

## CD

ROBERTO BONATI / BJERGSTED JAZZ ENSEMBLE

*nor sea, nor land, nor salty waves*

a nordic story

Music by Roberto Bonati – commissioned by Bjergsted Jazz Ensemble  
Recorded in August 2015 at:  
University of Stavanger - Department of Music and Dance  
Sound Engineer: Inge Engelsvold – Mixed at Soundsgood, Stavanger, by Inge Engelsvold

## LABEL

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## ABSTRACT

*In the earliest times did Ymir live:  
was nor sea nor land nor salty waves  
neither earth was there nor upper heaven,  
but a gaping nothing, and green things nowhere.*

The relationship between Roberto Bonati and Norway began in 2012, when he conducted the Royal Academy di Oslo Ensemble in his Snow Flowers (a project on Japanese Haiku Poetry). This new work - ***nor sea, nor land, nor salty waves*** – was specifically commissioned by Bjergsted Jazz Ensemble of Stavanger to Roberto Bonati and had its debut on 21st march 2015 at Stavanger Jazz Forum. The Italian composer caught the chance to make his research among the Normans' legends, the mythological saga of Nordic heroes, the ancient poems of Ljóða Edda (*Völuspá -Prophecy of the Völva*). The result is a evocative homage to Norway, full of original lyricism.

## BJERGSTED JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Roberto Bonati – *compositore e direttore*

Signe Irene Stangborli Time - *vocals*  
Jørgen Mathisen - *violin*  
Nikolai Storevik – *violin*  
Camilla Hole – *soprano sax*  
Arild Wold Hoem – *alto sax*  
Mathias Aanundsen Hagen – *tenor sax*  
Kristoffer Lippestad Dokka - *tenor sax*  
Jone Arnfinnsson Randa – *bass clarinet*  
Ndabuzekwayo Bombo - *trumpet*  
Øyvind Frøberg Mathisen - *trumpet*  
Christopher Baardseng - *trumpet*  
Øyvind Brække - *trombone*  
Vegard Haugen - *trombone*  
Markus Larjomaa - *trombone*  
Martin Nodeland - *guitar/electronics*  
Herman Erik Arff Gulseth - *piano*  
Lasse Gjestrud – *acoustic bass*  
Marcus Hasli Johnsen - *drums/percussion*  
Jakob Yttredal - *drums*

## TRACKLIST

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| 1. Prophecy of the Völva                        | 8'57"  |
| 2. Nor Sea, nor Land, nor Salty Waves - Part I  | 12'35" |
| 3. Nor Sea, nor Land, nor Salty Waves - Part II | 7'34"  |
| 4. Wolves' howling and Swans' Song              | 12'07" |
| 5. Fimbulvetr                                   | 9'39"  |
| 6. Wolf Age and Bloody End                      | 7'16"  |
| 7. Nocturnal                                    | 4'52"  |
| 8. Eagle  | 5'48"  |

Total playing time 68'52"

## NOTES

Bjergsted Jazz Ensemble started up back in 2013, as a regular College Big Band at University of Stavanger. Since then, the band has grown more into a combo line-up, with various instrumentations changing from project to project, giving it a more professional profile. The BJE has played an important role in defining the identity of the jazz education program at University of Stavanger.

Throughout the years, the band has shared several projects with famous soloists such as John Scofield, Cyro Babtista, Bugge Wesseltoft, John Surman, Rolf Lislevand, Elin Rosseland and many others.

In 2012 in Italy, during a recording session with the Mario Piacentini Sextet, I had the great honour to play with Roberto Bonati. I listened to some of his records and I was fascinated by his composing style, which in my opinion is on a very high level.

His mix of classical European music and American jazz language makes him an important artist on the contemporary European jazz scene.

BJE is very honoured to have had the opportunity to work with Roberto and his music, both in concerts and recording sessions. I think this project shows what great potential and quality there can be in the meeting point between students and a musician with great experience like Roberto.

### **TOR YTTREDAL**

*Professor and Musical Director of Bjergsted Jazz Ensemble*

Working with young musicians has a special quality to it.

They are curious and passionate. They have the desire to be challenged to dive into the unknown, to be propelled forward.

