

ELENA MÎNDRU THIRD STREAM PROJECT

Quartphonic



I have always dreamed of recording an album with a string quartet – and here it is!

This lovely CD is my third album since an inspiring experience at the 2012 Montreux Jazz Voice Competition. I am grateful for the chance to record at the legendary M1 Studio of YLE Radio in Helsinki with Markus Partanen as our producer.

Maija Linkola was the perfect choice for a project bringing together jazz and classical music. Her artistry and experience, alongside the heritage of her father, spice up the music in a very personal way. She leads her quartet with fervour and excitement, bringing the music to life.

I am proud of my comrades in jazz, with whom I feel I can take up a sophisticated musical journey of any type, any time. Sampo Kasurinen joined this project as a special guest on the saxophone and also wrote two beautiful pieces.

Normally, things develop from micro to macro. But in this case they developed in reverse – from a symphonic orchestra to a string quartet. Almost all these pieces were originally written for a large orchestra with a rhythm section, and then adapted for nonet. This was only made possible by all the talented composers who wrote for this project.

Many thanks to my lovely husband Tuomas; to Sampo, Eero, Anssi, Maija, Laura, Jussi, Sirja, Visa, Artturi, Alex, Andrei, Iulia, Maria and Markus; and to all who supported me in creating Quartphonic!

Peace, jazz and love,

Elena

1. LITTLE EQUILIBRIST

MUSIC: VISA OSCAR, LYRICS: ELENA MINDRU

sometimes you get discouraged because i am so small / and i leave
my cute little fingerprints on furniture and walls. / then, when i wrap my
hand around your finger, / i see a smile in your heart and everything seems to be
clear for you. / everyday i'm growing, very soon i'll be tall / then all these fingerprints
will be difficult to recall. / so, here's a small handprint that you can keep around / so you'll
know how my fingers looked on this special day. / i am a reflection of yourself / and through
my eyes you see what life is all about, / how it goes... i will grow! / i will fly away, / but
always i'll be your little equilibrist. / with grown up wishes and dreams i'm off to find
/ my own world, dreams, fears and tears / i want to see, touch and hear. then
you'll take that handprint and remember those times / when i was laying
my fingerprints on the walls, / on that special day when everything
seemed so clear for you / and even though there are
dangers, thoughts and fears, i'll fly away. / so, capture
these moments when you feed me and you hold
me close / and when i feel cold and scared
and i'm wining just remember as i will
sail my seas / that i always will
be your little equilibrist.

2 BORDERLINE

MUSIC: VISA OSCAR, LYRICS: JANNE LEMUSVUO

have you ever been in a big old house / where a gust
of wind comes through / and you hear all the posts
creak? / for the first time, / for the first time i'm aware
/ of the borderline / for the first time, / for the first time
i'm aware / of the borderline of my own existence / i
didn't know i got wings / i didn't know i got wings /
standing tall in the middle of flying debris / i grasp the
turbulent air around me and / i rise, higher / i rise, over
the rooftops / i rise, higher / i rise, over the rooftops

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LIGHTHOUSE

MUSIC AND LYRICS: TUOMAS J. TURUNEN

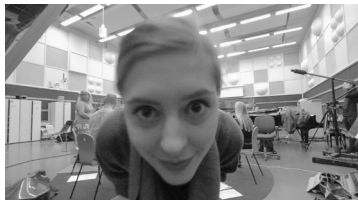
i find today myself rather vague / i see today the things that i'd rather
not see / people are watching, but nobody is seeing me / my dreams
have shown me my future over seas / but when will those dreams
come to reality? / i keep sailing, but when will i see the light-
house? / the guiding light that shines above the night / the
guiding light that leads me to the harbour at night.



4 LET YOU BE

MUSIC AND LYRICS: ELENA MÎNDRU

world has thought that
you should be here / so,
don't you think you may
disappear / just wait,
you'll see that things
will get clear / so, learn
that you will have to
fight! / stop complain
about your life! / don't
lay around / don't wait
around / don't sit around
/ find your own path.
/ don't let yourself / be
down again / 'cause otherwise / you'll be a wrath. / from this moment / you'll
have to follow your own dreams / let this world have all it's magic / do not change
it, you just let it be! / let your soul feel all the freedom / learn to love it as it is.



O INIMĂ

MUSIC: ALEX SIMU, LYRICS: ELENA MÎNDRU

a trecut demult timpul tumult, / nu mai vreau să știu de-
atunci. / am lăsat uitării, am șters memorii / totuși, simt
urme adânci. / de-acum, vreau să privesc doar spre-
acel drum / pe care nu apari oricum / și unde
nu-s urme de scrum / rămas din timpuri de
demult / când am aprins focul ce-a ars /
dorița din sufletul meu. / nu mai simt
ce-a fost, nu are rost / să privesc tot
spre trecut. / nu vreau să fiu o
inimă pustie / lipsită de orice
emoție / vreau să prind
aripi ca să zbor / încet
spre viitor / și sper
c-așa se vindecă
ușor / inima
singuratecă.

