



Etnisk Musikkklubb
NEW RELEASE
The EM Label

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Valseria - Gabriel Fliflet

Poesi og energi i melodiøs hyllest til valsen og tretakten. Gabriel Fliflet lager sangbar musikk med tydelig særpreg. I løpet av et langt musikerliv har han badet i mange folkemusikalske kulper. Nå vil han hylle valsen, og på Valseria møter du valser som flyter, hvirvler eller tenker seg om. Med dufter fra Vestlandet, Balkan, Paris og Nordsjøen. Med tekster av Kjartan Fløgstad, Einar Økland og Gabriel Fliflet, om utferd og eventyr og sommerøyeblikk og de døde i kirkegårdens mold.

Valseria ble laget som et bestillingsverk til Vossajazz 2013. Siden Valseland er et vennlig land, er også melodier i andre taktarter invitert med; vakre bruremarsjer og vuggesanger ved siden av drivende latino-, swing string og balkanrytmer. Gabriel ble kåret til Årets folkemusiker i 2012. Han er mest kjent som trekkspiller, bl.a. fra duoen Fliflet/Hamre. På denne platen spiller han også piano og synger. Med på laget er prisbelønte Jorun Marie Kvernberg - feler, harpeleik og sang, Jørgen Sandvik - gitar, mandolin og sang, og Kristoffer Chelsom Vogt - kontrabass og sang.

Gabriel Fliflets to soloplater før denne - Rio Aga (NORCD 0875) og Åresong (NORCD 1102) - inneholdt også musikk komponert av Gabriel Fliflet selv, og fikk begge strålende

pressekritikker. Gabriel Fliflet med band skal turnere med Valseria over store deler av Norge.

The Musicians

Gabriel Fliflet: accordion, piano, toy piano, vocals

Jørgen Sandvik: gitar, mandolin, vocals

Jorun Marie Kvernberg: fiddle, hardanger fiddle, baritone fiddle, zither

Kristoffer Chelsom Vogt: double bass, vocals

Gabriel Fliflet is a colourful musician who has bathed in many different musical pools. For many he is associated with his cooperation with drummer and multi-musician Ole Hamre in the enigmatic duo Fliflet/Hamre. In 2011 Fliflet was named Norway's Folk Musician of the Year and he has been leader of Bergen's vibrant folk club Columbi Egg since 1999. Valseria is Gabriel Fliflet's fourth commission, his previous ones being Elvemot (The Osa Festival, 2006), Edwards lykkelige dag (Edvard Grieg Museum Troldhaugen, 2008) and Åresong (Bergen International Festival, 2010).

Jorun Marie Kvernberg is one of Norway's leading folk musicians and the winner of numerous awards. Many know her best from the groups Majorstuen and Tindra. Jørgen Sandvik is central in the award-winning pop group Real Ones and is also a permanent member of Sigrd Moldestad band. He plays ethnic popular music from the Baltic with Gabriel in the quartet Novgorod, where Kristoffer Chelsom Vogt is a member too. Kristoffer also joined Gabriel in Åresong, a project featuring lyrics by

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Norwegian dramatist and poet Jon Fosse and music by Fliflet.

Georg Reiss is guest musician on Solgang, Spontan doina and Vårvals. Here he plays the Hungarian woodwind instrument tárogató, but he is also both a clarinetist and a saxophonist. Besides various jazz traditions, he has taken a special interest in Balkan and East-European folk music, including Jewish klezmer music.

The album

The music is composed by Gabriel Fliflet, but arranged in cooperation with the musicians.

The album was recorded live at three concert venues, both with and without an audience present: At the premiere performance at Vossajazz festival, Voss old cinema (22.3.2013), Riksscenen in Oslo (4.5.2013) and Sardinien USF in Bergen (26.5.2013).

Lyrics: Kjartan Fløgstad, Gabriel Fliflet and Einar Økland

Recording engineer: Tom Karlsrud

Mixing: Daniel Birkeland, Havnelageret studio, Bergen, Norway

Producer: Gabriel Fliflet

Mastering: Thor Legvold, Sonovo

Spontan doina is by Georg Reiss
Lanterne was recorded by Daniel Birkeland at Havnelageret studio 29.8.2013
Ida, Lanterne and Spontan doina are solo pieces and thus not arranged in cooperation with the musicians.

English text: Richard Burgess

Design: Bernt Kulseth, Selbutrykk

Portrait photo: Hans Jørgen Brun

The recording was financially supported by Bergen City Council and Fond for Utøvende Kunstnere.

Gabriel Fliflet wishes to especially thank the following for advice:

Leiv Solberg and Kato Ådland (music), Jørgen Sandvik (mixing), Lars Bremnes, Richard Burgess and Sigrid Kvarekvål (lyrics).

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There is an unforgettable scene in Günter Grass' famous novel *The Tin Drum* where the hero Oskar Matzerath, the boy who decides to stop growing, is hiding under the podium with his beloved tin drum during a Nazi rally. When the marching becomes too intrusive, little Oskar starts hammering out a seductive waltz. Gradually, under the uncomprehending and furious gaze of the SA guards, the rally dissolves into a cheerful dance convention! While the Third Reich is long past, the tyranny of 4/4-time is still with us, and it's tempting to see Gabriel Fliflet's *Valseria* as a project in the spirit of little Oskar. Just like him, the musician Gabriel Fliflet combines a childlike playfulness with the utmost seriousness, denying that there is any contradiction between the two. The irrefutable non-squareness of the waltz form makes it the perfect vehicle for Gabriel's eclectic curiosity and creativity. All the compositions here are Gabriel's, but a life in folk music leaves its mark – so there are resonances here from both Norwegian and other European musical traditions. *Valseria* was commissioned by Vossajazz, a unique jazz festival with a folk music profile. Much of the concert repertoire is to be found on this album, plus a couple of tunes that charmed their way in later. Many of the tunes here are not waltzes. But the odd, romantic and slightly subversive soul of the waltz is omnipresent. Welcome to *Valseria*!

Richard Burgess

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