

Nordic Voices & NoXaS

HÅKONSHALLEN

Lørdag 02. juni kl 19:30
Saturday 02 June at 19:30

Varighet: 1 t 30 min inkl. pause
Duration: 1 h 30 min including interval

Nordic Voices

Tone Elisabeth Braaten sopran *soprano*

Ingrid Hanken sopran *soprano*

Ebba Rydh alt *alto*

Per Kristian Amundrød tenor

Frank Havrøy bariton *baritone*

Rolf Magne Asser bass

NoXaS

Lars Lien sopransaksofon *soprano saxophone*

Ida Kristine Zimmermann Olsen

altsaksofon *alto saxophone*

Roger Andreas Holme tenorsaksofon *tenor saxophone*

René Wiik barytonsaksofon *baritone saxophone*

CECILIE ORE (1954–)

Fra Vatikantrilogien *From The Vatican Trilogy*

1. Dead Pope On Trial!

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685–1750)

Fra Det veltempererte klaver bok 2 *From The Well-Tempered*

Clavier book 2, BWV 870-893

Fuge nr. 22 i b-moll *Fugue no. 22 in B-minor*

CECILIE ORE (1954–)

Fra Vatikantrilogien *From The Vatican Trilogy*

2. The Pregnant Pope! Urfremføring *World Premiere*

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685–1750)

Fra Clavier-Übung III "German Organ Mass"

Kyrie, Gott Vater i Ewigkeit, BWV 669

Arr. Salvatore Sciarrino

CECILE ORE (1954–)

Fra Vatikantrilogien *From The Vatican Trilogy*

3. The Fig Leaf Campaign! Urfremføring *World Premiere*

Pause Interval

ØRJAN MATRE (1979–)

Six Orphic Amulets

for vokalsekstett og saksofonkvartett *for Vocal Sextet and Saxophone Quartet*

1. Brimo! Brimo!

2. Boneplates of Olbia

3. ... a child of Earth and starry Heaven

4. Golden plate of Thurii 1

5. Golden plate of Thurii 2

6. Chaconne: The lake of Mnemosyne

Bestillingsverk fra *Commissioned by Nordic Voices & NoXaS*
Urfremføring *World Premiere*

Samtale med komponistene Cecilie Ore og Ørjan Matre ledet
av Annabel Guaita kl 18:55. *A conversation (in Norwegian) with*
composers Cecilie Ore and Ørjan Matre, led by Annabel Guaita
at 18:55.

Støttet av Sparebankstiftelsen DNB – Dextra Musica
Supported by The Savings Bank Foundation DNB – Dextra
Musica

Vatikantrilogien

The Vatican Trilogy

Del I *Part I* Dead Pope On Trial!

Død pave på tiltalebenken! er historien om Pave Formosus og hva han ble utsatt for etter sin død i 896. Han lå intetanende og fredelig i sin grav da hans etterfølger Pave Stefan VII bestemte seg for å grave ham opp og stille ham for retten. Det råtnende liket av Pave Formosus ble kledd i geistlige klær, plassert på en trone og anklaget for bedrageri og brudd på kirkeloven. Han ble dømt skyldig og «straffet» ved at de kuttet av ham de tre fingrene som ble brukt til velsigning. De kledde deretter liket i filler og kastet det i en fattigmanss grav.

Men selv etter alle disse anstrengelsene var ikke kirken fornøyd. Stakkars pave Formosus ble spadd opp og gravlagt igjen i alt seks ganger. Hver gang ble liket ytterligere maltraktert og mishandlet og til slutt ble hode og kropp adskilt. Men til tross for alle iherdige forsøk på å straffe ham post mortem, ble han til slutt begravet som pavelig i Peterskirken i Roma. Der ligger han fremdeles, helt til den dagen Vatikanet bestemmer seg for å spa ham opp igjen.

Dead Pope On Trial! tells the story of Pope Formosus who in the 9th century was resting peacefully in his grave when his successor Pope Stephen VII dug him up. His corpse was dressed in full papal vestments, put on a throne and accused of fraud and breaking canon law. The judges found him guilty and punished him by cutting off his three blessing fingers, dressed him in rags and threw the corpse into a common grave. But this was not enough.

Poor Pope Formosus was dug up and buried a total of six times. Every time his body was more maltreated, mutilated and finally also beheaded. But in spite of all his tribulations, he was restored as a Pope and buried in St Peter's Cathedral in Rome. There he lies until the Vatican decides to dig him up again.

Del II *Part II* The Pregnant Pope!

