



OUR Recordings Digital EP Release

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WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

KYIV

NATALIA GORDEYEVA VIOLIN

MORTEN JESSEN COMPOSER & PIANO

OUR Recordings

I. HOPE.....	4:53
II. PERSISTENCE.....	4:49
III. GRIEF.....	5:58
IV. SLAVA UKRAINI.....	7:05
TOTAL.....	22:55



ABOUT THE MUSIC

KYIV – The Music of Empathy: A cross-cultural collaboration between a Danish composer who's never been to Ukraine and a refugee violinist, far from her war torn home.

The Ukrainian violinist Natalia Gordeyeva and the Danish composer and multi-instrumentalist Morten Jessen are releasing a new work born of the horrors of war and hopes for peace. The composition *KYIV* consists of four movements written for piano and violin.

Natalia Gordeyeva was born and raised in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, where, before the war, she had a successful career both as a soloist and chamber musician, performing in renowned concert halls and festivals worldwide. In Kyiv, she had her own music academy for 10 years. After the war broke out, she fled to Copenhagen, where she has started to build a new life and career, performing concerts, participating in various charity events on TV, and even playing for the Danish Parliament, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, King Frederik, and Queen Mary.

Hope from the Underground Front

Morten Jessen began composing *KYIV* shortly after war began, inspired by the courage and strength of Kyiv's defenders. After he finished his piece, he contacted the Ukrainian priest from Kharkiv, Viktor Marynychak, who held services in the darkness of the Kharkiv subway during the Russians' six-month siege of the city. Marynychak's sermon focused on the strength, hope, and resilience of the Ukrainian people. Jessen contacted the priest, and they began a correspondence. The priest suggested contributing to charity concerts with a new text written directly for Ukrainian refugees in Denmark. The text would be recorded in his church in Kharkiv and played at the concerts as an introduction to the music.

From YouTube to Reality

A year after the war started, Natalia found a video on YouTube titled *KYIV*. In the video, Morten plays the 1st movement of the current work. Natalia immediately felt her own story reflected in the music and promptly contacted the pianist. Since then, the two have collaborated closely on a series of charity concerts for Ukraine, performing at venues such as the *National Museum* in Copenhagen, *Elsinore Cathedral*, and the *Lviv Philharmonic*. The piece is also scheduled to be performed at *Kyiv Philharmonic and Lviv Philharmonic* in May 2024.

Hope and Solidarity

The work aims to express solidarity with the Ukrainian people and is an unequivocal call for the West to continue supporting Ukraine and maintain faith for a brighter future in the fragmented world order we are experiencing. The piece *KYIV* should be seen as a symbol of overcoming and triumphing over near impossible odds.

Interview with composer Morten Jessen on Ukraine radio.

"I started writing KYIV right after the war started, and like everyone else I was very affected by this injustice and it saddened me deeply that so many lives should be affected and so much suffering should take place because of man's stupidity. But what truly inspired me was the reaction of the Ukrainian people. The bravery, the determination and the sacrifice - No one had seen this coming, not the west and especially not Putin.

I started writing, and in the fall 2022 I had sketches for all four movements. This is when I heard about Viktor Marynychak, a priest in Kharkiv who held mass in the Kharkiv subway during the Russian siege and who talked about how he got inspiration from the time we live in to give a dignified response. He also blessed soldiers as there were going to the front and I was very inspired reading about him. I contacted him and he agreed to write a speech in which he would also talk about hope. And it came to work as an introduction to the piece.

That winter the piece really started to take form, and I uploaded piano versions of the different movements on YouTube. At that time, I actually started to feel doubtful: I have never seen war, I have never been to Ukraine, did I find the right speak for these people?

Natalia found my music on YouTube and contacted me to tell me how much the piece moved her and how she thought it had captured the spirit of the city of Kyiv. This was when the music came to a sort of conclusion for me. It felt like it reached its destination.

KYIV is a new piece of music composed to inspire hope in a time when the world is in crisis. The piece was composed to show solidarity with the Ukrainian people and stand together in the belief for a better future. It is my hope that this music could contribute to a better understanding of the struggle in which the Ukrainian people are fighting for the entire West, and where KYIV is a symbol of overcoming unmanageable challenges."



NATALIA GORDEYEVA

Ukrainian violinist Natalia Gordeyeva possesses a unique and distinguished violin tone. Jean-Pierre Gounod, the grand-son of a famous French composer, described her performance style as *“intelligent, elegant and full of musical valour”*. The violinist Ida Haendel, wrote of Natalia *“She plays with respect for the score, which is a quality rare these days”*.

Natalia Gordeyeva is a passionate follower of the Yehudi Menuhin violin school, inherited from Prof. Habib Kayaleh, a former student of Menuhin and Natalia’s mentor.

Born in Kyiv, Natalia performed her first solo recital at the age of 7. At the age of 10 she performed as a soloist with the *Kyiv Camerata* chamber orchestra. She later had her stage debut at the age of 13, when she performed with the *National Philharmonic Orchestra* of Ukraine.