Composing music for and with the Bjergsted Ensemble has been a real and intense experience, both under an artistic and human aspect.

When I was asked to write music for the Bjergsted Jazz Ensemble, I started to think about which story I could tell.

Speaking with Tor Yttredal, the ancient Norwegian sagas came to mind. So while reading these mythological stories and focusing on the Poetic Edda I chose some lines especially from the Völuspá – Prophecy of the Völva - the ancient shamanistic priestess with prophetic powers.

All the myths are stories concerning earlier times and the creation of a world where humanity, not different from today, is struggling to find peace on Earth. This is how this musical journey, my personal homage to the Scandinavian traditions, began.

### **ROBERTO BONATI**

*Composer and conductor*

**Text** (from the poetic *Edda*. *Völuspá* – Prophecy of the *Völva*)

### **1. Prophecy of the *Völva***

#### **2. Nor Sea, nor Land, nor Salty Waves - Part I**

In the earliest times did Ymir live:  
was nor sea nor land nor salty waves  
neither earth was there nor upper heaven,  
but a gaping nothing, and green things nowhere.

#### **3. Nor Sea, nor Land, nor Salty Waves - Part II**

From the south the sun, by the side of the moon,  
heaved his right hand over heaven's rim;  
the sun knew not what seat he had,  
the stars knew not what stead they held,  
the moon knew not what might she had.

#### **4. Wolves' howling and Swans' Song**

I hate mountains,  
not long I was there,  
just nine nights:  
Wolves howling  
I thought ugly  
compared with swans' song.  
I could not sleep on the sea's beds  
for the birds' screaming; he wakes me  
who comes from out at sea every morning:  
that gull.

#### **5. Fimbulvetr**

##### **Hard Frost and biting Winds**

There shall come that winter called Fimbulvetr.  
The Awful Winter. Snow will drive from all quarters,  
there will be hard frosts and biting winds;  
the sun will be no use.

#### **6. Wolf Age and Bloody End**

Brothers will battle to bloody end,  
and sister's sons their sib betray;  
woe's in the world, much wantonness  
axe-age, sword-age sundered are shields  
wind-age, wolf-age, ere the world crumbles;  
no man will spare another.

#### **7. Nocturnal**

The sun turns black, land sinks into the sea  
The bright stars vanish from the sky;  
gusheth forth steam and gutting fire,  
to very heaven soar the hurtling flames.

#### **8. Eagle**

I see green again with growing things  
The earth arise from out of the sea;  
fell torrents flow, overflies them the eagle  
over the mountains hunting fish.



### Sequence of Solos

#### 1. Prophecy of the Völva

Jørgen Mathisen - violin  
 Mathias Aanundsen Hagen – tenor sax  
 Øyvind Frøberg Mathisen – trumpet

#### 2. Nor Sea, nor Land, nor Salty Waves - part I

Jone Arnfinnsson Randa – bass clarinet  
 Camilla Hole – soprano sax  
 Martin Nodeland - guitar  
 Signe Irene Stangborli Time - vocals  
 Øyvind Brække - trombone  
 Arild Wold Hoem – alto sax  
 Ndabuzekwayo Bombo – trumpet

#### 3. Nor Sea, nor Land, nor Salty Waves - part II

Camilla Hole – soprano sax  
 Ndabuzekwayo Bombo - trumpet  
 Nikolai Storevik – violin

#### 4. Wolves Howling and Swans' Song

Herman Erik Arff Gulseth - piano  
 Vegard Haugen - trombone  
 Jone Arnfinnsson Randa – bass clarinet  
 Signe Irene Stangborli Time - vocals  
 Øyvind Brække – trombone

#### 5. Fimbulvetr

Arild Wold Hoem – alto sax

#### 6. Wolf Age and Bloody End

Kristoffer Lippestad Dokka – tenor sax  
 Markus Larjomaa – trombone  
 Signe Irene Stangborli Time - vocals  
 Øyvind Frøberg Mathisen – trumpet

#### 7. Nocturnal

Herman Erik Arff Gulseth - piano

#### 8. Eagle

Mathias Aanundsen Hagen – tenor sax