

## CD REVIEW 129

Axel Borup-Jorgensen, Piano Music  
Erik Kaltoft (piano)  
OUR recordings 6.220616 (65.46)

Thalatta Thalatta Op 127  
Marine skitser Op 4b  
Winter pieces Op 30b  
Sommer intermezzi Op 65  
Passacaglia Op2b  
Regndrabe interludier Op 144  
Epigrammar Op 78  
Miniature Suite Op3b  
Prelude Op 30a  
Phantasiestuck for celesta Op 115.



This Danish composer was born on 22 November 1924 in Hjørring but, while very young, his family moved to Sweden. His father was a lover of nature and an inventor and it is probably his creativity that inspired his son. Axel was fascinated by astronomy and wanted to be an engineer or an architect until music took pride of place around 1942. He became a pianist of no mean distinction. That year his family purchased a small island called Bjorkon where they lived and enjoyed nature.

Axel returned to Denmark in 1946 as a student of the Royal Danish Academy of Music. One of his teachers was Niels Viggo Bentzon. Axel eventually established himself as a piano teacher. He became interested in new music and first visited Darmstadt in 1959 and was particularly interested in the orchestral works of Ligetti. This was the year after his divorce. He also studied with Wolfgang Fortner.

Borup-Jorgensen lived a quiet life and his music reflects this. His piano works are not showstoppers or virtuosic. He was interested in expressing aspects of nature. The two opening works on this CD reflect his interest in the sea which he captures so well. Debussy did not. The slow delicate and graceful arpeggios in Thalatta Thalatta provide an atmosphere rare in music. The word means The Seal, a jubilant cry of the Greek army.

The Marine Sketches are small character pieces depicting various sounds of the sea, and successfully. Winter Pieces are inspired by nature and are full of lyricism and intensity. Summer Intermezzi is an abstract work seemingly devoted to the sounds of the piano and is full of atmosphere. The passacaglia has its own majesty. The Regndrabe Interludier seems to be haunted by Chopin's Raindrop Prelude and Axel tries to portray the sound of each raindrop. The Epigrams revert back to soft, delicate arpeggios typical of his music which is usually light and gentle. The Miniature Suite is just that, five movements lasting under three minutes. The Preludes for piano are different as they contain some controlled virtuosity and are remarkable for its clarity. The Fantasy for celesta is novel.

This music will not appeal to everyone particularly those who assert that if music does not have tunes it is not music at all. What we do have here is a composer who is original and untrammelled by tradition and who has the courage to compose his way. He had a personal style.

He died on 15 October 2012.

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