Natalia is an experienced chamber musician. As a member of chamber groups and as a soloist, Natalia has performed on significant European stages such as *Casa Paganini* in Genova, *Teatro Filarmonico* in Verona, *United Nations Hall* in Geneva, *Victoria Hall* in Geneva, *Deutsche Bank Hall* in Brussels, *Tonhalle* in Zurich, and *European House* in Copenhagen. Natalia was a guest of the *Snow and Symphony Festival* in St. Moritz, *Yehudi Menuhin Festival* in Gstaad and *Jewish Culture Festival* in Copenhagen. Natalia also performed solo recitals in Tokyo and Osaka, Japan.

After finishing her studies in Switzerland, Natalia returned to Kyiv and opened her private music school *Music Arts Academy* in 2014, which was the first private music academy in Ukraine. For more than a decade Natalia contributed to the development of the amateur and professional musicianship in Ukraine alike, having an impact on the cultural life of Ukrainian society.

Following the Invasion of Ukraine February 24th, 2022, Natalia evacuated to Denmark and committed herself to promoting Ukrainian culture in Europe. She was quickly re-established as a brilliant musician and performed at the numerous Ukraine-supporting events and charity concerts as well as solo recitals all around Denmark. Among them are stages of *Jewish Culture Festival*, *Culture Night Festival*, *Ukrainian Days in the Literature House of Copenhagen*. In the past year Natalia also performed Ukrainian programs for *Deutsche Bank's Forum* in *Schloss Elmau* and for the *Lions Club* members in Zurich.

The highlights of the last season were live performances at the *Danish National Television DR1*, performances for the Danish Parliament members, Prime Minister of Denmark, for the Ambassador of Ukraine, for His Majesty the King Frederik X and his wife Queen Mary during the mourning service at the *Holmens Kirke* in Copenhagen, that was also broadcasted live.

During the 2024 season Natalia will join Danish composer Morten Jessen for a tour throughout Denmark.

In Summer 2024 she will perform a recital at the *Copenhagen Summer Festival*, as well as collaborate with *Danish publishing house Edition Svitzer* to record and publish unknown Ukrainian pieces.





MORTEN JESSEN (b.1985)

Composer, multi-instrumentalist, and founder of the *Nordic Church Ensemble*. The genre-less encounter with the church space is the focal point of the compositional work. The space serves as a framework for a dreamy and timeless expression, where reminiscences of impressionism and Nordic melancholy blend with the tonal colors of the church space.

Concerts and Venues

Morten Jessen's music has been performed at various Danish and international venues, festivals, and online platforms as well as on radio including the *Lviv National Philharmonic*, *Sound Art Festival* at Koncertkirken, *Danish National Radio P2*, *Night Owl* live radio event at *The Lake Radio*, audiovisual release via the music blog *Passive/Aggressive*, and numerous churches including *Elisnor Cathedral* and the *Holy Spirit Church*. The music is published by *Edition Svitzer* and *OUR Recordings*.

Selected Collaborations

Arranged for and performed with artists such as *The Savage Rose*, *Nikolaj Nørlund*, *Quadron*, *Phlake*, *Lukas Graham*, *Vinnie Who*, *Tivolis Bigband*, *Monday Night Bigband*, *Mikael Simpson*, *Iceage*, *Bisse*, and *Ulige Numre*.

Education

Trombonist from the *Rhythmic Music Conservatory* in Copenhagen (RMC).
Organist and choir leader from the *Zealand Church Music School* in Roskilde.

Recent Releases

2023: The piece *KYIV* was created with a desire to show solidarity with the Ukrainian people and is a call to the Western countries to continue standing together in faith for a better future in a new and more fragmented world order. The work has recently been performed at the *Lviv National Philharmonic* and *Elsinor Cathedral*.

2022: The piece *Your First Testament* consists of four movements and is a reflection on the many phases of life and what each of us leaves behind. The work premiered at the *Holy Spirit Church* by the *Nordic Church Ensemble*.

2021: *Fear Not the City Lights*, a church music piece in four movements that revolves around the divine in a modern world. The work premiered at *Høsterkøb Church* by the *Nordic Church Ensemble*.

2019: *Angel of Light* a sound installation created in collaboration with composer Lars Greve consisting of eight interacting organs playing the sun down. The piece opened the *Sound Art Festival* at *Koncertkirken* in Copenhagen





Recorded January 16th, 2024, in Høsterkøb Church, Denmark

Producer: Mette Due and Lars Hannibal

Edit, mix and master: Mette Due

Executive producer: Lars Hannibal

Photos: Dennis Morton

Liner notes: Morten Jessen

Cover art: CEZBP/OUR Recordings

Violin: An approximately 200 years old hand made violin with no label, which have been assumptively removed during one of the wars to avoid robbery.

Piano: Steinway Model B from 2021.

Recording specifications:

Recorded in the DXD audio format (Digital eXtreme Definition, 352.8 kHz/32bit).

Pyramix DAW system with HAPI preamps/converters.

Monitored on Adam P11 speakers and Sennheiser HD 8S headphones.

Microphones: 2 x DPA 4006, 2 x Sennheiser MKH40, 2 x AKG 414, 2x Neumann KM184.

A special thanks to Viktor Marynchak for sharing his thoughts and insight into this conflict, to Høsterkøb church for supporting this project and to my family for giving me the love that makes it possible for me to create.

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