

YULE

The celebration of Yule in Northern Europe harks back to a transition from ancient Pagan Germanic culture to the more formal spirituality of the newer Christian rite. On this album the two traditions sit side by side, creating a matrix where acappella voices meet improvising instruments in a synthesis of secular and sacred.

Julefeiringen i Nord-Europa har røtter helt tilbake til overgangen fra hedensk, germansk kultur til de kristne ritualers mer formelle spiritualitet. På dette albumet lever de to tradisjonene side om side – der det vokale møter improviserende instrumenter i en syntese mellom det verdslige og det sakrale.

Trio Mediæval

Anna Maria Friman
Linn Andrea Fuglseth
Jorunn Lovise Husan

Sinikka Langeland kantele
Vegar Vårdal hardanger fiddle and violin
Arve Henriksen trumpet and organ
Anders Jormin double bass
Helge Norbakken percussion

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

EANI3: 7041888527527



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TRIO MEDIÆVAL

YULE



1. **DET HEV EI ROSA SPRUNGE (2:50)**
After Michael Praetorius, 1609.
Translation from German by Peter Hognestad, 1919. Arrangement by Linn Andrea Fuglseth.
2. **JOSEFINES JULESALME (5:25)**
Traditional hymn from Vestfold, Norway, as sung by Josefine Gåsholt. Arrangement by Tone Krohn.
3. **NOWELL, NOWELL (2:38)**
15th century English carol.
4. **LUSSINATTI LANGE (4:10)**
Traditional melody from Hordaland, Norway. Arrangement by Linn Andrea Fuglseth.
5. **I DENNE SØTE JULETID (INSTRUMENTAL) (2:01)**
Improvisation over a folk melody from Norway, 15th century.
6. **BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN (3:41)**
Swedish adaptation of German folk song from 1673. Traditional hymn melody from Boda, Dalarna, Sweden.
Text by Frans M. Franzén. Arrangement by Anna Maria Friman.
7. **COVENTRY CAROL (3:25)**
15th century English carol. Arrangement by Linn Andrea Fuglseth.
8. **EN STJÄRNA GICK PÅ HIMLEN FRAM (3:36)**
Swedish traditional hymn. Melody as sung by Eva Sandsten, Nuckö, Estonia.
Arrangement by Anna Maria Friman.
9. **LUX (5:01)**
Andrew Smith (b. 1970). Composed for Trio Mediæval. Text from a 12th-century Sequence in honour of the martyr St Olav by Eystein Erlendsson, archbishop of Nidaros (1161-1188), and from "Natten går tunga fjät" by Arvid Rosén (1895-1973).
10. **LULLAY, LULLAY (4:59)**
15th century English carol. Arrangement by Trio Mediæval.
11. **IN DULCI JUBILO (2:08)**
Swedish traditional hymn. Melody as sung by Lena Reeder, Stora Rågö, Estonia.
Arrangement by Linn Andrea Fuglseth.
12. **DET KIMER NU TIL JULEFEST (INSTRUMENTAL) (3:28)**
Improvisation over Danish hymn by Carl Christian Balle (1806-1855).
13. **VENI REDEMPTOR GENTIUM / VÄRLDENS FRÄLSARE KOM HÄR (3:45)**
Anonymous chant. Text by Ambrosius d. 397 / Swedish traditional hymn.
Melody as sung by Johan Viksten, Nuckö, Estonia. Arrangement by Trio Mediæval.
14. **FRÅ BETLEHEM EIT GJETORD GJENG (3:09)**
Traditional melody from Valdres, Norway. Text by Magnus Brostrup Landstad, 19th century.
Arrangement by Linn Andrea Fuglseth.
15. **THERE IS NO ROSE (3:18)**
15th century English carol.
16. **GLÄNS ÖVER SJÖ OCH STRAND (3:55)**
Ivar Widén (1871-1951). Text by Viktor Rydberg. Arrangement by Anders Jormin.
17. **EN JUNGFRU FÖDDE ETT BARN IDAG (3:43)**
Swedish traditional hymn. Melody as sung by Katarina Utas, Gammalsvenskby, Ukraine.
Arrangement by Anna Maria Friman.
18. **HODIE CHRISTUS NATUS EST (3:56)**
Anonymous chant, Liber Usualis.

All instrumental arrangements made by the musicians, except track no. 9.

