

MOONBOW



Sisyfos [18:06]

CAPUT Ensemble
Ingólfur Vilhjálmsson, clarinet

Patterns IIb [11:39]

CAPUT Ensemble

Moonbow [15:32]

Siggi String Quartet

PASsaCAgLiA B [6:41]

Duo Harpverk
Ingólfur Vilhjálmsson, bass clarinet

Roots

CAPUT Ensemble

I. [4:09]

II. [3:32]

III. [2:48]

Total Time [62:32]

MOONBOW

MOONBOW is Gunnar Andreas Kristinsson's second album, the first to be released on a major label. The music, performed by leading members of the Icelandic contemporary music scene, was recorded in Kaldalón and Norðurljós, the two recital halls of Harpa Reykjavik Concert Hall. While Gunnar's first album, *Patterns*, contains pieces from his study and freelance years in The Hague, MOONBOW is a selection of more mature works from a fruitful period in the composer's life after moving back to Iceland in 2009, with all the experience from the Netherlands in his pocket. The album features a trio, a quartet and a quintet, flanked by two larger ensemble pieces. The works are diverse, not only in terms of instrumentation but also in terms of musical subject and give a good insight into Gunnar's distinctive and personal sound-world.



Gunnar Andreas Kristinsson

With his sensitive insight, Gunnar Andreas Kristinsson has developed a unique and personal style through the years. Typical for his music are unfolding processes, passages that transform smoothly from one texture to another, shifting between contrasting moods. Another characteristic is strictly constructed, multi-layered, continuous movements with musical elements being drawn in and out of the foreground through instrumentation and articulation. Textures woven out of rhythmic and melodic patterns, like patchwork, is yet another distinctive feature.

Gunnar has been described as a 'strong Icelandic voice with a fresh and bold imagination'. His music has been praised for being vivid and inventive, highly original, pleasantly coherent, purposefully constructed, filled with mystique and magical power.

Gunnar Andreas Kristinsson was born in Reykjavik in 1976. He holds a BA degree from the Reykjavik College of Music and an MA from the Royal Conservatory in The Hague. During his studies in the Netherlands he received a scholarship from NUFFIC (Netherlands Universities Foundation for International Cooperation). His teachers through the years have included Kjartan Ólafsson, Atli Heimir Sveinsson, Krzysztof Meyer, Martijn Padding, Diderik Wagenaar and Clarence Barlow. Gunnar's works have been featured at music festivals and major venues worldwide such as Nordic Music Days, Gaudeamus Festival, ISCM World Music Days, Ultima Festival and Darmstadt Summer Course. Gunnar has worked with many renowned ensembles and music groups in Iceland and abroad, including Nieuw Ensemble, De Ereprijs, The Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Modelo62, Stockholm Saxophone Quartet, Nordic Affect, The Hamrahlid Choir, Schola Cantorum Reykjavicensis and Orkiestra Muzyki Nowej.

Gunnar's first album, *Patterns*, received a Kraumur Award in 2013 and two of his pieces have been nominated for The Icelandic Music Awards; his orchestral work *Angelic Mechanisms* in 2013 and his string quartet *Moonbow* in 2017.

www.gunnarandreas.com





Sisyfos

CAPUT Ensemble
Ingólfur Vilhjálmsson, clarinet

The title refers to the Greek myth of Sisyphus. He was punished for chronic deceitfulness by being compelled to roll an immense boulder up a hill, only to watch it roll back down, and to repeat this action forever. In this piece, which is a one-movement concerto for solo clarinet and 13 musicians, the soloist plays the role of Sisyphus while the clarinet is disguised as the boulder. Premiered by Ingólfur Vilhjálmsson and the Reykjavik Chamber Orchestra in 2014, *Sisyfos* was RÚV's (Iceland National Broadcasting Service) contribution to the International Rostrum of composers in Finland that same year.

