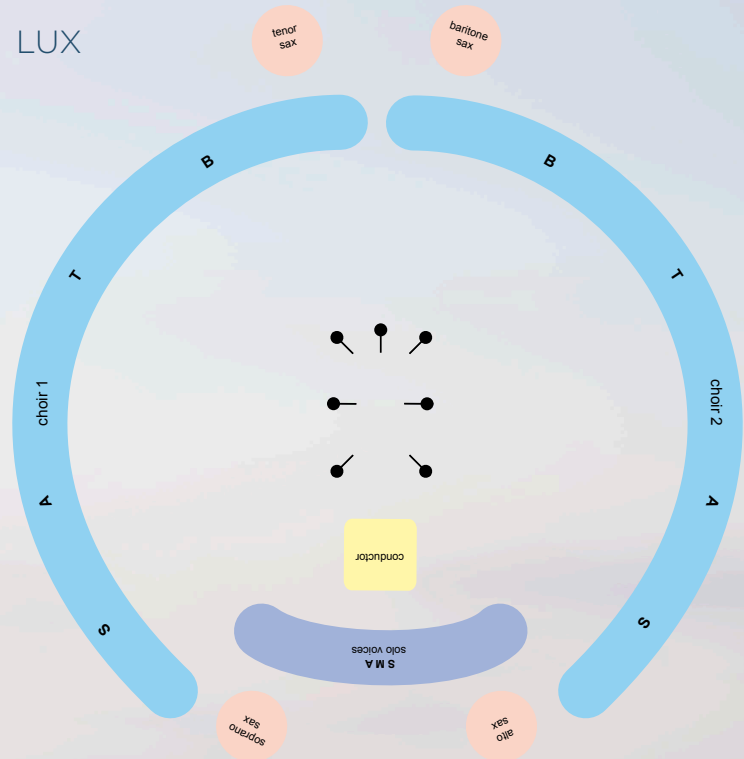








LUX



Siden 2011 har kammerkoret Ensemble 96 og dirigent Nina T. Karlsen hver høst arrangert en konsert med tittelen «Fred». Saksofonkvartetten Current har vært med på to av konsertene. Dette er en konsertserie der musikk, kirkerom og budskap gjensidig forsterker hverandre i fremføringen av verk som musikalsk og tekstlig omhandler ulike tolkninger, refleksjoner og aspekter ved begrepet fred. En sentral del av prosjektet er å fremføre nye verk av norske komponister. På denne innspillingen har vi samlet noen av verkene som er blitt urfremført under disse konsertene.

Martin Ødegaards *PAX* (2017) for saksofonkvartett, kor og vokalsekstett er et kommentarverk til Arnold Schönbergs *Friede Auf Erden*. Teksten består av bare to ord, *pax* og *friede*, og denne enkelheten blir desto mer gripende etter hvert som musikken folder seg ut og vokser.

Cecilie Ores *Speak LOUDER!* (2019) for kor og solister går hardt ut mot menneskenes selvhevdelse på jorden. Ore og med-librettist Bibbi Moslet sier: «I løpet av de siste 40 årene har jordens befolkning doblet seg. Samtidig har mer enn halvparten av alle dyr, insekter, fisk og fugl forsvunnet. Overbefolkningen er et av de største problemene vi står overfor i verden i dag, men noe av det vi snakker minst om. Med referanse til Første Mosebok 1:28 ønsker vi å peke på gamle dogmer som ikke lenger bør etterleves, samtidig som vi ønsker å gi stemme til utrydningstruede og utryddede arter som jordens økosystem er avhengig av. Hvorfor har vi mennesker glemt at alle disse artene er nødvendige for vår overlevelse?»

Eyolf Dales *A Current Peace* (2021) for saksofonkvartett ble skrevet til Current under pandemien, spesielt for denne utgivelsen.

I Stine Sørli's *Pollination* (2010, omarrangert for SATB og fire solister i 2020) har blomstene fått en stemme. Den engelske teksten, ispedd latinske blomsternavn, er skrevet av komponisten. Selve lydbildet er inspirert av naturlyder, støyllyder,

elektroniske lyder – der blomsterstøv og svevestøv, det som bringer liv og det som truer livet, danser gjennom samme luft.

Martin Ødegaards *LUX* (2019) for saksofonkvartett, dobbeltkor og tre kvinnestemmer har tekstbrokker fra Lux aeterna-leddet i den katolske dødsmissen. Denne teksten var ment å gi menneskene håp om fred, hvile og evig lys.

Kammerkoret **Ensemble 96** består av 26 høyt kvalifiserte sangere og er anerkjent både nasjonalt og internasjonalt gjennom konserter, (ur)fremføringer av samtidsmusikk og ikke minst prisbelønnede innspillinger. Både *Immortal Nystedt* (2L, 2005) og *Kind* (2L, 2010) ble GRAMMY-nominert i kategoriene Best Choral Performance og Best Surround Sound. Også *So Is My Love* (2L, 2017) ble Grammy-nominert i kategorien Best Surround Sound. *Immortal Nystedt* ble videre kåret til en av Norgeshistoriens 100 beste plater av Morgenbladet i 2011.

