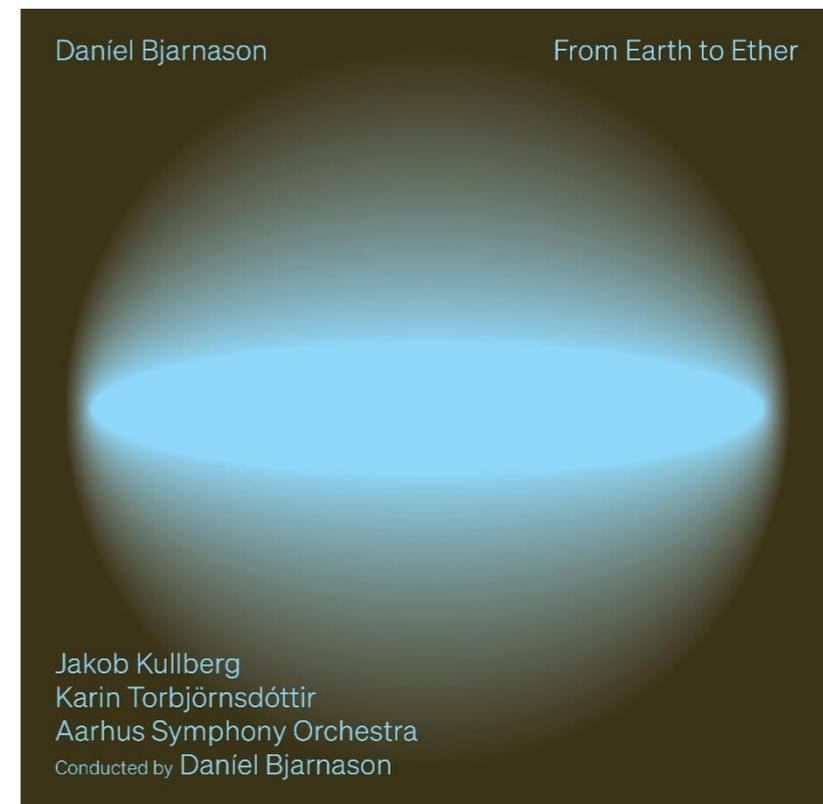


DANÍEL BJARNASON

From Earth to Ether

Jakob Kullberg, *cello*
 Karin Torbjörnsdóttir, *mezzo-soprano*
 Aalborg Symphony Orchestra
 Daníel Bjarnason, *conductor*

There is an evaporating quality to the music of Icelandic composer and conductor Daníel Bjarnason, with sounds that can start softly or loudly, serenely or fiercely, but ultimately dissipate into intangible air. This album, conducted by the composer himself, showcases this characteristic in three captivating works in all-new versions. In *Bow to String*, the three movements undergo a mesmerizing transformation from a pounding passacaglia to an exhale of frozen breath. In *Over Light Earth*, the sounds tremble before dispersing to the far edges of the orchestra. And in the *Larkin Songs*, Bjarnason reflects on fleeting companionship and love.

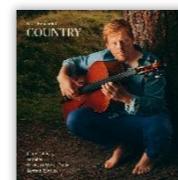


CONTENT

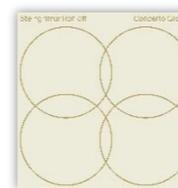
Bow to String (2011, rev. 2022)	16:39
Version for cello and orchestra	
[1] I Sorrow Conquers Happiness	6:20
[2] II Blood to Bones	5:45
[3] III Air to Breath	4:33
Over Light Earth (2012, rev. 2016, 2022)	15:13
For chamber orchestra	
[4] I Over Light Earth	6:14
[5] II Number 1, 1949	8:59
Larkin Songs (2022)	14:08
Version for voice and orchestra	
[6] I Talking in Bed	4:44
[7] II Is It for Now or for Always	2:10
[8] III Night Music	7:14
	Total 46:01
World premiere recording	

RELEVANT TITLES

RØNSHOLDT: COUNTRY (2021)
 Jakob Kullberg, *cello and vocals*
 Orkiestra Muzyki Nowej
 Szymon Bywalec, *conductor*
 CD 8.226713



ROHLOFF: CONCERTO GROSSO (2023)
 Stefan Dohr, *French horn*
 Gábor Tarkövi, *trumpet*
 Jesper Busk Sørensen, *trombone*
 Jens Bjørn-Larsen, *tuba*
 Aalborg Symphony Orchestra
 Giordano Bellincampi, *conductor*
 Digital album 8.226636



SCHMIDT: BRASS CONCERTOS (2022)
 Stefan Dohr, *French horn*
 Gábor Tarkövi, *trumpet*
 Jesper Busk Sørensen, *trombone*
 Jens Bjørn-Larsen, *tuba*
 Aalborg Symphony Orchestra
 Giordano Bellincampi, *conductor*
 SACD 6.220702



THIS IS THE STORY

- This album is the Dacapo Records debut album of the Icelandic composer and conductor Daníel Bjarnason (b. 1979).
- In Bjarnason’s music is characterized by a sense of evaporation and of earthly things transforming into **ethereal** ones, as atmospheric sounds seem to dissolve into something **airy**.
- In *Over Light Earth*, Bjarnason’s orchestra is augmented with two pianos, which are positioned at opposite sides of the ensemble, as far apart as possible. The work is inspired by two masterpieces of American **abstract expressionist painting**: Mark Rothko’s *No. 9 (Dark Over Light Earth)* of 1954, and Jackson Pollock’s *Number 1, 1949*.
- *Bow to String* is recorded here for the first time in a new version for **cello and orchestra** created in 2022. Inspired by a performance work, big band ballad styled walking bass and bluesy harmonies are deconstructed throughout the work.
- The three *Larkin Songs*, with texts by poet **Philip Larkin**, dwell on the companionship and love that becomes a mirage even as we hold it in our arms. Bjarnason renders this dramatically in musical phrases that are never far from fading away.
- SoMe: Aalborg Symphony Orchestra has 4.9 K Facebook followers. Daníel Bjarnason has 2.6 K Instagram followers.
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