Patterns IIb

CAPUT Ensemble

In this piece an Icelandic folk song, *Fagurt er í Fjörðum*, is woven into a texture of rhythmic and melodic patterns. The original version, for a combination of gamelan and western instruments, was written during a workshop with the Dutch Ensemble Multifoon, in 2004. Later, Gunnar made this more practical transcription for xylophone, vibraphone, marimba, violin and bass clarinet which was premiered by the Reykjavik Chamber Orchestra in 2016.

Moonbow

Siggi String Quartet

A moonbow is also known as a lunar rainbow or white rainbow. The opening phrases of the piece have the shape of a moonbow and its mirror image. What follows are repeated attempts to recall the experience of witnessing this rare natural phenomenon, from different perspectives.

Moonbow was commissioned and premiered by the acclaimed Canadian string quartet Quatuor Bozzini at Sound festival in Aberdeen in 2017 and was nominated for the Icelandic Music Awards that same year. The Icelandic premiere was given by Siggi String Quartet at the Dark Music Days Festival of New Music in 2020.



PASsaCAgLiA B

Duo Harpverk
Ingólfur Vilhjálmsson, bass clarinet

The title refers both to the form of the piece, which has some similarities with the old passacaglia form, and to its use of numbers from Pascal's triangle. Originally, it was a duo commissioned and premiered by Duo Harpverk in 2012. The idea to add the bass clarinet to the piece occurred to Gunnar when he was planning a portrait concert in 2016, including Duo Harpverk and clarinetist Ingólfur Vilhjálmsson.

Roots (I, II, III)

CAPUT Ensemble

All three movements of this work are inspired by the overtones of the harmonic series, but each in a unique way and with different approaches to microtonality. The first movement focuses solely on one fundamental and its overtones, the second is built around a repeating sequence of constantly changing fundamentals (roots) and the third is woven out of symmetrical scales derived from the overtone series. The piece is for a small orchestra of 14 musicians and was premiered by Caput Ensemble at Dark Music Days in 2019.



Siggi String Quartet

SIGGI STRING QUARTET was founded in 2012 around the UNM Festival, Ung Nordisk Musik. Since then the members Una Sveinbjarnardóttir and Helga Þóra Björgvinsdóttir violinists, violist Þórunn Ósk Marínósdóttir and cellist Sigurður Bjarki Gunnarsson have premiered several works and collaborated with number of composers as well as exploring older repertoire with schwerpunkt Beethoven. The members of Siggi String Quartet have worked with Björk, Jóhann Jóhannsson, Ensemble Modern, Atli Heimir Sveinsson, Caput, Slátur, Bedroom Community and Errata Collective as well as being key members of Reykjavík Chamber Orchestra and Iceland Symphony Orchestra. The Quartet plays a major role in the nordic music scene. The classical string quartet repertoire is of great importance to the members of Siggi as a dominant part of their journey of research. Previous projects include the Iceland premiere of the 5 hour long 2nd String Quartet of Morton Feldman, Jón Leifs Quartets, late Beethoven Quartets, Philip Glass recordings for Deutsche Grammophon with pianist Víkingur Ólafsson, the five string quartets of Atli Heimir Sveinsson and "Stara", the album of Halldór Smárason (Sono Luminus 2020).

The debut album of Siggi String Quartet "South of the Circle" (2019 on Sono Luminus) includes works of Daníel Bjarnason, Mamiko Dís Ragnarsdóttir, Valgeir Sigurðsson, Una Sveinbjarnardóttir and Haukur Tómasson. Siggi String Quartet has received "Performer of the Year" at the Icelandic Music Awards. The ensemble premiered ten new compositions in the year 2020.

www.siggistringquartet.com

CAPUT Ensemble

CAPUT has established itself as a force in Icelandic cultural life and as one of the leading new music ensembles in Nordic countries. Founded in 1988 by Icelandic musicians, the sole purpose of the ensemble was performing and recording new music. The long list of Icelandic and foreign composers that have collaborated with CAPUT unmistakably reflects the immense diversity of musical creation in the late 20th century and early 21st century.

