

A painting of a sailboat on a calm lake. The boat is partially visible on the right side, showing its hull and a large sail. The water is a deep greenish-blue, reflecting the surrounding environment. In the background, there are several layers of mountains, with the closest ones being dark grey and the furthest ones having white peaks. The sky above the mountains is a light yellow or orange color.

EARLY & LATE

GÁMAN

EARLY & LATE

Music from Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands

GÁMAN

Bolette Roed recorder, tin whistle*

Rune Tønsgaard Sørensen violin, piano*, carving board

Andreas Borregaard classical accordion, melodeon*, carving board

Poul Bjerager Christiansen violin*

DANISH TRAD.

- [1] *Two Svabo Polonaises* 3:44

RUNE GLERUP (b. 1981)

- [2] *objets/décalages* (2008) 6:18

GREENLANDIC TRAD.

- [3] *Torngt's Song* (Qaanaaq) 1:51

PELLE GUDMUNDSEN-HOLMGREEN (b. 1932)

- [4] *Together or Not* (2012) 7:56

GREENLANDIC TRAD.

- [5] *Qivittooq Song after Jakob Dorph (Nanortalik)* 1:59

FAROESE TRAD.

- [6] *Ormurin langi + Regin Smiður* 5:13

DANISH TRAD.

- [7] *Three Bridal Pieces from Sønderho** 5:16

SUNLEIF RASMUSSEN (b. 1961)

- [8] *Accvire* (2008) 9:58

FAROESE TRAD.

- [9] *Brestiskvæði* 3:40

GREENLANDIC TRAD.

- [10] *Traditional Song (Ikerasak)* 2:11

FAROESE TRAD.

- [11] *Goodnight and farewell* 1:47

Arr. of trad.: Gáman

Dacapo is supported by the Danish Arts Council Committee for Music



Total: 49:52

MUSIC FROM DENMARK, GREENLAND AND THE FAROE ISLANDS

by Trine Boje Mortensen

THE ENSEMBLE AND THE PROJECT

Gáman – the word means merriment. It is a self-made variation on the Old Norse *gaman*. Fun and games. The joy of playing, of listening, joie de vivre.

The project began in 2007 over a glass of wine, when the three musicians had the idea of mixing brand new and very old. Folk music and new music from the same country, collected in six Nordic countries – Denmark, Sweden, Norway, the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland.

No sooner thought than done, and composers in all the countries were contacted. The folk music and the contemporary works that emerged have since then been played by Gáman in among other places Denmark, Greenland, Iceland, the Faroes and the USA. And now here is the CD, which documents the successful concept in a more enduring form. Denmark in the very widest sense stands at the centre of this CD; the music is from Greenland, the Faroes and Denmark itself. Three new compositions and a number of the folk dances and songs from each part of the kingdom.

EARLY AND LATE

"The starting point was to create our own repertoire," says Bolette Roed, after a brief presentation of the problem of finding works for the ensemble violin, recorder and accordion. Andreas Borregaard continues: "To an individual extent, each of us has a history in folk music and in contemporary music, so those were the fields we decided on. To make the project cohere we chose the Nordic countries."

When Gáman asked the living composers to write a work for the trio, they informed the composers of the concept: their works would be played together with old folk music. They didn't ask the composers to relate to the folk music in their new works, and they have not done so. But what happens in the confrontation between old and new?

"We've experienced at the concerts that if the audience hears the folk music first, they get a different take on the contemporary music, because it is thrown into relief. The folk music, that was then, and now we are here today, and the cars are driving outside and the world out there looks as it does today, and that's the world to which our contemporary music relates. I think you're reminded of the time aspect; when music is made. In this context the audience comes to the new music with a more open mind." This is Bolette Roed talking about the concert experiences and the repertoire, and Andreas Borregaard adds: "On the one hand there's the intellectual approach where you come to think about what you hear in a different way. But there's also the quite direct reaction from people rooted in the fact that it's nice to have variety in the concert programme. In a way you come with fresh ears with each leap from one time to another."

THE FOLK MUSIC

The Danish folk music on the CD consists of two Svabo Polonaises and three Bridal Pieces from Fanø. "We had a number of different tunes to choose from, including some from the melody book of the Bast brothers. But we ended up falling for the two polonaises and the bridal pieces." The speaker is Andreas Borregaard.

Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen: "The three bridal tunes are three iconic melodies that could be great to try our hand with. When you say folk music from Denmark, Sønderho on Fanø will be the first thing lots of people would mention. The music from this small village, where people still dance in the village hall, is quite sublime, and of course that's the main reason we've chosen to play it. The tunes are so simple. There's nothing and everything in them at the same time. It's incredible how much feeling you can get out of just a few bars."

The configuration of Gáman is unconventional in classical music, and the ensemble also plays the folk music in unconventional ways; there is no singer performing the Faroese *kvad* or the Greenlandic songs, and the music is arranged and rewritten so it suits the three musicians. "Of course there are always those people who say 'you shouldn't do that'. We don't care about that. Folk music is after all a kind of functional music. Originally it's dance music, but with a CD like this you usually sit there listening

to the music. So we also have the possibility of taking some slightly greater liberties with the form and harmony." This is Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen talking about how the trio goes a little further in the interpretations of the Danish folk music than the traditionalists may be used to. Andreas Borregaard adds: "So you can dance to the CD if you want, that would be beautiful! That whole element formed by dancing is after all absolutely tremendous, it's indescribable. So, if there's no dancing, and all you have is the music on a CD, then something else is called for. That's why we build further on harmonies and tempo, for example, in our arrangements."

Andreas Borregaard, who has been a guide in Greenland, says that in connection with the project Early and Late he bought a CD of around 50 different Greenlandic songs, each lasting a minute or thereabouts. They were recordings of Greenlanders sitting singing the traditional songs. "Out of the fifty or so songs we have chosen those that spoke most to us. There's a tune, sometimes with drum accompaniment, but there's no other tradition for playing these songs than the one we heard on the recording. So we try to recreate the mood, the expression in the song. The solitude and the wide open spaces."

The trio have a close relationship with the Faroese melodies, among other reasons because many of Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen's family come from the Faroes. In this case Gáman has a closer personal relationship with the texts and the traditions. These are songs, *kvad* and ballads that people dance the chain-dance to. And as in Greenland it isn't usual to play these songs instrumentally. Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen explains: "These melodies have some of the same qualities as the Sønderho music; they're very simple and incredibly beautiful. They are songs and ballads about kings and queens, heroes and historical events. That's what they're about. Except *Goodnight and farewell*, a song from Suderø that is always the last song people sing in an evening of dancing after you've been sweating and dancing and drinking all night." At the beginning of *Ormurin langi* the trio have raised their hats to the roots of the music in dancing and recreated an instrumental version of the Faroese chain-dance steps; two to the left and one to the right, the notes echo the steps of the dance.

THE CONTEMPORARY WORKS

Just as you can sense the dance steps and song in the Faroese folk tunes, the Faroese landscape can be felt in Faroese-born Sunleif Rasmussen's *Accvire*. The title is a concatenation of the English names of the three instruments: *Accordion, Violin and Recorder*. "It's just landscape music!" says Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen. "The Faroese landscape and the VERY changeable weather. In five minutes you can pass from the loveliest sunshine to lashing rain. And then there's fog, and then a storm. At least the music evokes very specific, clear landscape images in us. When you have a spectacular landscape like that of the Faroes, it rubs off on the art."

Rune Glerup's work has the French title *objets/décalages*, which means *objects/time shifts*. The work is built up of five different parts – A, B, C, D, E – and Bolette Roed says: "Rune Glerup's idea was that you hear the parts differently depending on what comes before and after. So the five parts are repeated but presented in different orders, so that they appear in different contexts." Both Sunleif Rasmussen's and Rune Glerup's works have been in the ensemble's repertoire since 2008, while Pelle Gudmundsen-Holmgreen's *Together or Not* is of more recent date. It was commissioned for Gáman's concert at the Other Minds festival in San Francisco, where they also performed among other pieces *Accvire*. "In terms of sound Pelle Gudmundsen-Holmgreen has challenged our instrument combination in *Together or Not*," says Bolette Roed. Andreas Borregaard adds, "We have our separate sound-worlds that are very far from one another. And presumably the title says that the three worlds perhaps nevertheless hang together."