A NORTHERN HERITAGE

The celebration of Yule in Northern Europe harks back to a transition from ancient Pagan Germanic culture to the more formal spirituality of the newer Christian rite. Christmas, as we mostly now call it, gave us hymns, processions and chants, and in between, silence in church. Yule meant a vibrant pre-Christian secularity, with feasting and dancing, the noise of instruments and decorating the house with holly, ivy and mistletoe as a tribute to the gods of earth and air. Much of the music on this album dates from an earlier time when in a throwback to Yule churches were decorated with Christmas greenery, and at home there would be carols sung round a burning Yule log, the two traditions side by side. But the songs on this album are contemporary performances, a matrix where immaculate acappella voices meet improvising instruments in a synthesis of secular and sacred.

There's no knowing how the earliest Christmas songs were created, but the first ones must have been passed on orally until someone wrote them down. Writing, then later printing, set the songs free, and some travelled all over Europe, adopted by singers who then made their own versions. New songs were made, but many ancient ones survived the centuries, each new performer passing on their own memories of a song to the next generation. Alongside this oral tradition more formal manuscript collections were created in church and cloister as clerics composed new chants for their own communities. These historical processes are intertwined throughout this album, which is very much a product of the Trio Mediæval aesthetic; there are medieval compositions from England, arrangements of North European music by Tone Krohn, Anders Jormin and by trio members Anna Maria Friman, Linn Andrea Fuglseth and Jorunn Lovise Husan, together with a new composition by Norway's English composer Andrew Smith.

The album has a special focus on the Norwegian folk tradition (*Josefines julesalme, Lussinatti lange, Frå Betlehem eit gjetord gjeng*) and the less well-known Christmas hymns of the Swedish-speaking communities in Ukraine (*En jungfru födde ett barn idag*) and Estonia (*In dulci jubilo, En stjärna gick på himlen fram, Världens frälsare kom här*) which was ruled by Sweden for some 400 years until the early 18th century. There were still Swedish speakers in Estonian coastal communities in the early 20th century, when composer and folksong collector Cyrillus Kreek and his Swedish contemporary Olof Andersson collected many old melodies that might otherwise have been forgotten, such as those from Nuckö and Stora Rågö.

Derived both from the Lutheran Hymnal and old secular songs, the hymn tunes were originally sung heterophonically – everyone singing freely together, the more skilful singers varying and ornamenting the melody. Both these and the traditional carols existed simply as tunes and texts, which offer a perfect template for colourful contemporary arrangements, giving a new focus to an oral tradition that stretches way back into the past.

The original inspiration for Trio Mediæval dates from Linn Andrea Fuglseth's revelatory encounter with English medieval carols while a student in London at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, and the Trio has had a close connection with English music ever since. There are four 15th century English compositions on this album, including Linn Andrea's own arrangement of the Coventry Carol. The German-speaking countries, well-springs of many Christmas songs that found their way Northwards, sit alongside these in arrangements by Linn Andrea Fuglseth and Anna Maria Friman.

Christmas songs – carols, hymns, call them what you will – speak to the heart at a time of year when we come together to celebrate, whether in the spirit of Christmas or the more secular delights of ancient Yule. It's a time when family members get together to sing and play their own versions of well-loved songs. In a sense, this is what this album represents, many of the players, composers and arrangers being part of the wider Trio Mediæval family for many years. The anonymous medieval clerics were not above a scurrilous marginal gloss or a secular song, and many must have played instruments for their own pleasure. They might have been surprised to hear Anders Jormin on double bass and Vegar Vårdal on Hardangerfiddle but they would surely have appreciated the subtle embroidering of their manuscripts. Arve Henriksen on trumpet and Helge Norbakken on percussion might have scandalised them at first, but since Arve's trumpet doesn't sound like a trumpet he would surely have been forgiven; and no doubt Sinikka Langeland's plangent kantele would have soothed their souls.

The Trio are faithful to the manuscripts of the ancient clerics, but in letting the improvisers cast their magic spells they remind us that Christmas in the 21st century is suffused with the spirit of Yule. The recording is only a document, capturing the moment. There will be future moments, but you'll have to be there.

John Potter



TRIO MEDIÆVAL

Hailed as a “fascinating journey with music of timeless beauty”, Trio Mediæval’s acclaimed first disc “Words of the Angel” in 2001 launched the group into the elite circles of early music ensembles and introduced them to a broad international audience. Formed in 1997, the Grammy-nominated vocal ensemble consists of founder members Linn Andrea Fuglseth and Anna Maria Friman, and Jorunn Lovise Husan, who joined the group in 2018.

