

## SONG CIRCUS "ANATOMY OF SOUND" – ALBUM RELEASE

The chamber ensemble Song Circus consists of five professional Norwegian singers, led by Liv Runesdatter, who specialise in contemporary music and improvisation. Song Circus has established close and enduring relationships with several composers and creating artists. The ensemble has given life to an unusual and fascinating vocabulary of sound combined with rare musical precision.

*Anatomy of Sound* is the name chosen for this record release. The repertoire focuses on the expansion of the register of expression available to the human voice and challenges the limits to what sounds it can make and what it is capable of doing. In addition, *Anatomy of Sound* suggests a multitude of potential historical, theoretical, phenomenological and artistic angles. In addition to the album Song Circus present [www.anatomyofsound.no](http://www.anatomyofsound.no), websites where people can study the project further. The websites will be in continuous development until January 2018.

For more than four years, Song Circus has collaborated with Ruben Sverre Gjertsen on the development of his *Landscape with Figures*. The human voice is a central part of the instrumental palette of this project and much of the music is the result of the joint efforts of the ensemble and the composer. *Landscape with Figures* is partially open in its form; the music is tremendously detailed and intricately notated and requires considerable musical and vocal technique and virtuosity. The composition stretches the limits of tonal flexibility and microtonal precision. *Landscape with Figures IIa* is composed for performance with eight or sixteen sound channels. A related piece, written for Song Circus and Sinfonietta, was performed with Oslo Sinfonietta during the Ultima Contemporary Music Festival in Oslo in the fall of 2013.

The composition marked the end of Gjertsen's scholarship through the University of Bergen's scholarship program for artistic development, with the project "Between instrument and everyday sound". As part of the process, Gjertsen studied the academic work of Wishart and Ferneyhough, their systems of notation and compositions. He also studied overtone and throat singing under David Hykes. Another main aspect of Gjertsen's research is intonation and microtonality with extensive use of overtone intervals and Javanese pentatonic tunings.

Ole Henrik Moe's *Persefone* is an acoustic piece written for five female voices and wine glasses. It is a textural study of vocal sound, dynamics and microtonality. Moe took inspiration from Morton Feldman when he wrote *Persefone* and, in the first part, he stretches silence and slowness so far that any sense of a horizontal timeline dissolves into a music of state.

**Ole Henrik Moe (1966)** has studied violin and composition in Norway, France and Germany. One year studying under Iannis Xenakis at the Sorbonne in Paris has been of particular importance to him. For many years, Ole-Henrik Moe worked closely with Arne Nordheim and assisted him on several compositions. As a violinist, Moe has been part of diverse orchestras and chamber ensembles and participated in the founding of Oslo barokkorkester. He is also a very active improvisational musician. He has composed for the Arditti Quartet, Münchener Kammerorchester, Ensemble Laboratorium, Ensemble Recherche and Klangforum Wien. Kari Rønnekleiv, Moe's wife, received a Spelleman award in 2007 for her publishing of Moe's works for violin and in 2012, Ole Henrik Moe was nominated for the Nordic Council Music Prize.

**Ruben Sverre Gjertsen (1977)** has studied composition at the Grieg Academy in Bergen with Morten Eide Pedersen and James Clapperton and has attended master classes with guest composers such as Brian Ferneyhough, Klaus Huber, Salvatore Sciarrino, Philippe Hurel, Luca Francesconi and Helmut Lachenmann. In 2013, the University of Bergen awarded Gjertsen a doctorate through the program for artistic development (program for kunstnerisk utviklingsarbeid) where he currently teaches composition. His work has been performed at five Young Nordic Music (UNM) festivals in addition to the Luzern Festivalakademi og Voix Nouvelles at Royaumont. "Rituals II" for 59 musicians was chosen for ISCM 2004 in Switzerland. Ensemble Intercontemporain, Ensemble Vortex, Neue Vocalsolisten Stuttgart and Oslo Sinfonietta all count among the ensembles that have performed his music. The publication *Grains on +3dB* records received the Spelleman award 2009 in the category "contemporary composer." Ruben Sverre Gjertsen was awarded Arne Nordheims Komponistpris in 2010.



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