Trine Boje Mortensen is a music journalist and music presenter with a past on the programming staff of DR's P2 and as editor of the quiz game Bezzewizzer. She is also a blogger on www.nutidsmusic.dk

THE PERFORMERS

In 2007 three of Denmark's most celebrated young musicians joined forces to explore their common passion for contemporary art music and folk music. Today Bolette Roed (recorders), Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen (violin) and Andreas Borregaard (classical accordion) form the trio GÁMAN – a remarkable ensemble providing a new and highly acclaimed approach to both contemporary art music and folk tunes. Gáman started out by examining the relationship between ancient and new music from the Nordic countries. New commissions from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands were juxtaposed with traditional folk music from the same countries to reveal similarities, contrasts and influences between the different pieces and traditions, and the resulting concert programmes were presented in large concert halls and small village churches alike in all the countries included. In recent years Gáman has moved past the boundaries of the Nordic region. The trio has performed at famous festivals in Poland, focusing on the relationship between Polish and Danish folk and Baroque music, and in 2013 Gáman had their US debut at Other Minds, San Francisco, and their UK debut at Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. The trio name Gáman refers to the old Norse word for "joy".

MUSIK FRA DANMARK, GRØNLAND OG FÆRØERNE *af Trine Boje Mortensen*

ENSEMLET OG PROJEKTET

Gáman – ordet betyder gammen. Det er en selvskabt variation over det oldnordiske gaman. Fryd og gammen. Spilleglæde, lytteglæde, livsglæde.

Projektet begyndte i 2007, hvor de tre musikere over et glas vin fik ideen til at blande helt nyt og ganske gammelt. Folkemusik og ny kompositionsmusik fra samme land, indsamlet i seks nordiske lande – Danmark, Sverige, Norge, Færøerne, Island og Grønland.

Som tænkt så gjort, og komponister i alle landene blev kontaktet. Folkemusikken og de nye værker, der kom til, har siden dengang været spillet af Gáman i bl.a. Danmark, Grønland, Island, på Færøerne og i USA. Her er nu cd'en, der dokumenterer det succesrige koncept på en mere blivende måde. Danmark i allerbedste forstand står i fokus på denne cd; musikken er fra Grønland, Færøerne og Danmark. Tre nye kompositioner og en række af folkemusikkens danser og sange fra hver del af riget.

ÆLDST OG YNGST – FOLKEMUSIK OG NY KOMPOSITIONSMUSIK I NORDEN

"Udgangspunktet var selv at skabe et repertoire" fortæller Bolette Roed, efter en kort præsentation af problemet med at finde værker for besætningen violin, blokfløjte og accordeon. Andreas Borregaard fortsætter: "Det blev den nye musik og folkemusikken, som vi hver især i individuelle grader har haft historie i. For at binde projektet sammen fokuserede vi på Norden."

Da Gáman bad de nulevende komponister om at skrive et værk til trioen, informerede de komponisterne om konceptet: deres værker ville blive spillet sammen med gammel folkemusik. De bad ikke komponisterne om at forholde sig til folkemusikken i deres nye værker, og det har de heller ikke gjort. Men hvad sker der ved konfrontationen mellem gammelt og nyt?

"Vi har oplevet ved koncerterne, at hvis publikum hører folkemusikken først, så får de et andet forhold til den nye musik, fordi den bliver sat i relief. Folkemusikken, det var dengang, og nu er vi her i dag, og bilerne kører udenfor, og verden derude ser ud, som

den gør i dag, og det er den verden, vores ny musik forholder sig til. Jeg tror, man bliver mindet om tidsaspektet; hvornår musik er skabt. I denne kontekst går publikum til den nye musik med mere åbent sind.” Det er Bolette Roed, der fortæller om koncerterfaringerne og repertoaret, og Andreas Borregaard supplerer, “Der er dels den intellektuelle tilgang, hvor man netop kommer til at tænke over det, man hører, på en anden måde. Men der er også den helt umiddelbare reaktion hos folk, der bunder i, at det er et dejligt med afveksling i koncertprogrammet. Man får på en måde friske ører for hvert hop fra den ene tid til den anden.”

FOLKEMUSIKKEN

Den danske folkemusik på cd'en består af to Svabo polonaiser og tre brudestykker fra Fano. “Vi havde en række forskellige melodier at vælge mellem, bl.a. fra brødrene Basts melodibog. Men vi endte altså med at falde for de to polonaiser og brudestykkerne.” Det er Andreas Borregaard, der fortæller.” Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen: “De tre brudestykker er tre ikoniske melodier, som det kunne være fedt at prøve krammer med. Hvis man siger folkemusik fra Danmark, så nævner mange Sønderho på Fanø som det første. Musikken fra den lille landsby, hvor man stadig danser i forsamlingshuset, er jo helt sublim, og det er selvfølgelig hovedårsagen til, at vi har valgt at spille den. De er så simple, melodierne. Der er intet og alt i dem på samme tid. Det er utroligt, hvad man kan få frem af følelser i ganske få takter.”