A typical Trio Mediæval programme combines their many varied strands of musical exploration: medieval sacred music, Nordic folk songs (adapted and arranged by members of the group), contemporary Nordic jazz, specially commissioned works and improvisation with or without instruments. Attracted by the trio’s unique sound, composers and performers have stood in line to work with the group, resulting in premieres of works by Helena Tülve, Tõnu Kõrvits, Anders Jormin, Tord Gustavsen, Mats Eilertsen, Trygve Seim, Anna Clyne, Gavin Bryars, Ivan Moody, Sungji Hong and Andrew Smith.

A 2005 collaboration with the Ensemble Musikfabrik in Cologne featured the work Shelter by Julia Wolfe, Michael Gordon and David Lang of the New York-based Bang on a Can composers’ collective. More recently the trio has collaborated with musicians and orchestras such as Arve Henriksen, John Potter, Sinikka Langeland Ensemble, Bang on a Can All-Stars, Mats Eilertsen Trio, Norwegian Chamber Orchestra, Norwegian Radio Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra and Stavanger Symphony Orchestra.

Trio Mediæval has toured extensively in Europe and USA, and has visited Japan, Hong Kong, Macau, South Korea and Australia. The trio has been invited to appear on the most prestigious stages in the world, including Wigmore Hall, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Vienna Konzerthaus, Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. Trio Mediæval has recorded eight albums for ECM Records. Yule is their third release, following An Old Hall Ladymass and Solacium, with the Norwegian label 2L.

1. DET HEV EI ROSA SPRUNGE

Det hev ei rosa sprunge
ut av ei rot so grann.
Som fedrane hev sunge:
Av Jesse rot ho rann,
og var ei blome blid
midt i den kalde vinter,
ved myrke midnattstid.

A rose has bloomed
from a humble root.
As the forefathers sang:
Of Jesse's stem it grew,
a mild flower
in the cold winter
and the dark night.

Um denne rosa eine
er sagt Jesaias ord.
Maria møy, den reine,
bar rosa til vår jord.
Og Herrens miskunnsomt
det store under gjorde
som var i spådom sagt.

Of this one rose
Isaiah spoke.
The Virgin Mary, the pure one,
bore the rose to the world.
And the mercy of the Lord
let the great miracle take place
as foretold by the prophets.

Guds rosa ljuvleg angar
og skin i jordlivs natt.
Når hennar ljøs oss fangar,
ho vert vår beste skatt.
Me syng i englelag:
No er det fødd ein Frelsar,
og natti vart til dag.

God's rose, sweetly scented,
shines in our earthly night,
when its light enralls us
it is our greatest prize.
We sing with angels:
A saviour is born,
night is turned to day.

2. JOSEFINES JULESALME

Jeg er nu så glad!
Jeg vandrer i tanken til Betlehems stad.
Der fant jeg et barn så deilig og skjønt
og skriften forteller at det er Guds sønn.
Jeg frykter ei mer for synd eller død,
thi Jesus er født, thi Jesus er født.

So filled with joy am I!
In dream to Bethlehem I fly
where lies a child, so pure and blessed
God's son, as scripture has professed.
By sin nor death no more I'm torn
for Jesus is born, for Jesus is born.

O store monark!
Du kongenes konge og paktenes ark!
Er du da nedstigen fra himmel til jord
hvor jammer og synd og elendighet bor.
Og aldri til fulle jeg takke kan deg
for nåden mot meg, for nåden mot meg.

O great monarch!
O king of kings and covenant's ark!
You came from heaven to Earth below,
where misery, sin and wretchedness grow.
And ne'er can my gratitude fully suffice to give thanks
for your grace, to give thanks for your grace.

3. NOWELL, NOWELL

Nowell, nowell.
Out of your sleep arise and wake,
for God mankind now hath ytake,
all of a maid without any make;
of all women she beareth the bell:
Nowell!

Now, blessed brother, grant us grace
A Domesday to see thy face,
And in thy court to have a place,
That we mow therë sing nowell,
Nowell!

Now man may to heaven wend,
Now heaven and earth to him they bend,
He that was foe now is our friend,
This is no nay that I you tell:
Nowell!

4. LUSSINATTI LANGE

Lussinatti lange, intet være bange. On this bewitched Lussi night, do not fear a thing.
Gud beskytte gård og grunn, God protect farm and field,
fisk i vann og fugl i lund. fish in the water and birds in the bush.
Intet være bange, lussinatti lange. Do not fear a thing this long, long Lussi night.

Lussinatti lange, intet være bange. On this bewitched Lussi night, do not fear a thing.
Ku og hest og svin og geit May cow and horse and pig and goat
blive karske, trinn og feit. grow healthy, plump and fat.
Intet være bange, lussinatti lange. Do not fear a thing this long, long Lussi night.

