

Going To Pieces · Without Falling Apart

Concerto for Harp, Recorder and String Orchestra (2004/2012)

1	The dawn chorus	04.21
2	Morning Raga	03.01
3	Sunrise	05.23
4	The African girl	03.43
5	A summer nightfall	02.03
6	Chanting monks	05.28
7	Gentle summer rain	01.36
8	A spiritual carousel	05.46
9	A golden mystery	02.54
10	The Chinese girl	02.07
11	Lullabies while the adults are talking	06.18
12	Shadow Waltz	03.23

13	Afterthoughts	09.01	Palle Mikkelborg · Trumpet
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Total: 55.10

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Going To Pieces · Without Falling Apart

PALLE MIKKELBORG

Composer/Trumpet

“My life is like a symphony in different movements”

If there is a musical Hell, it is surely staffed by record label marketing execs and industry journalists whose job it is to lock-down, label and ultimately consign any creative artist to the oblivion of a “category!” While such nomenclature is useful for consumers - lest we confuse Hip Hop with Gregorian chant - it can obfuscate more than it clarifies; creating false dichotomies and tensions, reducing creativity to a bland assortment of easy-to-quantify pieces. And then, there are those artists, whose very soul-power transcends and bursts out from the tidy little boxes into which they have been kept: Maria Callas stands arm-in-arm with Ella Fitzgerald; the Beatles have joined Bach, Beethoven and Brahms as the fourth “B”; Charlie Parker expressed his admiration on more than one occasion for his Greenwich Village neighbor Edgard Varèse...

... And Palle Mikkelborg. Armed with only an electric trumpet and the single-minded desire to explore music and its magic, Palle has brought down the walls of dozens of musical Jerichos, lovingly reassembling the pieces into new patterns of extraordinary beauty. In this, he has followed in the footsteps of one of his preeminent musical spirit-guides, the American composer Charles Ives. But instead of mapping that place in the soul “all made of tunes of long ago”, Palle’s journey takes us to a place all made of music – from everywhere we’ve ever dreamed.

“You put out a note and you take the time to wait for the Echo to come back...”

More than a hundred published credits fill Palle’s musical resume; extraordinary collaborations with Gil Evans, Terje Rypdal, Miles Davis, Jan Garbarek, Gary Peacock, Shankar, Don Cherry – thousand of notes, each returning with its own inexpressibly beautiful echo. Despite such a well-documented career, Palle continues to confound industry pundits; defining new genres and modes of expression that span the music-work of all of humanity. And yet, his music continues to be burdened with dozens of labels: the “Scandinavian” Sound; the “ECM” Sound; the “Nordic” Sound; Spiritual Jazz; a Romantic; a Nature Mystic; a pioneer. But in this instance, all the separate pieces hold together. Palle is above all an alchemist and a storyteller... weaving tales with heroes with names like “George Russell”, “Dexter Gordon”, “Niels-Henning Ørsted Pedersen” and “Bill Evans” – a true Fellowship of a Ring of Sound. And we’re all invited to join them on their joyous odysseys!

Palle has learned to wait for the magic that sound can create. He has learned to identify its colours and auras. He has coaxed from it its secrets and has documented his journey with a glorious repertoire of “concert-scapes” that we can wander and explore. He invites us to join him – to share in his vision, and learn how to listen; we are well advised to follow his lead – there’s no telling where he’ll take us next!

Joshua Cheek

PALLE MIKKELBORG

on *Going To Pieces Without Falling Apart*

When I was asked to compose a major work for two soloists and string orchestra it took me a while to find inspiration as I had not composed anything for large ensemble for a long time. But I found myself gradually waking up to the possibilities.

I needed a theme...an idea...and suddenly both title and inspiration came to me while on tour when I saw a book "Going To Pieces Without Falling Apart" by Mark Epstein in a bookshop window. This simple phrase resonated with me and summarised my own humble attempts at embarking upon life's spiritual "journey"... a journey of joy, humility and respect; a "vision quest" that has been a part of me for most of my life - in other words: my life-giving meditation.