Besætningen i Gáman er utraditionel inden for den klassiske musik, og ensemblet spiller også folkemusikken på utraditionel vis: der er ingen sanger, der synger de færøske kvad eller de grønlandske sange, og musikken er arrangeret og omskrevet, så den passer de tre musikere. “Der er jo altid folk, som siger, ‘sådan må du ikke gøre’. Det er vi fuldstændig ligeglade med. Folkemusikken er jo en art brugsmusik. Oprindeligt er det dansemusik, men med en cd som denne sidder man som regel og lytter til musikken. Derfor har vi også muligheden for at tage os nogle lidt større friheder formmæssigt og harmonisk.” Det er Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen, der fortæller om, hvordan trioen går lidt længere i fortolkningerne af den danske folkemusik end traditionalister måske er vant til. Andreas Borregaard tilføjer: “Man må altså gerne danse til den her cd, det

ville da være skønt! Hele det element dansen udgør, er jo fuldstændig forrygende, det kan slet ikke beskrives. Så hvis dansen mangler, og man kun har musikken på en cd, så er der nødt til at ske noget andet. Derfor bygger vi videre på fx harmonier og tempo i vores arrangementer.”

Andreas Borregaard, der har været guide på Grønland, fortæller, at han i forbindelse med projektet Ældst og Yngst købte en cd med omkring 50 forskellige grønlandske sange på hver et minuts varighed eller deromkring. Det er optagelser af grønlændere, der sidder og synger de traditionelle sange. “Ud af de godt 50 sange har vi valgt dem, der talte mest til os. Der er en melodi, nogle gange med trommeledsagelse, men der er ikke nogen anden tradition for at spille disse sange, end den vi hørte på optagelsen. Så vi prøver at genskabe den stemning, det udtryk, der er i sangen. Ensomheden og de store vidder.”

De færøske melodier har trioen et nært forhold til, bl.a. fordi en stor del af Rune Tonsgaard Sørensens familie stammer fra Færøerne. Her har Gáman et tættere personligt forhold til teksterne og traditionerne. Det er sange, kvad og viser, som man danser kædedans til. Og ligesom på Grønland er det ikke almindeligt at spille disse sange instrumental. Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen forklarer: “De her melodier har nogle af de samme kvaliteter som Sønderho-musikken; de er meget enkle og utroligt smukke. Det er kvad og viser om konger og dronninger, helte og historiske begivenheder. Det er det, de handler om. Undtagen *Godnat og farvel*, en sang fra Suderø, som altid er den sidste sang, man synger på en danseafsen, efter man har svædt og danset og drukket hele natten.” I begyndelsen af *Ormurin langi* har trioen løftet hatten i hilser til musikkens rødder i dansen og genskabt en instrumental version af de færøske kædedansetrin: to til venstre og et til højre træder tonerne rundt i dansen.

DE NYE VÆRKER

Ligesom man fornemmer dansetrin og sang i de færøske folkemelodier, så fornemmes den færøske natur i færøskfødte Sunleif Rasmussens *Accvire*. Titlen er en sammentrækning af de tre instrumenters engelske navne: *Accordion, Violin og Recorder*. “Det er bare naturmusik!” siger Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen. “Den færøske natur og det dér MEGET

skiftende vejr. Der går fem minutter fra det dejligste solskin, og så pisker det ned med regn. Og så er det tåge, og så stormer det. Musikken giver ret konkrete, tydelige naturbilleder for os i hvert fald. Når man har så spektakulær natur som på Færøerne, så smitter det af på kunsten.”

Rune Glerups værk har den franske titel *objets/décalages*, der betyder *objekter/tidsforskydninger*. Værket er bygget op af fem forskellige dele, A, B, C, D, E, og Bolette Roed fortæller: “Rune Glerups tanke har været, at man hører delene forskelligt, alt efter hvad kommer før eller efter. Så de fem dele bliver gentaget, men præsenteret i forskellige rækkefølger, så de optræder i forskellige sammenhænge.” Både Sunleif Rasmussens og Rune Glerups værker har været på ensemblets repertoire siden 2008, men Pelle Gudmundsen-Holmgreens *Together or Not* er af nyere dato. Det blev bestilt til Gámans koncert ved Other Minds festivalen i San Francisco, hvor de bl.a. også opførte *Accvire*. “Klangligt set har Pelle Gudmundsen-Holmgreen udfordret vores instrumentkombination i *Together or Not*,” fortæller Bolette Roed. Andreas Borregaard tilføjer, “Vi har hver vores adskilte, klanglige verdner, der ligger meget langt fra hinanden. Og så handler titlen vel om, at de tre verdener måske hænger sammen alligevel.”