Lussinatti lange, intet være bange. On this bewitched Lussi night, do not fear a thing.
Hellige Moder, gode Krist; Holy Mother and blessed Christ,
fri fra død og djevels list. free us from death and the devil's cunning.
Intet være bange, lussinatti lange. Do not fear a thing this long, long Lussi night.

5. I DENNE SØTE JULETID (INSTRUMENTAL)

6. BEREDEN VÅG FÖR HERRAN

Bereden väg för Herran! Berg, sjunken, djup, stå opp!
Han kommer, han som fjärran var sedd av fädrens hopp.
Rättfärdighetens förste, av Davids hus den störste.
Välsignad vare han som kom i Herrens namn.

Guds folk, för dig han träder, en evig konung opp.
Strö palmer, bred ut kläder, sjung ditt uppfyllda hopp.
Guds löften äro sanna, nu ropa: Hosianna!
Välsignad vare han som kom i Herrens namn.

Gör dina portar vida för Herrens härlighet.
Se, folken kring dig bida att nå din salighet.
Kring jordens länder alla skall denna lovsång skalla:
Välsignad vare han som kom i Herrens namn.

Make way for the Lord! Mountains, sink low; depths, rise up.
He comes, he who was seen by the hope of the fathers from afar.
Prince of justice, noblest descendant of the house of David.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

He rises for you, O people of God, as king eternal.
Strew palms, lay down garments, sing of your hope fulfilled.
The promises of God are true: Shout Hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Fling wide your gates for the glory of the Lord.
Behold, your people await salvation.
In all the lands of the earth this hymn of praise shall resound:
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

7. COVENTRY CAROL

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,
By, by, lully, lullay.
Thou little tiny child,
By, by, lully, lullay.

O, sisters too, how may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling,
For whom we do sing,
By, by lully, lullay.

Herod, the King, in his raging,
Charged he hath this day
His men of might, in his own sight,
All young children to slay.

That woe is me poor child for Thee!
And ever morn and day
For thy parting neither say nor sing
By, by, lully, lullay.

8. EN STJÄRNA GICK PÅ HIMLEN FRAM

En stjärna gick på himlen fram,
Halleluja!
För Österns vise, undersam.
Halleluja! Halleluja!

Då fylldes de av glädje stor,
av glädje stor,
till Betlehem de genast for.
Halleluja! Halleluja!

De visste nu att Konungen,
att Konungen,
var kommen hit från himmelen.
Halleluja! Halleluja!

Den gåva de åt Jesus gav,
åt Jesus gav,
guld, rökelse och myrra var.
Halleluja! Halleluja!

Vi tackar dig, O Gud, vår far,
Halleluja,
som Jesus Krist, din son oss gav.
Halleluja! Halleluja!

Pris vare Guds barmhärtighet,
halleluja!
I dag och i all evighet,
i evighet, i evighet.

A star appeared upon the sky,
Hallelujah!
To wise men from the east, a sign
Hallelujah!

Filled were they with joy immense,
with joy immense,
to Bethlehem they travelled thence.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The King, they knew, who there did lie,
who there did lie,
had come from God in heaven on high.
Halleluja! Halleluja!

And unto Jesus they did bear,
they did bear,
gold and frankincense and myrrh.
Halleluja! Halleluja!

To God, our father, thanks we raise,
Hallelujah,
for unto us his son he gave.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord in His mercy,
Hallelujah!
Now and for eternity!
eternity, eternity.

9. LUX

Lux
Ljus
Lys
Lucia

Lux illuxit laetabunda, lux illustris, lux iocunda, lux digna praeconio

Dagen skall åter ny
stiga ur rosig sky

In solemne gaudium prorumpat fidelium sincera devotio

Sankta Lucia, Sankta Lucia

Lux
Ljus
Lys
Lucia

Lux
Light
Lucia

A beautiful light has shone out, a brilliant light, a light worthy of praise

Once more the sun shall rise
over the reddened skies

On this joyful occasion the sincere devotion of the faithful breaks forth

Sancta Lucia, Sancta Lucia

Lux
Light
Lucia

10. LULLAY, LULLAY

Lullay, lullay, lullay, lullay.

As I lay on Yoolis night
alone in my longing
me thought I saw a well fair sight,
a may hir child rokking,

"Sing nou moder," said the child,
"wat schal to me befall
heerafter wan I cum til eld,
for so doon modres all!"

"Sweete sune," saide sche,
"werofte schuld I sing?
Ne wist I nere yet more of thee
but Gabriel's greeting."