Den Gravide Paven! er historien om Pave Joan, maskert som mann, som ble valgt til pave i det 9. århundre. Hun var beundret, elsket og respektert som Pave Johannes helt til uhellet inntraff da hun deltok i en pavelig prosesjon gjennom Romas gater. Hun fødte et guttebarn på veien og skandalen var et faktum. Straffen var brutal og umiddelbar. Hun ble myrdet på stedet.

Vatikanet følte seg uthengt til spott og spe av denne pinlige historien og det ble viktig å unngå lignende skandaler i fremtiden. Derfor oppfant de *Sedes Stercoraria*, en bærestol med hull i setet. I de påfølgende 600 år måtte alle nominerte paver sitte på denne stolen mens en kardinal defilererte under og testet testikler og kjønnsorgan med en pinne. Eksemplarer av stolen eksisterer fremdeles i både Vatikanmuseet og i Louvre.

The Pregnant Pope! tells the story of a woman disguised as a man who succeeded in being elected Pope in the 9th century. She was admired, loved and respected as Pope John till an unfortunate accident occurred during a papal procession. She gave birth to a baby and her secret was revealed. Her murder was immediate and resolute.

The Vatican felt ridiculed and to prevent any such shameful incident ever happening again, a 'papal chair' with a hole (Sedes Stercoraria) was invented. For 600 years every elected Pope had to sit on this chair and when lifted up a cardinal tested his testicles with a stick to ensure absolute masculinity. Examples of the chair is still on display in the Vatican Museum and at the Louvre.

Del III *Part III* The Fig Leaf Campaign!

Fikenbladkampanjen! er historien om penisene som forsvant i Vatikanmuseet. Under Renessansen ble nakenhet erklært syndig. Derfor måtte alle synlige kjønnsorganer på antikke skulpturer i museet hugges av og alle spor av kjønn skjules med fikenblader. Denne lemlestelsen og kunstvandalismen foregikk i nesten 500 år. Statuene står fremdeles den dag i dag uten kjønnsorgan og tildekket med fikenblad. De venter tålmodig på sin fordums naturlige prakt av mannlighet og kvinnelighet. Når vil Vatikanet lytte til deres ønsker?

The Fig Leaf Campaign! tells the story of the disappeared penises in the Vatican Museum. During the Renaissance period nudity was declared sinful and consequently all the antique sculptures in the museum had their sexual organs cut off and hidden by fig leaves. Patient as statues necessarily are, they are still awaiting the day when full masculinity or femininity will be restored. Will the Church adhere to their wishes?

Tekst Text: Cecilie Ore & Bibbi Moslet



Nordic Voices. Foto: Fredrik Ar

The Vatican Trilogy

Dead Pope On Trial!

They've been poisoned and strangled and killed by jealous husbands. They've had their skulls crushed with hammers, their eyes gouged out, nose and lips cut off. They've been thrown in prison, and some of them simply disappeared.

But who, do you ask, was treated like this?

*Popes! Popes in the Catholic Church!
And one was even dug up from his grave and put on trial!*

A dead man on trial? What was his name?

In the year 897 the rotting and mouldering corpse of Pope Formosus was dressed in papal vestments, dragged into court and propped upon a throne for full cross-examination. He was accused of committing perjury and violating canon law!

And who, do you ask, accused him of this?

*Pope Stephen VIII!
He screamed, shouted, and yelled at the corpse. A deacon tried to defend the dead man, but in vain and the jury of priests found Formosus guilty, guilty on all charges.*

But ... but how do you punish a corpse?

His rotting body was stripped of papal vestments and dressed up as a peasant. But this was not enough! Three fingers used for benediction were cut off and then the body was thrown into a common grave. But this was not enough! Pope Stephen dug Formosus up again and dragged him through the streets of Rome. But this was still not enough! They threw him in the Tiber River with heavy weights attached.

With heavy weights attached? And gone forever?

Oh no, not gone forever! Miracles started happening! Formosus' restless ghost appeared and scared them to no end! Miracles! The body was found washed up on the riverside entangled in a fisherman's net. Miracles! They put him in a secret grave to give his soul eternal peace.

Miracles ... eternal peace ... Is this the end of the story?

Oh no! Heavens no! Pope Theodore II came along! He dug Formosus up again, dressed his bones in papal garments, brought him to St. Peter's and reburied him.

But ... but how many times can you bury a corpse?

Many times, it seems, many times! Pope Sergius III reopened the grave and put Formosus on trial yet again. Three more fingers and his head were chopped off and once more the mutilated corpse was tossed into the river of Tiber.

And why, do you ask, why cut off the head of a man already dead?