Ældst og yngst – musik med rødder tilbage til den folkelige middelalder og musik, der blev uropført i 2013. Det er musik, der kaster nyt lys på hinanden, og som giver lytteren mulighed for at strække ørerne over århundreder, med en lethed som kommer helt af sig selv, når det er Gáman, der er musikerne bag. Kombinationen af det ældste – fra trommesange i Grønland over kådedans på Færøerne til brudestykker fra Fanø – og det yngste – tre generationer af nulevende komponister – bliver til en mulighed for at danse, smile og fordybe sig i klangverdener, der belyser hinanden på overraskende og berigende vis.

Trine Boje Mortensen er musikjournalist og musikformidler med en fortid som programmedarbejder på DR's P2 og redaktør på quizspillet Bezzewizzer. Hun er også blogsribent på www.nutidsmusik.dk

DE MEDVIRKENDE

I 2007 gik tre af Danmarks mest anerkendte unge musikere sammen om at udforske deres fælles passion for moderne kompositionsmusik og folkemusik. I dag udgør Bolette Roed (blokfløjte), Rune Tønsgaard Sørensen (violin) og Andreas Borregaard (accordeon) trioen GÁMAN – et bemærkelsesværdigt ensemble, som leverer/præsenterer en ny og meget rost tilgang til både nutidig partiturmusik og folkemelodier. Gámans udgangspunkt var at udforske forholdet mellem den gamle og nye musik fra de nordiske lande. Nye bestillingsværker fra Danmark, Sverige, Norge, Island, Grønland og Færøerne blev stillet overfor traditionel folkemusik fra de samme lande for herigenem at afsløre ligheder, kontraster og mulige påvirkninger mellem de forskellige traditioner. De resulterende koncertprogrammer blev præsenteret såvel i store koncertsale som i små landsbykirker i alle de inkluderede lande. I de senere år har Gáman har bevæget sig forbi Nordens landegrænser. Trioen har blandt andet optrådt ved anerkendte festivaler i Polen, med fokus på forholdet mellem polsk og dansk folke- og barokmusik, og 2013 havde Gáman deres amerikanske debut på Other Minds festival i San Francisco, og deres britiske debut på Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. Trioens navn Gáman refererer til det oldnordiske ord for “glæde”.



GÁMAN – Andreas Borregaard, Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen, Bolette Roed

DDD

Recorded in Garnisons Kirke, Copenhagen, on 3 and 5 December 2012 and 18-19 April 2013

Recorded by Timbre Music, www.timbremusic.dk

Recording producer, sound engineer, editing and mastering: Preben Iwan

Recorded in the DXD audio format (Digital eXtreme Definition), 352.8 kHz / 32bit.

Microphones: 2 x DPA 4006TL, 2 x DPA 4011TL, 2 x AKG 414 & 2x DPA 4011TL for surround channels.

DAD AX24 converters/preamps, Pyramix DAW system with Tango Controller.

Monitored on B&W 802 Diamond speakers.

© & © 2013 Dacapo Records, Copenhagen

Liner notes: Trine Boje Mortensen

English translation: James Manley

Proofreader: Svend Ravnkilde

Photo p. 14: © Jette Jørs

Graphic design: Denise Burt, www.elevator-design.dk

Publisher: Edition-S, www.edition-s.dk [1]; Edition Wilhelm Hansen AS, www.ewh.dk [4] & [8]

Gáman would like to thank the following foundations for financial support to the project "Early & Late. Folk music and new music from the Nordic countries":

Kulturkontakt Nord, Nordisk Kulturfond, Kulturfonden Danmark-Grønland, Dansk-Færøsk Kulturfond, Brødrene Hartmanns Fond, Johanne og Ejnar Flach-Bundegaards Fond and Danmarks Nationalbanks Jubilæumsfond af 1968

6.220640

DACAPO

DANMARKS NATIONALE
MUSIKANTOLOGI

Dacapo Records, Denmark's national record label, was founded in 1986 with the purpose of releasing the best of Danish music past and present. The majority of our recordings are world premieres, and we are dedicated to producing music of the highest international standards.

