



Symbiosis
Tribute to Bill Evans

PALLE MIKKELBORG & CLAUS OGERMAN
THOMAS CLAUSEN TRIO
SINGAPORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
JEAN THOREL

SYMBIOSIS • TRIBUTE TO BILL EVANS

Palle Mikkelborg (b. 1941)

Bill Evans Suite (1969)

1	I. "Interlude" into Waltz for Debby	4. 01
2	II. Time Remembered	5. 03
3	III. My Bells	4. 54
4	IV. Interlude (Treasures)	5. 35
5	V. Waltz for Debby (reprise)	5. 43
6	VI. Walkin' Up	5. 06

Thomas Clausen (b. 1949)

7	For Pi (2023)	6. 15
---	----------------------	-------

Claus Ogerman (1930–2016)

Symbiosis (1974), reconstructed by Ding Jian Han & Hans Sørensen

8	Part I	25. 42
9	Part II	17. 49

Total playing time: 80. 14

Thomas Clausen Trio
Thomas Clausen, piano
Thomas Fonnesbæk, bass
Karsten Bagge, drums
Anders Malta, trumpet
(For Pi, Treasures)
Evgueni Brokmiller, flute *(For Pi)*

Singapore Symphony Orchestra
Jean Thorel, conductor
Matthieu Arama, concertmaster
Samuel Phua, alto saxophone
Michellina Chan, alto saxophone
Luo Tianze, alto & tenor saxophones
Jeffrey Gao, alto & baritone saxophones

"When you begin to teach jazz, the most dangerous thing is that you tend to teach style. I had eleven piano students, and I would say eight of them didn't even want to know about chords or anything – they didn't even want to do anything that anybody had ever done, because they didn't want to be imitators. Well, of course, this is pretty naive but nevertheless it does bring to light the fact that if you're going to try to teach jazz you must abstract the principles of music which have nothing to do with style, and this is exceedingly difficult. So there, the teaching of jazz is a very touchy point. It ends up where the jazz player, ultimately, if he's going to be a serious jazz player, teaches himself."

Bill Evans (1929 - 1980)



Bill Evans Suite (1969)

by *Palle Mikkelborg*

The influential Danish jazz trumpeter and composer Palle Mikkelborg was commissioned by the Danish Radio to compose his *Bill Evans Suite* for the Bill Evans Trio in 1969, comprising themes from famous pieces by Bill Evans such as "Waltz for Debby", "Time Remembered", "My Bells" and "Walkin' Up". The suite was originally recorded for a television programme featuring the Danish Radio Big Band and members from the Royal Danish Orchestra.

For Pi

by *Thomas Clausen*

For Pi is a jazz ballad written in the style of Bill Evans, not far from the moods of his piano works on *Flamenco Sketches* or from Miles Davis' *Kind of Blue* (1959). It also echoes Evans'

solo piano piece "Peace Piece" from his 2nd trio album *Everybody Digs Bill Evans* from 1958, which marked the beginning of his idea.

I composed my piece exactly 14 years after my ex-wife and the mother of my daughters killed herself in 2006. We called her "Pi". The orchestration for the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, recorded on this album, was done in two hours in my hotel room in Singapore, during our week in performance with the orchestra (Jan 2023). So it's a very simple one, mainly focused on the strings and the trio, with Anders' smooth trumpet on top.

Thomas Clausen



Anders Malta
© Jack Yam



Symbiosis (1974)

by Claus Ogerman,
reconstructed by Ding Jian Han
& Hans Sørensen (2019-2020)

Symbiosis marks the third collaboration between the decorated German composer-arranger Claus Ogerman and American Jazz pianist and luminary Bill Evans, with the pair working together previously in 1963 and 1965 on two jazz albums with symphony orchestra.

