



**Benedicte Maurseth, Berit Opheim,
Håkon Stene, Rolf Lislevand:
*Tidekverv***

Berit Opheim: vocals

Benedicte Maurseth: Hardanger fiddle, vocals

Rolf Lislevand: lute, electric guitar, electric bass

Håkon Mørch Stene: Vibraphone, percussion, electronics

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Release:

Four days every year mark especially significant days for the sun: the vernal equinox, the summer solstice, the autumnal equinox and the winter solstice. On the summer and winter solstices the sun “turns”, and on the spring and autumn equinoxes the day and night are the same length. The work *Tidekverv* presents new vocal and instrumental folk music composed for, and dedicated to, the sun’s four important days.

Two of Norway’s most prominent folk musicians created this distinctive work. Berit Opheim is one of the country’s foremost folk singers, and has in the past few years performed on stages in Norway, Europe and Asia as a member of Trio Mediæval and as a soloist. She works with both contemporary music and early music. She has been associated with the Ole Bull Academy in Voss since 1992. Benedicte Maurseth started playing the Hardanger fiddle at the age of eight, under the instruction of Knut Hamre, and specialises in the traditional music of Hardanger. She is also a composer and writer, and has collaborated with poets and stage artists. She has released several recordings on the Heilo and ECM labels.

The work *Tidekverv* was inspired by the medieval visionary poem “Draumkvedet”, both as a form of poetry and as type of musical ritual, as the ballad was mainly performed on the 13th day of Christmas every year. The two composers wanted to pay homage to an older form of poetry, the Nordic ballad, by writing new folk music, and they perform the work primarily in the periods of the equinoxes and solstices. The melodic material was composed by Opheim and Maurseth, but was adapted and arranged with the valuable help and enthusiasm of their musical colleagues Rolf Lislevand and Håkon Mørch Stene.

Lislevand is well known as a lutenist and performer of early music. He has

participated in many of Jordi Savall's projects, and heads his own group, Ensemble Kapsberger. He has released two recordings on the ECM label. Mørch Stene is a percussionist who has been awarded a number of prizes, and specialises in contemporary music and early music. He has also collaborated with folk musician Nils Økland and electronica artist Pantha Du Prince & The Bell Laboratory, among others.

The work was composed using the traditional style, tonalities and form of folk music, but has also clearly been inspired by elements of baroque, contemporary and improvisational music.

The lyrics were written in two-line and four-line ballad stanza forms, with a refrain. "Today it is unusual for anyone to write new poetry using this form, and we are very grateful to writers Bergsveinn Birgisson and Erlend O. Nødtvedt for accepting this challenge," write Opheim and Maurseth in their liner notes. Bergsveinn Birgisson, from Iceland, holds a PhD in Norse philology from the University of Bergen. He has been nominated for a number of awards for his poetry collections and novels, including the Brage Prize and the Nordic Council's Literature Prize. In 2015 Erlend O. Nødtvedt was named one of Norway's 10 best writers under the age of 35 by the newspaper *Morgenbladet*, and he has had three poetry collections and one novel published. These two writers share the ability to imbue their poetry, which features ancient metres and archaic language, with new meaning.

Tidekverv had its world premiere on the vernal equinox, 20 March 2017, in Gamle Aker Church at the Oslo International Church Music Festival. Since then it has been presented several times in connection with the equinoxes and solstices.

The album was recorded at Jar Church in Oslo, taking advantage of its superb acoustics, and was produced by Håkon Mørch Stene.

Concerts in 2018:

7 September: Aasentunet, Ørsta

8 September: Ny Musikk Bergen / Columbi Egg, as part of the concert series "VRENG"

9 September: Ulvik Poetry Festival

30 September: Festival Musica Divina, Belgium

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Biographies

Berit Opheim holds a degree from the Norwegian Academy of Music. She has been associated with the Ole Bull Academy in Voss since 1992. She is one of Norway's most prominent and important folk singers, and has performed on stages in Norway, Europe and Asia in recent years. She is a member of Trio Mediæval and is a highly sought-after singer within the fields of folk music

and contemporary music, among others. In addition to her activities with folk music and folk singing she has also worked extensively with classical singing and early music. Opheim has released a number of solo recordings, and has received glowing reviews for her work.

Benedicte Maurseth is a Norwegian folk musician, composer and writer. She started playing the Hardanger fiddle at the age of eight, under the instruction of Knut Hamre, and specialises in the traditional music of Hardanger. Maurseth has collaborated with many of Norway's most outstanding artists in a variety of genres, including Jon Fosse, Svein Tindberg, Anne Marit Jacobsen, Knut Hamre and Nils Økland. She has toured both as a solo artist and together with others in Norway and abroad, and has released a number of CDs on the Grappa and ECM labels. She composed the music for the stage version of Jon Fosse's *Andvake* at Det Norske Teatret and for *Morgon og Kveld* at the National Theatre in 2015. In 2014, the publishing house Det Norske Samlaget issued Maurseth's first book: *Å vera ingenting – Samtalar med spelemannen Knut Hamre (Being Nothing – Conversations with Fiddler Knut Hamre)*.

Rolf Lislevand is a world-renowned lutenist who has been living in Italy since 1987. He holds a degree from the Norwegian Academy of Music and the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis in Basel. In 1990 Lislevand began teaching at the conservatory in Toulouse, and starting in 1993 he was engaged as a professor at Trossingen University of Music in Germany. He has been particularly active as a chamber musician, collaborating extensively with viol player Jordi Savall on, among other things, recording the music for the film *Tous les matins du monde (All the Mornings of the World)* in 1992. He has had a distinguished international career for several decades, and is today considered one of the foremost lutenists in the world.

Håkon Mørch Stene is a prize-winning Norwegian percussionist who specialises in modern music and early music. In the past few years he has been associated with the Norwegian Academy of Music in connection with doctoral and post-doctoral work on the projects "This is Not a Drum – Towards a Post-Instrumental Practice" and "Music with the Real", addressing the development of new works and interpretations with new instruments, techniques and methods. Mørch Stene has been one of Norway's leading percussionists for over 15 years, and has also built a successful international career. He has performed at festivals, on radio and on TV throughout Europe, the USA and Asia with ensembles such as Asamisimasa, Klangforum Wien, Oslo Sinfonietta, BIT 20, Rolf Lislevand Ensemble and Barokksolistene. In addition, Mørch Stene has appeared on a number of recordings on labels including ECM, Rough Trade and Hubro, and has won Spellemannsprisen (the Norwegian Grammy) three times. Since the autumn of 2017 he has been a professor of percussion in Germany at the University of Music Freiburg.