



EILÍFUR
Viktor Orri Árnason



VAR · ER

VIKTOR ORRI ARNÁSSON



Sparked by the realisation that medical advances will soon eradicate death by natural causes, Eilífur weaves together a lucid, near-future narrative via a combination of abstract Icelandic lyrics and adept musical storytelling. Throughout the album, a cross-generational dialogue unravels, narrating humanity's search for shared meaning on the cusp of a pivotal moment in history.

The album poses questions about the changing significance of time itself and the role that our eventual demise plays in the meanings we assign to our lifetimes. It asks what life will be like in the absence of death's ticking clock, responding with both fear and excitement in equal measure. Staying clear of the morbidity that such themes may imply, Eilífur is above all a celebration of life as we know it, and an ode to the things that make it worth living.

The scope and scale of Eilífur – a deeply personal conversation played out against the vast backdrop of human progress – is reflected in the extremes of its sound, which moves seamlessly from intimate strings and sombre voices (the latter, fittingly, conducted by my own father) to grand orchestral gestures and vast drones. Recordings I did in Berlin, Iceland, and Budapest were subjected to cycles of tape-based time manipulation – with the warped results of one session informing the next set of recordings and so on. In this way, I gradually twisted the raw sounds into a sonic world fitting of the album's expansive story.

- Viktor Orri Árnason

Var

sjáðu, vökull horfðu á
andaðu að þér nóttinni
og drekk dökkbláan himininn.

nú sjáðu, andaðu
hlustaðu á hljóðið
þögnin þegjandi en öskrandi - æpandi frjó
flæðandi - grátandi en frjó.

sjáðu, vökull horfðu á
andaðu að þér næturhúminu
sjáðu, árvakur taktu eftir
öndunin situr handan fjallgarðsins.

Er

tengjumst miðjunni,
þar nemur tíminn nú staðar.
skilum ellinni, sækjum ungdóminn.

Var - Er

eilífur vakir þú hér
eilífur vil ég með þér
eilífur við sjáum (nú) til,
nú gangi þér allt í haginn.

Var

See, be aware – watch.
Breathe in the night
And drink the dark blue sky.

Now see, breathe
Listen to the sound/silence
So still and yet howling silence, intently prolific.
Flowing, weeping but prolific.

See, be aware – watch.
Breathe in the night sky.
Watch, be aware that you are aware
as the breath sits beyond the mountain ridge.

Er

Merge with the middle
Where time sits still.
Return senescence, sustain youth.

Var - Er

Eternal.
You are conscious by my side.
Eternal.
I want to be by your side.
We'll see what awaits us.

EILÍFUR

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1	Var	10. 48
2	The Thread	4. 22
3	Maiden	5. 45
4	Er	3. 48
5	The Faultline	4. 14
6	The Vision	3. 37
7	Nectar	4. 00
8	Anima Mundi	2. 53
9	Var - Er	4. 07
Total playing time:		43. 39

All tracks composed, produced, engineered and mixed by Viktor Orri Árnason at VOA Studio.

All solo instruments played by Viktor Orri Árnason, except:
Solo double bass on Var and The Thread by Yair Elazar Glotman
Bass clarinet and saxophones on The Vision by Stefan Baumann.
Guitar on Anima Mundi by Benedikt Smári Skúlason.
Additional electronic vocals on Var, Er, Var - Er by Viktor Orri Árnason.
All recorded at VOA Studio in 2018 and 2019.
Additional production on Var, Er and Var - Er by Hildur Guðnadóttir.

All orchestral parts were recorded at Magyar Radio, Studio No. 22, East Connection Studios in Budapest in 2018 and 2019 by the Budapest Art Orchestra, conducted by Viktor Orri Árnason in three different sessions:

1. Session - 24 piece Strings Orchestra
2. Session - 12 Cellos and 10 basses
3. Session - 2 bass flutes, 2 saxophones, bass clarinet, contrabass clarinet, 2 percussion players, violin, viola and cello

Gábor Buczkó: recording engineer

Miklós Lukács Sr.: ProTools operator

Miklós Lukács: orchestra producer

Rick Vincent Will: orchestrator assistant

The 3 pieces Var, Er and Var - Er are derived from the original choir piece Var - Er - Var, written by Viktor Orri Árnason, commissioned by the Fóstbræður male choir (Karlakórinn Fóstbræður) for their centennial concert at the Harpa concert hall, 18th of November 2016.

Var, Er, and Var - Er were all recorded in Langholtskirkja, Reykjavík in January 2017.

Recorded by Sigurður Jónsson

Performed by:

- Karlakórinn Fóstbræður
- Árni Harðarson, conductor
- Benedikt Kristjánsson, tenor

- Grímur Helgason, clarinet
- Emil Friðfinnsson, horn
- Stefán Jón Bernharðsson, horn
- Jósef Ognibene, horn
- Sigurður Þorbergsson, trombone
- Carlos Caro Aguilera, trombone

Male Sextet on The Thread, Maiden, Er and
The Faultline: Aron Steinn Ásbjarnarson,
Bjarmi Hreinsson, Guðmundur Vignir
Karlsson, Hafsteinn Þórólfsson, Örn
Arnarson, Örn Ýmir Arason.

Recorded by Bergur Þórisson at Frikirkjan í
Hafnarfirði.

Conducted by Víktor Orri Árnason.



Acknowledgements

PRODUCTION TEAM

Executive producers **Viktor Orri Árnason & Kate Rockett** (PENTATONE)

Mastering **Zino Mikorey**

Album artwork and photography **Yvonne Hartmann**

Management **Antonio Cárdenas** (Heartfelt Management)

Design **Marjolein Coenrady** | Product management **Kasper van Kooten**

A&R Coordinator **Veronika Muravskaia**

Var, Er, and Var - Er were all recorded in Langholtskirkja, Reykjavik in January 2017, male sextet was recorded at Frikkirkjan í Hafnarfirði in Iceland in 2018, all orchestral parts were recorded at the East Connection Studios in Budapest in 2018 and 2019, all solo instruments and additional electronic vocals recorded at VOA Studio in 2018 and 2019.

PENTATONE TEAM

Vice President A&R **Renaud Loranger** | Managing Director **Simon M. Eder**

A&R Manager **Kate Rockett** | Product Manager **Kasper van Kooten**

Head of Marketing, PR & Sales **Silvia Pietrosanti**

Dedicated to my sons Aron Glói and Júníus Myrkvi.

Thanks Antje Taiga Jandrig and the rest of my family and friends, and everyone that played on- or helped out with this record.

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My very special thanks to everyone listening and supporting my music.

Thank you Hljóðritasjóður for supporting this release.

www.viktorarnason.com



Sit back and enjoy