The truth is that I see my musical career as a symphony in many movements; each movement capturing impressions of fascinating meetings with musicians from many cultural spheres; knowing that we are all painting with different colours on our palettes. I have always enjoyed meeting in the "overtones" where we all recognise each other's deepest desires despite our more earthbound differences.

And so it has been with my own understanding of the spiritual side of life - without being bound by one single religion; just a chance meeting between the spiritual "overtones" - while on our path to discover life's meaning...



As this work attempts to be both descriptive and yet able to stand completely on its own, I have given the individual movements some poetic lines of explanation...

- 1 The dawn chorus
Eyes are closed, all is calm, nature awakens.
- 2 Morning Raga
A morning raga is heard from afar.
- 3 Sunrise
The sun rises... and life-giving light spreads.
- 4 The African girl
A beautiful African girl walks gracefully with her water jug towards the river.
- 5 A summer nightfall
A summer night spreads its mystical, fascinating darkness.
- 6 Chanting monks
The monks give praise with their song.
- 7 Gentle summer rain
The cleansing power of gentle summer rain.
- 8 A spiritual carousel
The demanding carousel starts running with a waltz that accelerates into a diabolical tango...

- 9 A Golden mystery
Calm returns and a golden mystery brings clarity.
- 10 The Chinese girl
A little Chinese girl with bright hope in her eyes...
- 11 Lullabies while the adults are talking
A sense of security is felt by a small child who lies under the table listening to the murmur of adults talking.
- 12 Shadow Waltz
The reality of everyday returns with the Shadow Waltz.
- 13 **Afterthoughts**
The wish to include the sound of my trumpet in this journey became more and more clear and I decided to use some of the themes and orchestrations, here shaped by Thomas Li, to say a personal thank you for "Going To Pieces", but absolutely "Without Falling Apart".

Tracks 1-12 were originally written for harp, violin and string orchestra in 2004. The violin part was revised for recorder in 2012 for Michala Petri.

My heartfelt thanks to the two soloists, Helen Davies and Michala Petri; to Henrik Vagn Christensen, Preben Iwan, the South Jutland Symphony Orchestra and to Thomas Li, Lars Hannibal and OUR recordings.



HELEN DAVIES

Harp

Helen Davies's career as a harpist is diverse and eclectic. Her wide-ranging musical life has seen her combine a distinguished orchestral solo-harpist career in Ireland and Scandinavia with scholarly research in 18th and 19th century harp music, arranging and performing Irish traditional harp music and the harp music of her native Wales, and since 1989, working in the field of contemporary improvised music and electronics with her husband, trumpet player and composer Palle Mikkelborg, with whom she has performed throughout Scandinavia, Australia, the Far East, China and the US. She has also worked closely with the renowned *Copenhagen Royal Chapel Choir* and has toured extensively with them.

Helen studied harp in Wales with Ann Griffiths and read music at *Birmingham University* (UK). In latter years, apart from her professional career with Palle Mikkelborg, her interest in early music and the Northern European folk tradition has inspired her to establish a duo with Poul Høxbro (flutes and percussion) and more recently a trio with Poul and well-known Norwegian musician, Gunnar Stubseid (hardanger fiddle). Helen has published several books of harp music and has featured on numerous recordings. Her solo CD *Open the Door Softly* was nominated for a Danish Music Award, and her most recent solo CD *Chasing the Breeze* was nominated for a Danish Radio Listener's Prize.

MICHALA PETRI

Recorders

Since her debut as a child prodigy at the Tivoli Concert Hall in 1969, Michala Petri has established herself as one of the world's leading exponents of the recorder. She has toured the globe, appearing as a soloist with major chamber and symphony orchestras, and with artists such as Pinchas Zukerman, Sir James Galway, Joshua Bell, Maurice André, Gidon Kremer, Heinz Holliger, Claudio Abbado, and jazz icon Keith Jarrett. In 1992 she formed a duo with Danish guitarist and lute player Lars Hannibal, with whom she performs worldwide.