"He grett me goodli on his knee
and saide, "Hail, Marie!
Hail, full of grace, God is with thee,
thou beren schalt Messie."

Serteynly this sight I say,
this song I herde sing,
als I me lay this yoolis day
alone in my longing.

Lullay, lullay, lullay, lullay.

Lullaby, lullaby, lullay, lullay.

As I lay on the Yule Night
alone in my longing,
I thought I saw a well fair sight,
a maiden rocking her child.

"Sing now mother," said the child,
"what shall befall me
hereafter when I come to age
for all mothers do this"

"Sweet son," she said,
"whatever shall I sing?
I knew no more of you
but Gabriel's greeting."

"He greeted me, kindly on his knee
and said, "Hail, Mary!
Hail, full of grace, God is with you,
you shall wessiah!"

Certainly this night I've seen,
this song I've heard sung,
as I lay this Yule day
alone in my longing.

Lullaby, lullaby, lullay, lullay.

11. IN DULCI JUBILO

In dulci jubilo,
Sjunger på jorden bo;
All vår hjärtans glädje
ligger in præsepio,
Och skin som solen vida
Matris in gremio;
Alpha es et O, Alpha es et O

In sweet rejoicing
Our songs with praises grow
With joy, our hearts rejoicing
For the child in the manger
Like the great sun, shining
In his mother's lap,
You are Alpha and Omega.

Pris ske Gud i himmelshöjd!
Bäre jorden frid och fröjd,
och hans vilja med hans ord
kring all världen blive spord.

Praise to God in heaven on high!
Let Earth be filled with peace and joy,
for thus his will and living word
shall spread to all throughout the world.

Gloria tibi, Domine,
Qui natus es de virgine,
Cum Patre et sancto Spiritu,
In sempiterna saecula.

Glory be to you, Lord,
who was born of a virgin,
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
forever and ever.

12. DET KIMER NU TIL JULEFEST (INSTRUMENTAL)

13. VENI REDEMPTOR GENTIUM DENS FRÄLSARE KOM HÄR

Veni, redemptor gentium,
ostende partum Virginis;
miretur omne saeculum:
talis decet partus Deum.

Come, Redeemer of the nations;
show forth the Virgin birth;
let all the world marvel:
such a birth befits God.

Världens frälsare kom här.
Rena jungfrun moder är.
Ty en börd så underlig,
Herre Jesu, hövdes dig.

Saviour of the nations, come,
O fruit of Mary's virgin womb;
for only through that wondrous birth
could you, Lord Jesus, dwell on Earth.

Non ex virili semine,
sed mystico spiramine
Verbum Dei factum est caro
fructusque ventris floruit.

Not from the seed of man,
but by the hidden spirit
was the Word of God made flesh
and the fruit of the womb blossomed.

14. FRÅ BETLEHEM EIT GJETORD GJENG

Frå Betlehem eit gjetord gjeng,
Um kongeson i krubbeseng. Halleluja, halleluja!

Og englesong og stjerneljos,
Til heimsens endar ber han ros. Halleluja, halleluja!

Hans rike gjeng so langt som sol,
Og evigt stend hans kongestol. Halleluja, halleluja!

Hans ord som dogg um morgon fell,
Og freden gror frå fjord til fjell. Halleluja, halleluja!

Då syng Guds folk om fred og von,
Som sus i skog på Libanon. Halleluja, halleluja!

So vil i dag me syngja med,
Den songen som Guds englar kved. Halleluja, halleluja!

Gud vere lov i høgste høgd!
No er eg glad og sæl og nøgd. Halleluja, halleluja!

From Bethlehem the word did spread,
an infant king lay in manger-bed. Hallelujah, hallelujah!

And angel-song and starry rays
throughout the world his name shall praise. Hallelujah, hallelujah!

His kingdom reaches to the sun,
eternal stands his royal throne. Hallelujah, hallelujah!

His word, like dew, at dawn will fall
and peace go forth o'er mount and moor. Hallelujah, hallelujah!

God's people sing of hope and peace
like rushing wind in Lebanon's trees. Hallelujah, hallelujah!

And so today we join the throng
and, joyful, sing the angels' song. Hallelujah, hallelujah!

On highest high to God be praise
in blessed joy my voice I raise. Hallelujah, hallelujah!

15. THERE IS NO ROSE

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space;
Res miranda.

The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gaudeamus.

Leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyful birth;
Transeamus.

16. GLÄNS ÖVER SJÖ OCH STRAND

Gläns över sjö och strand, stjärna ur fjärran.
Du som i Österland tändes av Herran.
Stjärnan från Betlehem, leder ej bort men hem.
Barnen och herdarna följa dig gärna.
Strålände stjärna, strålände stjärna.