**Ensemble 96** arbeider målbevisst med å opprettholde en tydelig profil som samtidsmusikkensemble. Ny musikk av norske komponister har lenge vært korets varemerke, og Ensemble 96 bestiller og urfremfører jevnlig nye komposisjoner. Koret har også stått for en rekke førstegangsoppføringer av utenlandske komponisters verker i Norge. Koret har også samarbeidet med billedkunstnere, performancekunstnere, skuespillere og dansere om å utforske og utfordre rammene rundt konsertsituasjonen.

**Nina T. Karlsen** har en bachelor i klassisk sang med pedagogikk, master i direksjon og videreutdanning i kirkemusikk fra Norges Musikkhøgskole, der hun nå er universitetslektor og arbeider med en doktorgrad i kunstnerisk utviklingsarbeid. Hun er tidligere domkantor i Tønsberg og har arbeidet med en rekke ulike ensembler både som sanger og dirigent. Hun har stått for en rekke bestillinger og urfremføringer av verker av norske og utenlandske komponister, og er en ettertraktet kursholder og frilansdirigent.

Karlsen har vært dirigent og kunstnerisk leder for kammerkoret Ensemble 96 siden 2011. Deres første innspilling sammen var *So is my love* (2L, 2017). Ensemble 96 og Karlsen har også spilt inn tittelverket på *Come to the Edge!* (Grappa Aurora Music 2019), en samling vokalverker av Cecilie Ore, og medvirker på innspillingen av Bjørn Morten Christophersens *Lapse of Time* (SIMAX Classics 2022).

Den norske saksofonkvartetten **Current** har siden 2010 arbeidet med å formidle ny musikk til et bredt publikum. Gjennom å kontinuerlig bestille og urfremføre verk av både etablerte og unge nordiske komponister, har kvartetten opparbeidet seg et stort repertoar bestående av dagsaktuell musikk. Olav Anton Thommesen, Arnt Håkon Aanesen, Allan Gravgaard Madsen og Johan Svensson er eksempler på nåværende og tidligere komponistsamarbeid. Kvartetten jobber i tillegg på tvers av sjangre og har blant annet gjort prosjekter med operasanger Amelie Aldner, jazzvokalist Live Foyen Friis og støymusiker Morten Minothi. Current har også turnert og gitt masterklasser i store deler av Europa.

Anders Abelseth \*  
Åshild Henriksen-Haltli  
Gudrun Faleide Fristad  
Silje Eckhoff Varhaug  
Kathrine Kirkeng Oseid \*\*

\* *PAX* og *LUX*

\*\* *A Current Peace*

#### Sopraner:

Johanne Asp  
Eli Feiring  
Sigrid Gunnarsjaa \*  
Inger Honerød  
Mari Johanne Müller \*\*  
Elisabeth Maria Neuhaus  
Barbro Mjelde Solberg \*  
Ingrid Kinne Tunestveit  
Kristine Våge

#### Alter:

Camilla Cockman \*\*  
Ingrid Trøym Lereim  
Hanne Løge \*\*  
Anne Opedal  
Liv-Helene Slettum Sivertsen  
Åste Jensen Sjøvaag \*\*  
Kirsti Vogt

#### Tenorer:

Stefan Hauptig  
Adrian Kellner  
Torfinn Kleive  
Erik Hoel Skjønhaug  
Ingvar Örn Thrastarson

#### Basser:

Sondre Engesæth  
Osvold Fossholm  
Adrian Skogvang  
Øyvind Totland \*  
Martin Vangsnes \*\*  
Ståle Tvette Vollen  
Iver Waage  
Martin Ødegaard

\* *Speak LOUDER!* og *Pollination*

\*\* *PAX* og *LUX*

Solistsektett, *PAX*: Mari J. Müller, Kristine Våge, Liv-Helene Slettum Sivertsen, Ingvar Örn Thrastarson, Sondre Engesæth, Iver Waage  
Solisttrio, *LUX*: Johanne Asp, Kristine Våge, Ingrid Trøym Lereim  
Solister, *Speak LOUDER*: Kristine Våge (mezzosopran), Sondre Engesæth (baryton)  
Solister, *Pollination*: Johanne Asp, Liv-Helene Slettum Sivertsen



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*Morten Lindberg* balance engineer and recording producer

Recorded in Uranienborg Church, Norway  
September 2020 and 2021 by Lindberg Lyd AS

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This recording was made by Lindberg Lyd AS with DPA microphones and HORUS converters to a PYRAMIX workstation on Ravenna AoIP with Genelec ONE monitoring. Digital eXtreme Definition is a professional audio format that brings analogue qualities in 24 bit at 352.8 kHz sampling rate.

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Martin Ødegaard  
1 PAX 11:55

Cecilie Ore  
2 Speak LOUDER! 16:07

Eyolf Dale  
3 A Current Peace 7:32

Stine Sørli  
4 Pollination 5:35

Martin Ødegaard  
5 LUX 8:41

Ensemble 96  
Current Saxophone Quartet (1, 3, 5)  
Nina T. Karlsen, conductor