*We don't know! We don't know! We don't know!
Some say the headless corpse was found once more entangled in a fisherman's net. The remains were brought to St. Peter's and buried a very last time, while priests and people sang psalms and hymns with candles and incense burning. - And there he lies until the Vatican decides to dig him up again.*

The Pregnant Pope!

She was young, intelligent, courageous and wise...but she was a woman ...

Who was this?

A female pope disguised as a man! Her name was Pope John VIII!

A female pope? Disguised as a man? How intriguing! When was this?

In 853 she was elected pope and reigned for almost 3 years. She was highly respected by the cardinals, bishops and priests. But no one knew she was a woman.

No one knew she was a woman? Was her secret not revealed?

Oh dear! Pope John got pregnant and gave birth to a stillborn baby boy!

God forbid! A pope giving birth? Where did this event take place?

During a papal procession on Via Sacra her labour started suddenly and everyone was taken by surprise!

What a scandal! How unfortunate! Did anybody help her?

They bound her feet, tied her to a horse's tail and dragged her through the streets of Rome. She was beaten and stoned till she finally died.

Oh dear! What a sordid and gruesome story!

On her grave was written. `Petre, Pater Patrum, Papisse Prodito partum! Oh Peter, Father of Fathers, betray the childbearing of the woman Pope! They called her Pope Joan.

This should have been the end of the story, but no!

They invented an extraordinary chair with a hole in the seat! All the would-be popes were seated and lifted high and had their genitalia prodded and examined by a cardinal!

Their genitalia prodded and examined by a cardinal?

When satisfied they announced the result: Habet duos testiculos et bene pendentes. Mas nobis nominus est. He has two testicles and they dangle nicely. Our nominee is a man!

But ... but is this incredible story really true?

Yes! There is evidence! One chair can be seen in the Vatican Museum and another at the Louvre in Paris. The chairs were in use for 600 years!

600 years? Did they fear another woman would embarrass them again?

Oh heavens yes! The Vatican burned and falsified papers and texts denying the existence of Pope Joan ever since!

Denying the existence of Pope Joan ever since? What a shame! What are they afraid of?

She was young, intelligent, courageous and wise ... but she was a woman ...

The Fig Leaf Campaign!

There is a secret room with a secret chest with a secret drawer in the Vatican Museum.

Do you want to hear what's hidden inside? ... you won't believe it!

There are hundreds of penises hidden in a drawer in a chest in a room in the Vatican Museum!

And how, do you ask, how did the phalluses end up there?

The Vatican chopped them off! All the beautiful sculptures had their penises chopped off! – And they covered all remaining genitalia with fig leaves ... both men and women alike.

But ... but why this dramatic destruction of art?

*Popes in the Renaissance declared:
Nudity is unholy and sinful, leading to perversion and diabolic acts!*

*Good heavens! Sinful and unholy? Diabolic and perverted?
Oh dear, oh dear! When will this comedy end?*

The vandalized and mutilated Adams and Eves are still on display until the Vatican decides to make them all naked and natural again.

There is a secret room with a secret chest with a secret drawer in the Vatican Museum.

Text: Bibbi Moslet & Cecilie Ore

Six Orphic Amulets

Six Orphic Amulets bruker tekster fra de orfiske gullplatene, 35 små gullfoliebitar funnet i graver i det gamle Hellas og Roma. De har inskripsjoner på gammelgresk av varierende lengde, fra ett enkelt ord til seksten linjer. De lengre tekstene inneholder instruksjoner som skal veilede den avdødes sjel på veien til underverdenen og forsikre at hun blir fordelaktig behandlet av de herskende der.

Den første satsen bruker tekst fra en gullplate funnet i oldtidsbyen Pherae i Hellas. Den er datert til midten av det 4. århundre f.Kr. Det underlige ordet *andrikepaidothyron* har ingen åpenbar mening. Det inneholder både det gammelgreske ordet for menneske og barn, men hele ordet viser også til Erikepaios, et mystisk navn på Fanes, den første guden fra Orfeus' rapsodiske teogoni.

Teksten i den andre satsen er ikke hentet fra gullplatene, men fra tre små beintavler funnet i Olbia. De er datert til det 5. århundre før Kristus og inneholder par med antonymer; liv/død, fred/krig, sannhet/løgn og kropp/sjel.

Setningen "I am a child of Earth and starry Heaven" fra den tredje satsen er en formel funnet i flere av gullplatene. Man tror at det er et passord den avdøde bør svare vokterne av Mnemosynes hukommelseskilde på spørsmål om hvem hun er.