Natt över Judaland, natt över Sion.
Borta vid västerrand slocknar Orion.
Herden som sover trött, barnet som slumrar sött,
vakna vid underbar korus av röster.
Stråla så härligt klar, stjärna i öster.

Gånga från lamm og hem, sökande Eden.
Stjärnan från Betlehem visar dem leden.
Fram genom hindrande jordiska fångsel,
hän till det glindrande lustgårdens stengsel,
hän till det glindrande lustgårdens stengsel.

Armar där sträckas dem, läppar där viska.
Viska och räckas dem ljuva och friska.
Stjärnan från Betlehem leder ej bort men hem.
Barnan och herdarna följa dig gärna.
Strålände stjärna, strålände stjärna.

Shine over land and sea, light from afar;
where, in the Orient, God lit a star,
whose light over Bethlehem leads not astray, but home.
Children and shepherds behold with delight
the radiant star bright, the radiant star bright.

Night o'er Judea, night over Zion.
On western horizon the waning Orion.
Shepherds, in weary sleep child, in slumber sweet,
wake to a chorus of voices in song,
and behold, in the East, a bright star shining strong.

Leaving their sheep and their homes, seeking Eden,
starlight from Bethlehem silently leading them
through the restraints of their worldly confinement
to paradise radiant with heavenly refinement,
to paradise radiant with heavenly refinement.

With arms outstretched, welcoming, lips gently whispering,
whispering, reaching out, sweetly they sing:
"The star over Bethlehem leads not astray, but home."
Children and shepherds behold with delight
that radiant star bright, that radiant star bright.

17. EN JUNGFRU FÖDDE ETT BARN I DAG

En jungfru födde ett barn i dag,
det vi skola prisa och ära.
I det haver Gud ett gott behag
och bjuder oss höra dess lära.
Och vore ej det barnet fött,
förtappat bleve då allt kött,
nu frälsning bjuds åt alla.
Pris vare dig, o Jesus Krist!
Du är vårt enda hopp förvisst;
vi för din fot nedfalla.

De himmelska härar med högan röst
begynte med ängelen att sjunga.
De lovade Gud med glädje och tröst
med helig, odödelig tunga:
"Pris vare Gud i höjdene,
frid vare och på jordene
och människor god vilje.»
Pris vare Gud! Sin nåd och fred,
den han med Sonen sände ned,
han aldrig från oss skilje.

A virgin gave birth to a child today,
to whom praises we sing without ceasing.
God is well pleased with his son's mortal way,
And bids us lend ear to his teaching.
For had that birth never been,
None would have salvation seen,
And now salvation comes to all.
Praise to you, O Jesus Christ!
In whom our every hope is placed;
On our knee for you we fall.

The heavenly host with loudest voice
In company with the angels sang,
Praising God with comfort and joy
In holy and immortal tongue:
"Glory to God above,
Peace on the earth below
And goodwill to humankind!"
Praise to God! His peace and grace,
sent with his son down to this place,
a true home in us shall find.

18. HODIE CHRISTUS NATUS EST

Hodie Christus natus est
Hodie Salvator apparuit
Hodie in terra canunt Angeli,
laetantur Archangeli
Hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo, alleluia!

Today Christ is born.
Today the Savior has appeared.
Today the Angels sing on earth,
The Archangels rejoice.
Today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory to God in the highest. alleluia!

Translations of Norwegian and Swedish text: Andrew Smith
Consultant for translations from Latin: Lars Brusletto Sveen
Consultant for Medieval English texts: John Potter

ARVEN FRA NORDEN

Julefeiringen i Nord-Europa har røtter helt tilbake til overgangen fra hedensk, germansk kultur til de kristne ritualers mer formelle spiritualitet. Den kristne julefeiringen, som i engelsktalende land ble døpt «Christmas», Kristmesse, har gitt oss salmer, hymner og koraler, og innimellom dette, stillhet i kirken. Den gamle julen, som i engelsktalende land heter «Yule», ble feiret med før-kristen verdslighet og omfattende festing og dansing, lyden av instrumenter, og pynt av kristtorn, eføy og misteltein for å hedre jordens og luftens guder. Mye av musikken på dette albumet stammer fra en tidligere tidsalder og en tilbakevending til den gamle «Yule»-feiringen da kirkene ble pyntet med eviggrønt og i hjemmet ble det sunget sanger rundt peisen hvor julekubben brant gjennom hele høytiden. To tradisjoner side om side. Men sangene på denne innspillingen er moderne realiseringer, en syntese mellom det verdslige og det sakrale der rene a cappella-stemmer møter improviserende instrumenter.

