



Anders Lauge Meldgaard “12 instrumenter til Henning” (LP)

Album release on September 7th 2020 via År & Dag

12 instrumenter til Henning (english: *12 instruments for Henning*) is a new arrangement by Danish composer Anders Lauge Meldgaard (formerly known as Frisk Frugt) that sees Meldgaard exploring the music of Danish avant-garde artist and composer Henning Christiansen. A trio piece by Christiansen from 1975 is the source material for a bright and stimulating new work for extended chamber ensemble, with the tonal language the original blossoming outwards via Meldgaard’s own brilliantly colourful sound palette. The album will be released September 7th on vinyl and digital through the artist driven label and collective År & Dag, that Meldgaard is part of.

12 instrumenter til Henning was originally commissioned by The Museum of Contemporary Art in Roskilde (Denmark) for an exhibition on Christiansen, who has seen quite the revival with international re-releases and exhibitions within the last five years. On occasion of the exhibit, a proposal was made for Meldgaard to do a recomposition of the first two movements in Christiansen’s *Trio. Om tiden der gik* (eng: *Trio. About the time that passed*) (opus 91, 1975) written for recorder, piano and cello. The outcome serves as a fascinating unfolding of Henning Christiansen’s musical practice, but foremost it is a perfect example of the unique expression that is signature for Anders Lauge Meldgaard as an artist and composer.

Note by note, Anders Lauge Meldgaard has transformed the music of Christiansen from the original trio score into a new radiant composition. Each part is rewritten through a thoughtful system created by Meldgaard, who reflects on the process: “*I’ve imagined how Hennings piece has grown older, the instruments have grown in size, they’ve propagated and changed their pace*”. The three original instruments mutate into twelve: the recorder takes the form of a whole woodwind section while the piano spreads out to cover keyboard instruments such as harpsichord, synth and organ and the cello parts play out on several string instruments. Furthermore, autonomous tempi are assigned for all the

new voices. Each instrument operates at its very own pace, creating in total a unity of freely intertwined multilayered pulses.

12 instrumenter til Henning takes off in the middle of a cloud of sound, 12 timbres all resonating with each other in a beautiful cacophony. From here, the 37 minute long piece unfolds little by little. After around 8 minutes, the cloud evaporates and reveals a highly organic arrangement within the ensemble. Like walking through unknown greenery, each instrument blossoms in turn, flowering phrases and rippling melodies. With *12 instrumenter til Henning*, Anders Lauge Meldgaard demonstrates his impeccable ability to combine minimalism with romanticism, a bright expression making sense of something indecipherable.

Credits

Performing musicians:

Recorder: Kirsten Aage

Flute: Adam Woer

Oboe: Mette Termansen

Bassoon: Sebastian Stevansson

Violin: Bettina Marie Ezaki

Viola: Mika Persdotter Svensson

Cello: Nicole Hogstrand

Harp: Ysella Almquist

Piano: Mattias Branner

Hapsichord: Yngvild Ruud

Synth & organ: Annabelle o'Laetita

Steeldrum & gongs: Ying-Huseh Chen

Composed by Anders Lauge Meldgaard

Mix & master by Andreas Pallisgaard

Recorded at Port 2 and The Village Studio, January 2019.

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