



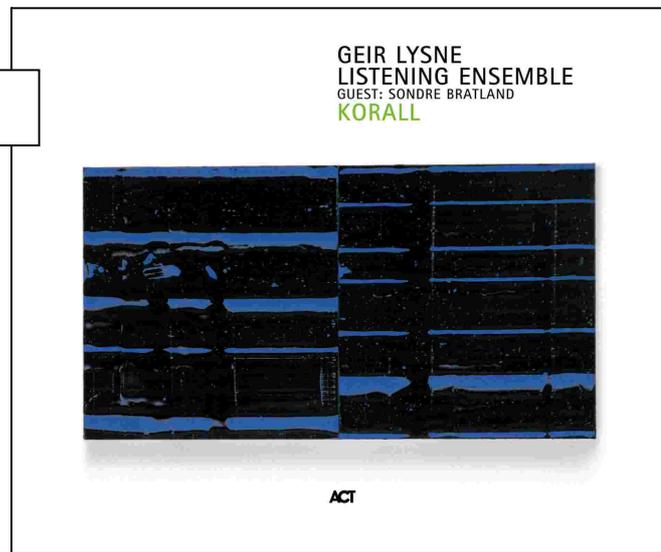
GEIR LYSNE

KORALL

Geir Lysne Listening Ensemble
Special guest: Sondre Bratland

ACT 9236-2

(LC) 07644



Release date: 27. January 2003

"Ingen vinner frem til den evige ro" is a very old piece of music. The melody's genesis has been lost in the mists of Norwegian folklore. The only thing that is sure is that Lars Linderot wrote the spiritual text in 1798. You don't have to speak Norwegian to know what the song is about. It speaks of wandering in the gloom, belief in a higher force, the search for eternal peace. In principle, it's the same with jazz, that bastard child of bordello and church. It is probably the only modern music form that, by accident or design, has undertaken the search for God in this age of secularization.

"Ingen vinner frem til den evige ro" is at the center of "Korall", the new album of Geir Lysne's Listening Ensemble, which was formed in 1999. Norwegian folk singer Sondre Bratland interprets the church hymn from the depths of her heart, humbly restrained, and with a quiet faith. Like a lost soul, an electric guitar wails in the background, while an acoustic bass spits out dark threats. But when the horns enter, strong, bright, and magnificent, one suddenly senses that heaven is very near. Without question a choral for the 21st century. And thus a possible manifestation of what 37 year old Norwegian composer Geir Lysne conceives as his aural vision of "Nordic sound" for a large ensemble.

Lysne lives with his wife, his two sons, and five chickens in a wooden house not far from Oslo. He says, "I am not concerned about styles linked to the big band tradition. For me the big band is just an instrumentation with unique possibilities for colouring sounds in a jazz format." With the group's unique flute-like sound, electric rhythm section with two percussionists, Lysne has infiltrated the big band tradition. These unusual instrumental modifications give his Listening Ensemble, made up of Norwegian and German musicians, a specific sound somewhere between deep, heavy Norwegian soul, powerful jazz-rock, and ambient irritation. In addition, there is Lysne's penchant for elements of folklore, uneven time signatures, modal tensions, and playing around with noise. On "Korall", the follow-up work to his "Aurora Borealis" suite, which was released last year on ACT 9406-2, he lets his 20-piece orchestra play the compositions down to the last card.

Not only does "Korall" come to life through the spirituality of the chorales; it also lives as the iridescent blaze of colors of a coral reef. It reflects this double-meaning most clearly in the title piece, where the given melody of the monochromatic theme is gradually impregnated with the colored crystal lyricism of the instrumentalists. "M.B.", the homage to a sharp comic-strip bride out of a British cartoon series, along with the African-leaning "Djambo", turn out to be veritable jigsaw puzzles, since the metres whirl around, and from one moment to the next the music is flooded with horn riffs. Middle Age-Punk-Archaic, late Miles Davis, and hints of Trip-Hop find themselves so casually connected that it seems the most natural thing in the world. It's the same in "P.T.1", where the light of the Latin South breaks through the shadowy world of the North. And finally, most likely because of the obligation to uphold the Norwegian Jan Garbarek tradition, trumpeter Ole J. Myklebust pays homage in "Theme For O.J.", a ballad as deep as the sea.

"Ingen vinner frem til den evige ro" - Exactly - no one attains everlasting peace when they refuse to listen to a higher voice. With "Korall" Geir Lysne shows what can have meaning at the dawning of a new millennium. The path to salvation is tortuous. He who can nevertheless smile will not be damned.

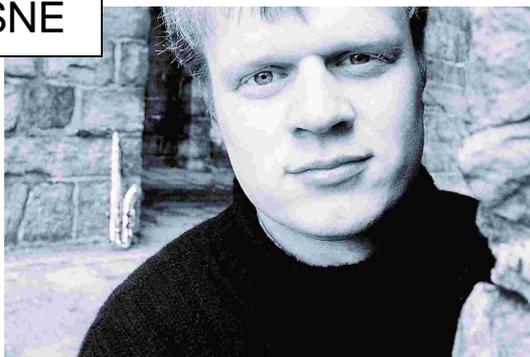
ACT**GEIR LYSNE**

Foto: Bjørn Halfdansen

The CD:

KORALL – Geir Lysne Listening Ensemble - ACT 9236-2 - LC 07644

Tracks:

1. M.B. 2. Djambo 3. Theme for O.J. 4. Ingen vinner frem til den evige ro 5. P.T. 1 6. Korall

All music composed and conducted by Geir Lysne except “Ingen vinner frem til den evige ro” (Norwegian folk song) arranged by Geir Lysne

Recorded by Jan Erik Kongshaug 6.-8. November 2001 at Rainbow Studio, Oslo.

Mixed and mastered by Jan Erik Kongshaug in January 2002

Produced by Geir Lysne

The Geir Lysne Listening Ensemble:

Ketil V. Einarsen flutes / piccolo flute
 Morten Halle alto + soprano saxophone / flute
 Klaus Graf alto saxophone / flute
 Andi Maile tenor saxophone / flute
 Fredrik Ø. Jensen tenor + baritone saxophone
 Bernhard Seland baritone saxophone / bass clarinet
trumpet / fluegelhorn: Frank Brodahl / Marius Haltli / Ole Jørn Myklebust
trumpet / fluegelhorn / vocals: Eckhard Baur
trombone: Helge Sunde / Christian Jaksjø / Jørgen Gjerde / Ketil Hovland
 Jørn Øien keyboards
 Hallgrim Bratberg guitar
 Jan Olav Renvåg double bass / electric bass / tuba
 Kenneth Ekornes drums / percussion
 Knut Aalefjær drums / percussion
conductor / composer: Geir Lysne
Special Guest: Sondre Bratland vocals on “Ingen vinner frem til den evige ro”

Geir Lysne on ACT:

ACT 9406-2 Aurora Borealis – Nordic Lights - Geir Lysne Listening Ensemble „live“ in Berlin

Distributer:

Night & Day (F), Edel Records SRL (I), Proper Distribution (UK), Karonte (E), Dargil (P), Musikklosen (N), CDA (S), A&N Records (GR), Equinox Music (TR), Distribution Fusion III (CAN), P&J Music (CZ), Culture Records (Benelux), NMC Music (IL), GIGI Distribution (PL), AS Jahipaun (EST), Tri-M (J), C&L Records (ROK), MVZ (CH), Jassics (ZA)

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