Nordic Voices

Tone Braaten, Soprano
Ingrid Hanken, Soprano
Ebba Rydh, Mezzo-Soprano
Per Kristian Amundrød, Tenor
Frank Havrøy, Baritone
Trond Olav Reinholdtsen, Bass

Sunday, February 2, 2014
7:30 PM
Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall
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Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY)  
Iris Derke, Co-Founder and General Director  
Jonathan Griffith, Co-Founder and Artistic Director

Presents

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**Program**

*Solbøn*  
*For Guds folk er hvilen tilbake*  
*Jod. Manum suam misit hostis*  
*Incipit oratio Jeremiae*  
*The Cuckoo in the Pear Tree*  
*The Lobster Quadrille*  
*Les chants des oiseaux*

**INTERMISSION**

*Ecclesia militantis*  
*Predicasti*  
*O magnum mysterium*  
*Nonsense I, III, V*  
*Trois beaux oiseaux du Paradis*  
*Bysjan, bysjan lite bån*

Lasse Thoresen  
Bjarne Sløgedal  
Thomás Luis de Victoria  
Thomás Luis de Victoria  
György Ligeti  
Clément Janequin

Guillaume Dufay  
Gregorian chant from "St Olave"  
Henrik Ødegaard  
Goffredo Petrassi  
Maurice Ravel  
Frank Havrøy
When György Ligeti named his collection of settings from *Alice in Wonderland* “Nonsense Madrigals,” he was probably not only referring to the comical absurdness of Lewis Carroll’s text involving different animals in not-very-usual situations. The music itself is also packed with musical pranks, rhythmical extravaganza and bizarre vocal effects. The old distinguished genre of the madrigal is by no means a stranger to humor and over-the-top vocalism. One of the absolute masters in this field is the Frenchman Clément Janequin of the 16th century, whose *Les chants des oiseaux* (Song of the Birds) should be an ornithologist’s fantasy where the singers mimic a whole catalogue of bird songs, in the end reaching a jubilant cacophonous climax of the forest in spring.

The Norwegian composer Lasse Thoresen has worked extensively with Nordic Voices and has developed a unique vocal ensemble style of quite a different nature, using elements of Norwegian folk singing, microtonality, overtone singing and spectral harmony. His *Solbøn* has become one of Nordic Voices “signature pieces” and is a prayer to the sun to shine down on us and keep everyone safe from troubles. His fellow Norwegian colleague, Henrik Ødegaard, has also worked closely with the ensemble and further explored extended techniques and strange timbres in his *O magnum mysterium*.

Nordic Voices has always felt close to the emotional splendor of the 6-part vocal polyphony of the Renaissance. Spain was a particularly important center at the time and the pieces by Victoria are lamentations based on the Jeremiah texts from the Old Testament. A more modern form of lament is presented by the sad and simple beauty of Maurice Ravel’s *Trois beaux oiseaux du Paradis* about the loss of a dear one in the war.

Trond Reinholdtsen, Oslo, September 2013

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**Biographies**

**Tone Braaten, Soprano**

Tone Braaten graduated from the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo in 1996. She is one of the founding members of Nordic Voices. Besides singing in Nordic, Braaten is a sought-after singer, both home and abroad, and has on several occasions appeared in both radio and television. She has also been a soloist on several CD releases.

**Ingrid Hanken, Soprano**

Ingrid Hanken studied music pedagogy and voice training at the Norwegian State Academy of Music. She is a highly experienced singer, having been a chorister since her childhood, and has been a member of choirs and ensembles, at home and abroad, including The Norwegian Soloist Choir and St. Olaf Chori and Oslo Bachensemble. Hanken has expertise in the field of voice training, specifically with children’s voices. She teaches musical theater, ensemble and oral training at the Baardan Academy, School of Performing Arts in Oslo. Hanken has been a member of Nordic Voices since its inception in 1996.

**Ebba Rydh, Mezzo-soprano**

Swedish-born Ebba Rydh studied singing at Kulturama, Stockholm and Opera Studio, Gothenburg, as well as Musicology at the University of Uppsala, before moving to Oslo, Norway, for studies at the Opera Academy where she graduated in 2003. She currently resides in Oslo and has numerous engagements as a freelance singer, mainly within the early baroque and contemporary music genres.

**Per Kristian Amundråd, Tenor**

Per Kristian Amundråd (1962) is educated from the National Academy of Music in Oslo, Norway. He graduated in 1985 Candidata Magisterii, and in 1996 earned his Master’s degree in choir-conducting. He has been working as a church-musician and singer since 1982 and has experience as a choir conductor, instructor and ensemble singer, and has sung on several occasions with Det Norske Solistkor. He has been a member of the vocal ensemble Nordic Voices since its inception in 1996.
Frank Havrøy, Baritone

Frank Havrøy (1969) joined Nordic Voices in 1997. He works as a freelance singer and composer, doing projects of different styles and genres. In 2008 he started as a PhD graduate at the Academy of Music with a project that concentrates on the classical contemporary vocal ensemble.

Trond Olav Reinholdtsen, Bass

Trond Olav Reinholdtsen (1972) trained as a singer and composer from the Academy of Music in Oslo. He is a member of Nordic Voices and has completed a number of tours at home and abroad. Trond is active as a soloist, especially in church music and contemporary music. As a composer, he has written numerous works for contemporary music ensembles in Norway and his works for instrumental and vocal ensembles, as well as computer and video works, have been performed at major festivals such as Ultima. Reinholdtsen received the Fartein Valen scholarship in 2005.

Visit our website: www.nordicvoices.no

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