With a structure very similar to that of a piano concerto, *Symbiosis* is a two-movement work, cast in three sections in the first movement and two sections in the second movement. It starts with four haunting sets of chords, using four alto saxophones to create a unique sound colour. These sets of chords would also turn out to be important structural markers later

in the movement. After a brief upright bass solo, accompanied by the saxophones, we are presented with long soli by the jazz trio. This highlights an essential characteristic of *Symbiosis* – it consists of both improvised soli parts by the trio, as well as written out or ‘through-composed’ parts for the orchestra and soloists. Renowned Canadian classical pianist Glenn Gould, an avid admirer of Bill Evans and *Symbiosis*, remarked in 1977 that “... the through-composed sections are really quite marvellous; Ogerman has a staggeringly inventive harmonic imagination and the first of *Symbiosis*’ two movements, in particular, is possessed of enormous sweep and drive.”

The slower second movement is introduced by the solo piano, which plays an alluring theme with a tinge of nostalgia. These subtle

emotions then swell immensely with the emergence of a lush texture consisting of flute and strings, reinstating the theme in a much higher register. After another extended jazz soli section, the music continuously grows in terms of dynamics, textural density and orchestration, eventually culminating in a majestic passage by the whole orchestra.

Symbiosis was originally composed solely for an album recording in 1974 for the MPS label. The full orchestral score was unfortunately not preserved for performance. In 2019, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO) commissioned Singaporean composer Ding Jian Han to re-construct the orchestral score, under the guidance of its Director of Artistic Planning, Hans Sørensen. This score was performed on 6 Jan 2023, marking the first time *Symbiosis* is performed

complete and live to an audience, and recorded for this album.

Note from Ding Jian Han:

I started this long process (which lasted nine months) of re-constructing the orchestral score by listening to the album recording of Symbiosis repeatedly. This was to familiarise myself with the arranging and orchestration style of the great Claus Ogerman, understanding his Jazz-classical fusion style of writing, as well as internalising important structural markers in the piece. Hans Sørensen, with his vast knowledge of Ogerman, provided me with important references from his other musical output. Albums like his Two Concertos quoted specific sections from Symbiosis, which gave me important clues to instrumentation. We were fortunate to have found a piano reduction of the piece, which



I used extensively to identify pitches in the harmony. I then referred to the album recording to determine the orchestrations and chord voicings in the music, as well as to transcribe certain rhythms and counter-melodies which were not present in the piano reduction (sometimes resorting to slowing down the recording by several factors in complicated parts of the piece).

In some instances, I had to make educated guesses based on this musical idiom, as certain instrumental timbres in the background were very hard to discern. This was especially true for the dense and fast-changing second section of the first movement and the third section of the first movement, where the very prominent Fender Rhodes sound covered up much of the instrumental timbres in the background (this could have been due to the track's mix as well).



From right to left:
Thomas Clausen, piano
Karsten Bagge, drums
Thomas Fonnesbæk, bass
© Gorm Valentin





Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Thomas Clausen Trio & Jean Thorel

© Jack Yam

Acknowledgements

PRODUCTION TEAM

Executive producer **Hans Sørensen** | Recording producer **Dominik Streicher**
Recording engineer **Martin Li Shi** | Editing & stereo mixing engineers **Markus Radke** & **Dominik Streicher** | Surround mixing **Kseniya Kawko**
Stereo mastering **Christoph Stickle** | Surround mastering **Ephraim Hahn**

ARTWORK

Liner notes **Ding Jian Han, Thomas Clausen & Leon Chia** | Photos of Bill Evans **Jan Persson/CTS IMAGES** | Cover & digisleeve design **Marjolein Coenrady** (PENTATONE)
Booklet coordination & design **Karolina Szymanik** (PENTATONE)

This album was recorded at Esplanade Concert Hall in Singapore between 5-7 January 2023. Recorded, mixed and mastered by msm-productions Singapore.

Publisher credits:

Palle Mikkelborg's *Bill Evans Suite* is copyrighted by Palle Mikkelborg (KODA); Thomas Clausen's *For Pi* is copyrighted by Thomas Clausen (KODA); Claus Ogerman's *Symbiosis* is published by Glamorous Music (ASCAP).



PENTATONE TEAM

Managing Director **Sean Hickey** | Label Director **Silvia Pietrosanti** | A&R **Alice Lombardo**
Project Management **Ana Teodorović** | Press **Allie Summers** | Distribution **Camilla Vickerage** | Audio **Wirre de Vries** | Finance **Adrie Engels** | Admin **Lineke Steffers**





Sit back and enjoy