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6. ALICE

your hair is white, yet you are still so young /
e exists, / it runs through your fingers / when you wan
it's been open / will remember everything / break rules of
down? / fly while you can / do i believe in you? / temptation
you have grown old, yet i am still so young /
where you forget that tim
/ a heart tha
break rules of gravity /
i find my way or come eve
you have grown so old yet i am still so young /
i wake up? / this is alice / do
and there's no gravity / i
pen my eyes! / will leave a mark on every one /
fore my eyes! / will leave a mark on every one /
k and there's no gravity / i
me / see you, you see
there's no tick toc
his the wonderland? / it's
no you hear me? / are you in this world
er / to see who you really are /
of insanity / try a different view / forget all the chains
mother's face / who can control time and its endless run?
at all? / your mind is there where / everything is strange / twisted and
fun, / there, where old is young again / where you forget that tim
of normality / would i find my way or come eve
has opened / will leave a mark on every one /
fore my eyes! / will leave a mark on every one /
k and there's no gravity / i
me / see you, you see
there's no tick toc
his the wonderland? / it's
no you hear me? / are you in this world
er / to see who you really are /
of insanity / try a different view / forget all the chains
mother's face / who can control time and its endless run?
at all? / your mind is there where / everything is strange / twisted and

MUSIC: SAMPO KASURINEN, LYRICS: ULRIKKA HEIKINHEIMO

7. LIFE IS BUT A DREAM

MUSIC: SAMPO KASURINEN, LYRICS: LEWIS CARROLL

a boat beneath a sunny sky, / lingering onward dreamily / in an
evening of july / children three that nestle near, / eager eye and
willing ear, / pleased a simple tale to hear / long has paled that sun-
ny sky: / autumn frosts have slain july. / still she haunts me, phan-
tomwise, / alice moving under skies / never seen by waking eyes.
/ children yet, the tale to hear, / eager eye and willing ear, /
lovingly shall nestle near. / dreaming as the days go by, /
dreaming as the summers die / in a wonderland they
lie. / ever drifting down the stream / lingering in
the golden gleam / life, what is it but
a dream?

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BEYOND TIME

MUSIC: ARTTURI RÖNKÄ

LYRICS: L. V. A. KOSKENNIEMI

TRANSLATED IN ENGLISH BY
BÖRJE VÄHÄMÄKI

ADAPTED FOR THE MUSIC BY
ELENA MINDRU

i'll sing stars for your evening / and for your night and / its clear moonlight / for your own morning my darling / i'll sing spring larks and purple gleam / i'll sing a flower into your hand / then when your eyes are moist with sorrow / i'll make a rose garden of the land / where you set your tiny foot. / i'll sing the world into the distance / i'll take you to a new home / i'll sing your bright soul / beyond time into eternity.

It was an amazing journey. The songs on this album were originally recorded in a radio session, where the production time is always limited. And as you will hear, this is not simple music: there are very challenging parts and arrangements, even fully improvised sequences by the strings, so there was some danger that we could run into the rocks. But the skilled musicians, the clear vision of Tuomas and Elena, and foremost Elena's astonishing vocalism took the session home in the most beautiful way. Bon voyage - enjoy!

- Markus Partanen, radio producer, YLE Radio

One important mission of April Jazz has been to present local emerging musicians to our audience. Thus we are delighted to have the album release concert of this talented artist at our 30th anniversary festival. The fresh sound of this ensemble is inspiring.

- Matti Lappalainen, festival director, April Jazz

ELENA MÎNDRU THIRD STREAM PROJECT

Elena Mîndru
voice, compositions

Sampo Kasurinen
soprano saxophone, bass clarinet, compositions

Tuomas J. Turunen
piano, compositions

Eero Seppä
double bass, electric bass

Anssi Tirkkonen
drums

Maija Linkola
violin 1

Laura Airola
violin 2

Jussi Tuhkanen
viola

Sirja Nironen
cello

1. Little Equilibrist 6:09 m: Visa Oscar, l: Elena Mindru
 2. Borderline 5:52 m: Visa Oscar, l: Jamie Lehmusuo
 3. Lighthouse 6:43 m & l: Tuomas J. Turunen
 4. Let You Be 4:39 m & l: Elena Mindru
 5. O inima 6:01 m: Alex Simu, l: Elena Mindru
 6. Alice 10:42 m: Sampo Kasurinen, l: Ulriikka Heikinheimo
 7. Life is but a dream 5:34 m: Sampo Kasurinen, l: Lewis Carroll
 8. Beyond Time 7:33 m: Arturi Rönkä, l: V. A. Koskeniemä
 translated in English by Börje Vähämäki
 adapted for the music by Elena Mindru

www.elenamindru.com

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Total playing time: 53:13

Recorded September 29-30, 2015 at Studio M1 of the Finnish Broadcasting Company (Yle). Recording engineer Hannu Perälä. Originally produced for Yle by Markus Partanen. Mixed by Paavo Malmberg. Mastered by Jaakko Vitalahde @ Virtualahde Mastering.

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