



Wanted

PIERRE BOULEZ: Troisième Sonate · ELLIOTT CARTER: Night Fantasies · ASBJØRN SCHAATHUN: Physis – for amplified piano and five digital harmonizers · Adagio and Allegro

Håkon Austbø, piano

Austbø is a fiend in some of the most attractive and complex modernistic music there is.

Celebrated pianist Håkon Austbø pursues an old dream on this release – he takes on some of the most attractive and complex material that exists within the modernistic music. Armed with a Steinway concert grand and a MIDI trigger for the MAX-patch, Austbø goes after the avant garde.

Håkon Austbø (1948) is a highly profiled musician within modern musical expression in Europe. He has been awarded many international awards for his work on Messiaen and Skryabin. After 30 years in the Netherlands, Austbø is now back in Norway as Professor of piano at the University of Stavanger, with a very full schedule of both recordings and concerts. «Wanted» is the second solo recording for Aurora.

Boulez

Pierre Boulez institutionalized aleatoric music in his Troisième Sonate. "I have often compared this work with the plan of a city. One does not change its design, one perceives exactly what it is, and there are different ways of going through it. One can choose one's own way through it, but there are certain traffic regulations." Pierre Boulez in: Sonate, que me veux-tu? (1960). Very much inspired by the ideas of John Cage about principles of chance in music, Boulez also brings forth Joyce and Mallarmé as important inspirators. Austbø has taken the natural step further and given each section tracks, so that the listener can make his own route through the city.

Carter

If Troisième Sonate represents a historical point in Boulez' development, Night Fantasies was a turning point in Elliott Carter's oeuvre. "Night Fantasies is a piano piece of continuously changing moods, suggesting the fleeting thoughts and feelings that pass through the mind during a period of wakefulness at night." Carter, too, builds up his piece by contrasting episodes, but he himself makes the choice of route through the labyrinth. We are taken into a landscape where fluidity coexists with intensity, flexibility with rigidity. Carter's Night Fantasies remains a milestone in the piano literature of the 20th century.

Schaathun

In Asbjørn Schaathun's case, the years around the composition of Physis were decisive in the establishment of his aesthetic. He realised that it was no longer possible to write music based merely on a "feeling" of the material, and started combining the stochastic approach of Xenakis with serial procedures, inspired by Stockhausen. The seven areas of Physis provide a fixed framework, each area consisting of a larger section, played without electronics, followed by smaller ones using electronics. The smaller sections are always interchangeable, the performer choosing the order. The Allegro and Adagio (2010) is described by the composer as a small 'encore', and on the disc it also constitutes a link between the avant garde and our own time.

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"– Cd-en er et must for alle som vil være på høyde med det nivå moderne klaverkunst befinner seg på. [6 Arnfinn

Bø-Rygg / Stavanger Aftenblad]"



"- Utsøkt fortolker. [...] Hans tekniske beherskelse av partiturene er forbilledlig. [5 Ståle Wikshåland / Dagbladet]"



"- Spillet er fantastisk. Austbøs følsomhet svekker ikke musikkens strukturer, men skildrer dem med ømhet, slik man kan gå i byen og la hånden røre ved de ru veggene. [Erling Sandmo / Morgenbladet]"

"- Austbø gir hver klang sin farge, sitt anslag og fundament, og jeg får en fornemmelse av det vakre i det uforståelige. [6 Ida Habbestad / Aftenposten]"



"- Hakon spielt mit viel Engagement und wertet durch seine individuellen Ansätze die Musik von Boulez und Carter auf; dem aufgeschlossenen Publikum wird mit Schaathun ein zeitgenössischer Komponist vorgestellt, den man unbedingt im Auge behalten sollte. [Pizzicato]"



"- Austbø er en musiker med fenomenal teknikk og kompositorisk følsomhet, bevist i hans intelligente toner og den sensitive og dessuten fineste fremføringen jeg har hørt av Carters visjonære Night fantasies. En fremragende plate. [6 Guy Rickards / Klassisk Musikkmagasin]"