Over its decades of activity, CAPUT has performed at prestigious festivals internationally and published over 20 albums under labels like BIS, Naxos, Classico, GM Recordings, Touch, Bad Taste and Deutsche Grammophon, to name a few, until their paths crossed with Sono Luminus.

CAPUT is supported by the City of Reykjavik and the Icelandic Ministry for Culture and Education.

www.caput.is

Performers | Pieces

Björg Brjánsdóttir, flute: &, #
Eydís Franzdóttir, oboe: &, #
Grímur Helgason, clarinet/bass clarinet: #, %
Bryndís Þórsdóttir, fagott: &, #
Frank Hammarin, french horn: &, #
Eiríkur Örn Pálsson, trumpet: &, #
Sigurður Þorbergsson, trombone: &, #
Frank Aarnink, percussion: &, #, %
Soraya Nayyar, percussion: %
Kjartan Guðnason, percussion: %
Helga Bryndís Magnúsdóttir, piano: &, #
Zbigniew Dubik, violin: &, #
Laura Liu, violin: &, #, %
Þórunn Ósk Marínósdóttir, viola: #
Guðrún Hrunð Harðardóttir, viola: &
Sigurður Bjarki Gunnarsson, cello: &, #
Hávarður Tryggvason, double bass: &, #
Guðni Franzson, conductor: &, #, %

Sisyfos: &

Roots: #

Patterns IIb: %

Duo Harpverk

Duo Harpverk was formed in 2007 by harpist Katie Buckley and percussionist Frank Aarnink. The duo's intention is to commission and perform music for harp and percussion. Since beginning they have commissioned over 100 pieces from composers in Iceland and all over the world. The duo has performed worldwide including performing as a part of the Nordic Cool Festival at the Kennedy Center and at the Njord Festival in Copenhagen. Katie and Frank are both members of the Iceland Symphony Orchestra and Duo Harpverk have been featured soloists with the orchestra twice.

www.duoharpverk.com

Guðni Franzson

Conductor

Guðni Franzson was originally educated as a clarinetist in the Netherlands and received, among others, the Léonie Sonnings prize during his studies. He has developed a career as a soloist on an international scale, especially in the field of contemporary music. Guðni has been working as a composer, with a focus on music for theatre and dance. Currently, he works as a conductor with CAPUT Ensemble which he co-founded in 1988, touring internationally, recording, and also conducting orchestras and ensembles in Northern Europe. Guðni has worked closely with many Icelandic composers, among them Golden Globe winner late Jóhann Jóhannsson, and his daughter, Oscar winner Hildur Guðnadóttir. Guðni is active as a music educator, running Tóney centre for creative music education.





Ingólfur Vilhjálmsón

Clarinet, Bass Clarinet

Ingólfur Vilhjálmsón studied clarinet in Amsterdam with Herman Braune and Harmen de Boer as well as bass clarinet with Harry Sparnaay and Eric van Deuren. He plays all the clarinets and has a great preference for the bass clarinet which he performs regularly, also as a solo instrument. He received a scholarship as a

member of the Ensemble Modern Academy in 2006-2007 and is a member of Ensemble Adapter. Ingólfur has worked with many composers of his generation and given concerts in Germany, the Netherlands, Finland and Iceland, including festivals like MärzMusik (Berlin), Ultraschall (Berlin), Dark Music Days (Reykjavik), Frum- (Reykjavik) and Darmstädter Ferienkurse für Neue Musik (Germany). He has worked with known composers such as Hosokawa and with Lachenmann on his avant garde landmark piece Dal niente. His playing has been recorded by the WDR, The Icelandic Radio, SWR and the Hessische Rundfunk. Ingólfur recorded the CD "Dualism" with percussionist Tobias Guttmann on the ITM label in 2008. In 2017 he recorded his solo CD "Ingólfur Vilhjálmsón, Solo Bass Clarinet, Contrabass clarinet" on the Lúr label. Ingólfur has recorded all the solo clarinet works of Franco Donatoni.

www.ingolfurvilhjalmsson.com

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Piano Technician: Sigurður Kristinnsson

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