Petri has demonstrated her astonishing virtuosity across a broad repertoire, from Baroque and Early Music to challenging contemporary pieces. Through the years more than hundred works have been composed especially for her.

Among her many prize-winning recordings are the *Vivaldi Recorder Concertos*, with Vladimir Spivakov and the Moscow Virtuosi, which won the *Deutscher Schallplattenpreis*, so did *Kreisler Inspirations*, with Lars Hannibal. The *Bach Sonatas and Händel Sonatas*, with Keith Jarrett, and the highly acclaimed *Los Angeles Street Concerto: Michala Petri plays Thomas Koppel*, which topped the Best Classical Album category at the 2006 Danish Music Awards.

In 2006 Petri and Hannibal established their own record label, OUR Recordings. 19 CDs have been released under this label, including the Grammy®-nominated *Movements* and the pioneering *Dialogue - East meets West* series, including the Grammy®-nominated *Chinese Recorder Concertos*, and *English Recorder Concertos*, the latest addition to Petri's contemporary concerto project.

Most recently, the album *The Nightingale*, an innovative program showcasing 4 new pieces written especially for Michala with the Danish National Vocal Ensemble conducted by Stephen Layton, received the 2012 German Echo Klassik Award, as well as two Grammy® nominations.

Michala Petri received in 2000 the prestigious Léonie Sonning Music Prize. In 2011 she was awarded Knight of Dannebrog of the 1. rank and in 2012 she was appointed Honorary Professor at The Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen.

Photo: Svend Withfelt



HENRIK VAGN CHRISTENSEN

Conductor

Born in 1963 and educated at The Royal Academy of Music in Ålborg, Århus and Copenhagen with the conductors Jorma Panula, Frans Rasmussen and Tamàs Vetö. Furthermore he studied in Stockholm and London prior to his debut concert with *Copenhagen Philharmonic* in 1994.

With his committed engagement to the *Royal Danish Ballet*, Henrik Vagn Christensen has established himself as a leading Danish ballet conductor. He has conducted the entire classic and romantic ballet repertoire including *Romeo and Juliet*, *Swan Lake*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Napoli*, *A Folk Tale*, *Symphony in C*, *Serenade* and *La Sylphide*. His work as a company conductor at the *Royal Danish Ballet* has led to a number of tours in Europe, USA and Asia, performing in Madrid's *Teatro Real*, New York, Washington, San Francisco, Tokyo, Osaka, Beijing and Shanghai. Mr. Vagn Christensen has furthermore been conducting productions at *The Norwegian Opera*, *State Theatre Dance Company* in Pretoria, South Africa and *Danish Dance Theatre*.

In addition to conducting ballet music, Henrik Vagn Christensen has a broad and extensive repertoire, that includes opera, symphonic works, musicals, contemporary music and military music. He is a regular guest conductor with the major Danish orchestras and has conducted concerts and engagements throughout Europe. He held the position as *Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of The Queen's Guard in Copenhagen* and for *The Prince's Guard in Skive, Denmark* until 2009. To be mentioned is also his engagement at the *Danish National Opera*, where he conducted Carl Nielsen's *Masquerade*, the musicals *Matador* and *My Fair Lady*, as well as a long row of theatre productions at *The Royal Danish Theatre* and concerts with the *Danish National Chamber Orchestra*.

His discography includes numerous recordings, especially with the *Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra* and the *Danish National Chamber Orchestra*.

In the season 2012-13 he has been guest conductor at the *Finnish National Ballet* and the *Royal Swedish Ballet*, and made his succesful debut at *New York City Ballet*.

Photo: Henrik Stenberg



SOUTH JUTLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A touring regional orchestra with 65 permanent musicians the South Jutland Symphony Orchestra was established in 1963 and gave its first concert on September 22 of that year.

South Jutland Symphony Orchestra plays about 150 concerts a year, with music ranging from popular to classical, with new and old music, church- and family concerts, and concerts with local choirs, as well as an annual joint concert with Schleswig-Holstein Sinfonieorchester. In addition the orchestra has great focus on children and plays in both kindergartens, schools and colleges north and south of the Danish/German border.

