



Geir Inge Lotsberg,
Solo violin

WORKS BY

Henze, Sallinen,
Sandvik, Sigurbjörnsson,
Skouen and Yun



ATB-CD09

The selection of pieces presented here shows a variety of approaches to writing polyphonic music for solo violin. The violin as an instrument has great expressive flexibility. At the same time, there are limitations with regard to scope, double-stop combinations and performance styles that place significant constraints on the choices open to composers.

Every composer relates in some way to J. S. Bach's masterly polyphonic compositions for solo violin from 1720. The collection of works from the past 35 years on this recording demonstrates that Bach's legacy, rather than imposing limitations, serves as an inspiration in seeking to vary the expressive idioms that can be elicited from an unaccompanied violin.

Etude philharmonique, by German-Italian Hans Werner Henze, is an adaptation of the cadenza from *"Il Vitalino raddoppiato"* (*"Vitali doubled"*). This is a ciaccona for solo violin and chamber orchestra, based on the famous ciaccona by G. B. Vitali. *Etude philharmonique* further develops the ciaccona's richly embroidered bass harmonies, which are used in both free and fixed forms.

Skrek Fyrir skrek (Step by Step) by Porkell Sigurbjörnsson of Iceland operates in an intriguing minimalist landscape with a discreet suggestion of the harmonic environment.

In the Pinch of Now, by Klaus Sandvik, was commissioned and given its premiere by Geir Inge Lotsberg in 2007. This piece challenges the listener's concept of time, and is marked by the skilful and creative use of double-stops.

Serenade, by Henze, was written as a tribute to Yehudi Menuhin, one of the great violinists of the twentieth century, on the occasion of his 70th birthday in 1986. The broken arpeggio-like chords and the colourful sonority are distinctive elements of this short piece.

Kontraste, zwei Stücke für Violine solo, by Korean-German Isang Yun, plays on differences in time, structure and sound. Here two pieces interact with each other and within each piece. The span between the extremities of the pieces is wide, and their atmosphere varies from broadly sustained to restlessly flickering.

"...à travers les paroles" ("...in through the words") by Synne Skouen, like her *Une soirée d'été* in 1990, is an attempt to recreate the distinctive atmosphere of sound and silence; here and now, in a text by French writer Marguerite Duras. The piece was commissioned by Geir Inge Lotsberg in 2007, with the support of

Norsk KomponistFond (The Norwegian Composers' Fund).

Königliches Thema, by Isang Yun, is a study in the form of a series of seven types of variations, built on a well-known theme that we associate with J. S. Bach. Bach received this theme from King Frederick II when the former visited in Berlin in 1747, to be used as the starting point for an improvisation the king asked him to present. Bach later used the theme as the basis for *Das Musikalische Opfer*. In Yun's piece this mysterious theme and its inversions appear both individually and simultaneously. The contrasting modernistic background serves as a means of observing and commenting on the theme.

Canto and Ritornello, by Finnish composer Aulis Sallinen, are both written in an expressively dissonant style marked by skilful thematic development and polyphony. The combination of arco and pizzicato is especially prominent.

Classical Brace, commissioned by Geir Inge Lotsberg and financed by Norsk Kulturråd (Arts Council Norway), was composed in 2008. The piece bends and moulds a limited musical frame of reference while at the same time welcoming and sustaining itself with the rich heritage of the violin.

Sveinung Gardsøy

Previous releases on AFontibus with Geir Inge Lotsberg:

ATB-CD 04: Solo violin works by Apollyon, Skouen and Åm [2005]

ATB-CD 03: Violin works by Carl Nielsen with Håvard Gimse, piano [2001]

ATB-CD 01 & 02: J. S. Bach: Sonatas (BWV 1014 - 1019) with Kåre Nordstoga, organ [1997]

1	HANS WERNER HENZE (1926): <i>Étude philharmonique</i> (1979)	4:21
2	PORKELL SIGURBJÖRNSSON (1938): <i>Skrek Fyrir skrek (Step by step)</i> (1998)	4:47
3	KLAUS SANDVIK (1966): <i>In the pinch of now</i> (2007)	4:28
4	HANS WERNER HENZE: <i>Serenade</i> (1986)	2:40
*	ISANG YUN (1917-1995): <i>Kontraste - Zwei Stücke für Violine solo</i> (1987)	
5	I	10:00
6	II	6:54
7	SYNNE SKOUEN (1950): <i>"...à travers les paroles"</i> (2007)	7:27
8	ISANG YUN: <i>Königliches Thema</i> (1976).	7:08
*	AULIS SALLINEN (1935):	
9	<i>Canto, opus 37</i> (1975)	3:22
10	<i>Ritornello, opus 36</i> (1975)	4:05
11	KLAUS SANDVIK: <i>Classical Brace</i> (2008)	11:21

Geir Inge Lotsberg, violin

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