Gullplaten fra Thuri inneholder en strøm av tilsynelatende meningsløse ord og stavelser, men skjult i ordene er flere navn på greske oldtidsguder. Sats fire bruker disse ordene, og sats fem inneholder en besvergelse av gudenavnene.

Den siste satsen, *Chaconne: The lake of Mnemosyne*, er en veiledning til hvordan man skal te seg når man ankommer underverdenen. Kun deler av teksten er bevart. Den innvidde er oppfordret til å ikke drikke fra elven Lethe (glemsel), men heller drikke fra Mnemosynes innsjø (hukommelse).

En varm takk til Stian Sundell Torjussen, hvis avhandling, *Metamorphoses of Myth – A study of the "Orphic" Gold Tablets and the Derveni Papyrus*, jeg har studert i prosessen med å komponere dette verket, og som har latt meg bruke hans engelske oversettelse.

Tekst: Ørjan Matre

Six Orphic Amulets

Six Orphic Amulets uses texts from the *Orphic Gold Tablets*, thirty-five small pieces of gold foil that have been found in graves scattered throughout ancient Greece and Rome. The tablets are inscribed with texts in ancient Greek that vary in length from one word to sixteen lines of poetry. The longer texts provide instructions and information to guide the soul of the deceased as it makes its way through the underworld, and to ensure that it receives preferential treatment from the rulers there.

The first movement uses text from a gold tablet found in the ancient city of Pherae, Greece. It is dated to the middle of the fourth century BC. The strange word *andrikepaidothyron* does not have any significant meaning. It contains both the ancient Greek word for man and child, but the whole word also recalls Erikepaios, an enigmatic name of the primordial god from the rhapsodic theogony of Orpheus.

The text in the second movement is not derived from any gold tablets, but rather from three tiny bone tablets found in Olbia. They are dated to the fifth century BC and contain pairs of antonyms; life/death, peace/war, truth/lie and body/soul.

The sentence "I am a child of Earth and starry Heaven" (third movement) is a formula found in several of the gold tablets. It is thought to be a password the deceased should respond with when asked who she is by the guardians of the spring of Mnemosyne (memory).

The golden plate of Thuri contains a stream of seemingly nonsense words and syllables, but hidden inside is several names of ancient Greek gods. Movement four uses the nonsense words, movement five includes an incantation of the godly names.

The last movement, *Chaconne: The lake of Mnemosyne*, is an instruction on how to behave when arriving the underworld. Only parts of the text are preserved. The initiate is encouraged not to drink from the streams of Lethe (forgetfulness), but rather to drink from the lake of Mnemosyne (memory).

A warm thank you to Stian Sundell Torjussen, whose dissertation *Metamorphoses of Myth – A study of the "Orphic" Gold Tablets and the Derveni Papyrus* I have studied during the process of composing this piece, and who was also kind enough to let me use his English translations.

Text: Ørjan Matre



NoXaS

Six Orphic Amulets

1. Brimo! Brimo!

Brimo! Brimo!

Symbola: Andrikepaidothyron

*For the initiate, free from punishment,
enters the holy meadow.*

Gapedon

2. Boneplates of Olbia

Bios - Thanatos (Life - Death)

Eirene - Polemos (War - Peace)

Aletheia - Pseudos (Truth - Lie)

Soma - Psyche (Body - Soul)

3. ... a child of Earth and starry Heaven

I am a child of Earth and starry Heaven

4. Golden plate of Thirii 1

(Nonsense text)

lyestisoilentato

inem

aimio

temelyem

lestisoilentat

tapyarsyokapediksamatema

trabdaetrosenisteoi

mataimetesnyska

negyne

fertonosmo

tainilymarto

tematideam

mosetadimetam

teditamenisam

lyestisom

temelyem

5. Golden plate of Thirii 2

Bios - Thanatos (Life - Death)

Eirene - Polemos (War - Peace)

Aletheia - Pseudos (Truth - Lie)

Soma - Psyche (Body - Soul)

Protogono - Matri - Kybeleia - Demetros - Zeu

- Helios - Fanes - Nestias

temaitietetam

lyestisoilentato

amateman

6. Chaconne: The lake of Mnemosyne

Symbola: Andrikepaidothyron

when you die

darkness enwrapping

lake on the right

and standing by it

is a white cypress

do not approach this spring

the lake of Mnemosyne

ask in a wise manner

I am a child of Earth

and starry Heaven

I am dying

but give me

cold water to drink

from the lake of Mnemosyne

but my race is of Heaven

this you know yourselves

... and they ...

... and then ...

... and they ...

... and then ...