Vi kan ikke vite hvordan de tidligste julesangene ble til, men de første sangene må ha blitt overlevert muntlig inntil noen skrev dem ned. Transkripsjoner og etter hvert trykking gjorde sangene frie – mange av dem fant veien rundt i Europa hvor de ble tatt i bruk av sangere som lagde sine egne versjoner. Nye sanger ble til, men mange av de gamle overlevde i århundrer. Med hver enkelt utøver ble erindringen av en sang overlevert neste generasjon. Parallelt med denne muntlige tradisjonen oppstod mer formelle manuskriptsamlinger i kirker og klostre der de geistlige komponerte musikk for fellesskapet. Disse historiske prosessene er vedt sammen gjennom hele dette albumet, som i stor grad er et produkt av Trio Mediæval-estetikken: Her finnes middelaldermusikk fra England, arrangementer av nord-europeiske folketoner av Tone Krohn, Anders Jormin og triomedlemmene Anna Maria Friman, Linn Andrea Fuglseth og Jorunn Lovise Husan, og en ny komposisjon av Norges engelske komponist Andrew Smith.

Albumet har et spesielt fokus på den norske folketradisjonen (*Josefines julesalme*, *Lussinatti lange*, *Frå Betlehem eit gjetord gjeng*) og mindre kjente julesalmer fra svensktalende kolonier i Ukraina (*En jungfru födde ett barn idag*) og Estland (*In dulci jubilo*, *En stjärna gick på himlen fram*, *Världens frälsare kom här*) som lå under svensk herredømme i 400 år frem til tidlig 1700-tall. Det fantes fortsatt svensktalende i enkelte kystsamfunn i Estland på begynnelsen av 1900-tallet da komponist og folketonesamler Cyrillus Kreek og hans svenske samtidige Olof Andersson skrev ned mange melodier som ellers hadde gått tapt – som for eksempel de fra Nuckö og Stora Rågö.

Salmemelodiene, som er utledet fra den lutherske salmeboken og gamle, verdslige sanger, ble opprinnelig sunget heterofont – det vil si at alle sang fritt sammen mens de dyktigste sangerne kunne variere og utbrodere melodien. Både disse salmene og de tradisjonelle sangene eksisterte bare som melodi og tekst – det gir et perfekt grunnlag for fargerike, moderne arrangementer og et nytt blikk på en muntlig tradisjon som strekker seg lang tilbake i tid.

Den opprinnelige inspirasjonen til Trio Mediæval stammer fra Linn Andrea Fuglseths studietid ved Guildhall School of Music & Drama i London hvor hun oppdaget de engelske middelalder-julesangene. Og helt siden den gang har trioene hatt et nært forhold til engelsk musikk. Det finnes fire engelske 1500-tallssanger på albumet, inkludert Linn Andreas eget arrangement av Coventry Carol. Sammen med disse er det julesanger fra tysktalende land – en kilde til mange julesanger som fant veien nordover – i arrangementer av Linn Andrea Fuglseth og Anna Maria Friman.

Julesanger – hymner, salmer, kall dem hva du vil – taler til hjertet i en tid på året når vi kommer sammen for å feire, enten det er Kristi fødsel eller den verdslige julen. Det er en tid når familie-medlemmer samles for å synge og spille sine egne versjoner av kjente og kjære sanger. På en måte er det akkurat det som skjer på det foreliggende albumet – mange av utøverne, komponistene og arrangørene har vært en del av Trio Mediæval-storfamilien i mange år. De anonyme geistlige i middelalderen var ikke fremmed for å pynte litt på musikken, eller ta for seg en verdslig sang, og flere av dem har nok spilt instrumenter for egen forlystelse. Det hadde muligens overrasket dem å høre Anders Jormin på kontrabass og Vegar Vårdal på hardingfele, men de ville sikkert satt pris på disse musikernes raffinerte utbrodding av manuskriptene deres. Arve Henriksen på trompet og Helge Norbakken på perkusjon hadde derimot antageligvis vekket forargelse, men ettersom Arves trompet klinger som så mye mer enn en trompet, hadde han sikkert blitt tilgitt. Og Sinikka Langelands vemodsfylte kantele hadde utvilsomt mildnet og beroliget dem.

Trio Mediæval er tro mot de gamle manuskriptene, men ved å la improvisatorene utøve sin magi, minner de oss om at julen i det 21. århundre er fylt med den gamle, verdslige feiringens kraft og sjel. Innspillingen er kun et dokument som fanger øyeblikket. Det kommer flere øyeblikk i fremtiden, om vi er der for å fange dem.

