



ORCHID CLASSICS

DEFIANCE

Esa Pielfilä

ORC100418

DEFIANCE

Esa Pietilä (b.1964)

1	Sphere	9.29
2	Defiance	7.15
3	Ahoy	11.44
4	Fire	7.23
5	Scenery with Blue Waves	6.29
6	Diamond Jor	6.08
7	Mist	6.39
8	Colours of Liberation	12.28
	Total time	68.17

Esa Pietilä, saxophone

Defiance is sound against silence — fragile, eruptive, unbound.

Eight journeys unfold: spheres of resonance, waves of liberation, fire, mist, and crystalline edges. Here, the saxophone is not only an instrument but a voice — whispering, resisting, calling outward. Each breath a step into the unknown.

1. **Sphere** – *Circular resonances unfold like an orbit of sound, constantly returning and transforming.*
2. **Defiance** – *A manifesto of complex rhythm and sound: bold, uncompromising, resisting limitation.*
3. **Ahoy** – *An adventurous dialog, in the unknown — playful, adventurous, risk-taking.*
4. **Fire** – *Explosive breath and raw energy ignite into blazing textures.*
5. **Scenery with Blue Waves** – *Undulating phrases flow like oceanic movements, fluid and expansive.*
6. **Diamond Jor** – *Crystalline structures reflect pulse as sharp, multifaceted brilliance.*
7. **Mist** – *Fragile atmospheres drift in veiled layers, hovering on the edge of silence.*
9. **Colors of Liberation** – *Shifting tones and timbres release into open, unbound space.*

Defiance is my most personal solo saxophone statement so far. Playing alone with the instrument means standing face to face with silence, where every note becomes a decision — fragile, risky, or defiant. For me, the solo saxophone is not just an instrument but a resonant body, a voice that can whisper, cry, resist, and expand beyond boundaries.

The eight compositions on this album each explore a different landscape. *Sphere* searches for circular resonance in various tempi, while *Colors of*

Liberation releases energy into shifting sonic fields. *Fire* burns with eruptive intensity, and *Mist* hovers in fragile atmospheres. The title piece, *Defiance*, is a manifesto — a declaration of uncompromising marriage of complex rhythms and sounds. *Ahoy* calls outward, playful yet adventurous dialog, in the unknown. *Scenery with Blue Waves* flows like a moving seascape in a sunny day, while *Diamond Jor* reflects a crystalline, multifaceted presence of pulse senza misura.

Together, these pieces form a cycle of sound worlds — elemental, abstract, and deeply human. In them, I seek not only to expand the language of the saxophone, but also to test the edges of what one breath, one body, and one instrument can say against silence.

Esa Pietilä



Esa Pietilä

Composer & Saxophone

Esa Pietilä (b.1964) is an acclaimed Finnish saxophonist and composer whose work in both contemporary classical and jazz, transcends genre, creating music without limits. Known for his bold sonic language and expressive range, Pietilä has created works for soloists, chamber ensembles, and orchestras, often crossing boundaries between composed form and spontaneous gesture. As a solo saxophonist Pietilä presents constant ongoing concert series for solo saxophone, displaying a quicksilver imagination and questing mind.

Major compositions for ensembles, and orchestras include e.g. *Graffiti Play*, *Concerto for Saxophone*, premiered with Avanti! Chamber Orchestra in 2014, *Pulses, Waves & Dialogues* for Tenor Saxophone & String Orchestra, premiered with St. Michel Strings in 2017, *Blazing Flames* for String Quartet and saxophone, premiered with Kamus Quartet in 2018 and recorded with Skatta Quartet in 2025 and upcoming *Kairos Ludus* – Double concerto for violin, tenor saxophone and orchestra.

He has performed as soloist with a range of top orchestras including Kuopio Symphony, Lappeenranta City Orchestra, Pori Sinfonietta and Saimaa Sinfonietta. He has collaborated with leading composers, conductors and musicians including Esa-Pekka Salonen (conductor), Santtu-Matias Rouvali (conductor), Ville Matvejeff (conductor), Tibor Boganuyi (conductor), Veli Kujala (accordionist & composer) and Magnus Lindberg (composer).

His music has been performed at international festivals, in concert halls and broadcasted widely. As a saxophonist, he brings unique sensibility into his writing.

www.esapietila.com



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Record engineer: Enno Mäemets

Recording producer: Viive Mäemets

Mixed and mastered by Enno Mäemets at Editroom

Producer: Esa Pietilä

Photography: Mikko Hannula

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