South Jutland Symphony Orchestra is housed in Alslion in Sønderborg. The building also includes University of Southern Denmark, a science section and a concert hall, which is built specifically for classical music and has an acoustic which is one of the best in Europe.

When the orchestra is not playing in Alslion, every year it travels several thousand kilometers to venues in Denmark and northern Germany to reach out to audiences across the region. South Jutland Symphony Orchestra plays for the National Opera performances in the region and takes part in broadcasts on Danish Radio P2.





Lars Hannibal



Preben Iwan

Palle Mikkelsen

Recorded in Alsjon Concert Hall, Sønderborg, Denmark,
December 17-21, 2012.

Track 13 *Afterthoughts* recorded, produced and mixed in MyRoomStudio, Østerbro,
Denmark by Thomas Li, January 2013. www.thomasli.com

Producer: Preben Iwan Timbre Music www.timbremusic.com

Mastering: Preben Iwan

Executive producer: Lars Hannibal

Cover photo: Svend Withfelt

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**Augustinus Fonden,
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Dansk Solist-Forbund, EDITION WILHELM HANSEN

A. P. Møller og Hustru Chastine McKinney Møllers Fond til almene Formaal.

Recorders: Moeck, Ehlert and Mollenhauer

Trumpet: Martin

Harp: Salvi Minerva around 1960

Flugelhorn: Couesnon

Thanks to Mark Epstein for allowing the use of the title from his book
Going To Pieces Without Falling Apart.

Recorded in the DXD audio format (Digital eXtreme Definition), 352.8 kHz/32bit,
Microphone main array: 5x DPA 4006TL & 2x 4011TL microphones for surround
channels. Solo spot microphones: 2x Neumann KM184 & 2x DPA 4011TL,
DAD AX24 converters/preamps, Pyramix DAW system with Tango Controller.
Monitored on B&W 802 Diamond speakers.



Palle Mikkelborg

Prizes, Honours and Awards:

- 1968 Danish Jazz Musician of The Year
- 1976 Lange-Müller Prize
- 1977 Danish Conductor Association's Prize Of Honour
- 1987 Danish Musicians' Union's Prize Of Honour
- 1987 The Niels Prize (as a member of the Heart to Heart Trio)
- 1991 LO Cultural Prize
- 1991 Danish Conductor Association's Travel Scholarship
- 1993 Randers Cultural Prize
- 1996 Nominated for the JazzPar Prize
- 1997 Wilhelm Hansen Composer Prize
- 1999 Carl Nielsen and Anne Marie Carl Nielsen Award
- 2002 Nordic Council's Music Prize
- 2003 Django D'Or Legend Of Jazz
- 2005 Appointed Hans Christian Andersen Ambassador
- 2006 IFPI's Honorary Prize
- 2007 Gentofte Kommune Cultural Prize
- 2009 Poul and Sylvia Schierbeck Scholarship

- 2009 Member of Royal Swedish Academy of Music
- 2010 Velux-Foundation Prize of Honour
- 2012 Copenhagen Jazz Festival Honorary Award
- 2013 Ben Webster Prize of Honour

Knight Of The Order Of Dannebrog

The Album AURA:

Nominated for The Nordic Council's Music Prize

Received 2 Grammy® Awards

1990 voted No.2 Jazz Album of the Year
by Down Beat Magazine

1990-91 voted No.1 Jazz Album of the Year
in the Down Beat Magazine Readers' Poll

The Album ANYTHING BUT GREY:

1992 Nominated for the Best Danish Jazz Release

1993 Received a Danish Grammy Award



OUR Recordings

GRAMMY® Award Nomination 2008 *Movements*

GRAMMY® Award Nomination 2011 *Chinese Recorder Concertos*

Gramophone Award Nomination 2012 *Half Monk - Half Rascal*

Danish Music Award Nomination 2012 *Half Monk - Half Rascal*

ECHO KLASSIK Award 2012 *The Nightingale*

two GRAMMY® Nominations 2012 *The Nightingale*

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