John Potter

TRIO MEDIÆVAL

«En fascinerende reise med tidløs vakker musikk» skrev anmelderne om Trio Mediævals kritikerroste debutplate *Words of the Angel* i 2001. Suksessen brakte trioens internasjonal oppmerksomhet og status blant eliten av tidligmusikkensembler. Det Grammy-nominerte vokalensemblet ble startet i 1997 og består av grunnleggerne Linn Andrea Fuglseth, Anna Maria Friman, og Jorunn Lovise Husan som har vært medlem siden 2018.

Et typisk Trio Mediæval-program vever sammen ulike tråder i ensemblets musikalske utforskninger: sakral middelaldermusikk, nordisk folkemusikk, nordisk samtidsjazz, bestillingsverk og improvisasjon med eller uten instrumenter. Komponister tiltrekkes stadig av trioens unike klang, noe som har ført til urfremføringer av verk av blant andre Helena Tulve, Tõnu Kõrvits, Anders Jormin, Tord Gustavsen, Mats Eilertsen, Trygve Seim, Anna Clyne, Gavin Bryars, Ivan Moody, Sungji Hong og Andrew Smith.

Et samarbeid med Ensemble Musikfabrik i 2005 resulterte i premieren på verket *Shelter* skrevet av Julia Wolfe, Michael Gordon og David Lang fra komponistkollektivet *Bang on a Can* i New York. Trio Mediæval har de siste årene hatt samarbeidsprosjekt med orkestre og musikere som Arve Henriksen, John Potter, Sinikka Langeland Ensemble, *Bang on a Can All-Stars*, Mats Eilertsen Trio, Det Norske Kammerorkester, Kringkastingsorkestret, Oslo Filharmoniske Orkester og Stavanger Symfoniorkester.

Trio Mediæval har turnert i Europa og USA, og har i tillegg besøkt Japan, Hong Kong, Macau, Sør-Korea og Australia. De har sunget på noen av verdens mest prestisjefylte scener, som Wigmore Hall, Concertgebouw i Amsterdam, Wien Konzerthaus, Carnegie Hall og Kennedy Center. Trio Mediæval har åtte innspillinger for ECM Records. Yule er trioens tredje utgivelse på det norske plateselskapet 2L, etter *An Old Hall* (2023) og *Solacium* (2021).

Publisher of Anna Maria Friman's arrangements:

Wessmans Musikförlag

www.wessmans.com

Publisher of Linn Andrea Fuglseth's arrangements:

Norsk Musikkforlag

www.notebutikken.no

Publisher of Andrew Smith's LUX:

Norsk Musikkforlag

www.notebutikken.no







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Recorded in **Sofienberg Church, Norway, March 2024** by **Lindberg Lyd AS**
Balance engineer: **Morten Lindberg**
Recording producers: **Arve Henriksen and Morten Lindberg**

Editing, mix and mastering: **Morten Lindberg**

Graphic design and illustrations: **Nina Birkeland**
Session photos: **Morten Lindberg**
Artist photo: **Åsa Maria Mikkelsen**
Programme notes by **John Potter**

Blu-ray authoring: **msm studio group**
Screen design and Blu-ray authoring: **Michael Thomas Hoffmann**
Pure Audio Blu-ray concept development: **Morten Lindberg and Stefan Bock**

Executive producers: **Trio Mediæval and 2L**

Produced with financial support from **Arts Council Norway**

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www.triomedieval.no
[www.2L.no](http://www.2l.no)

TRIO MEDIÆVAL

YULE

Trio Mediæval

Anna Maria Friman
Linn Andrea Fuglseth
Jorunn Lovise Husan

Sinikka Langeland kantele
Vegar Vårdal hardanger fiddle, violin
Arve Henriksen trumpet, organ
Anders Jormin double bass
Helge Norbakken percussion

1. Det hev ei rosa sprunge
2. Josefines julesalme
3. Nowell, nowell
4. Lussinatti lange
5. I denne søte juletid (instrumental)
6. Bereden väg för Herran
7. Coventry Carol
8. En stjärna gick på himlen fram
9. Lux
10. Lullay, lullay
11. In dulci júbilo
12. Det kimer nu til julefest (instrumental)
13. Veni redemptor / Världens frälsare kom här
14. Frå Betlehem eit gjetord gjeng
15. There is no rose
16. Gläns över sjö och strand
17. En jungfru födde ett barn idag
18. Hodie Christus natus est