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SINGAPORE
INTERNATIONAL
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FESTIVAL
19 JULY



Guest-of-Honour:
H.E. Ambassador Leif Trana,
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Singapore



Cantus, Norway

Cantus

Vé no velkomne med æra

Eva Holm Foosnæs (1983 -)

Hirtir

Henning Sommerro (1952 -)

Huldra

folktune from Norway, arr. Håvard Gravdal (1972 -)

Margjit Hjukse

folktune from Norway, arr. Anders Edenroth (1963 -)

Mu vaibmu vadjol doppe

folktune from Norway, arr. Frode Fjellheim (1959 -)

Spes (Hope)

Nils Aslak Valkeapää & Ecclesiastes 8:1,8/Mia Makaroff (1970 -)

Even when He is silent

Anonym/ Kim André Arnesen (1980 -)

I am my brothers keeper

Amy Greubel/Knut Nystedt (1915 – 2014)

Bruremarsj

Jan Magne Førde (1962 -)

Solveigs sang

Henrik Ibsen/Edvard Grieg (1843-1907), arr. Eva Holm Foosnæs (1983 -)

Solveig

Eva Holm Foosnæs (1983 -), inspired by H.Ibsen & Edvard Grieg

The Snow Shower

William Cullen Bryant/ Eric William Barnum (1979 -)

Northern lights

Frode Fjellheim (1959 -)

Skadi

Kassandra Wærnes (1996 -)

Vuelie

Frode Fjellheim/ Christophe Beck (1968 -)

Seidamadei

arr for Cantus, Jim Daus Hjernøe (1970 -)

Ratatoskr

Alice Major/ Trygve Brøske (1973 -)

Vé no velkomne med æra

Eva Holm Foosnæs (1983 -)

Vé no velkomne med æra	Be welcome with honor
Her skal me sitjande væra	Here we will be seated
Sitja i guds fred	Sitting in God's peace
Våre grannar tre	Our neighbours three

At the end of the Second World War Geirr Tveitt collected a large number of folk melodies and songs from the Hardanger area in western Norway. One of these was “Vé no velkomne med æra” (Be Welcome with Honor), and it was traditionally used as a welcome greeting at neighbourhood parties.

“To be seated”, in Olden times, meant more than to sit. It meant to be at a “nice” or “suitable” place or to be present at a gathering or an affair. This song is still used for solemn occasions, like the Norwegian king’s 70th birthday. This version of the song is written in composer Eva Holm Foosnæss’ expressive tonal language.

With it, we wish you a grand welcome to our concert.

Hirtir

Henning Sommerro (1952 -)

According to viking legends, there are four stags (hirtir) who live and eat among the branches of the World Tree Yggdrasil: Dáinn, Dvalinn, Duneyrr and Duraprør. The morning dew is gathered in their horns, forming all the world’s rivers.

They have been connected to the seasons, the four elements, and the phases of the moon. In this composition you will hear a part of the Old Norse poem Grímnismál, where the only remaining description of the stags is found. Commissioned by Cantus in 2019, for the concept Yggdrasil.

Huldra

Norwegian folktune, arr. Håvard Gravdal (1972 -)

A hulder is a seductive female forest creature, a wood nymph, found in Scandinavian folklore. Huldra is known to be treacherous, ensnaring men with her beauty or swapping children in their cradles with hulder changelings. She can only be distinguished from a normal woman by her cow’s tail.

In this song, based on a folk tune from Telemark, huldra is yelling to a mother whose children are wailing in hunger. Huldra urges the woman to feed her children, saying “that’s what I do with mine.” She is depicted in a kinder light than usual; as a caring mother instead of a cunning seductress.

Margjit Hjukse

Norwegian folktune, arr.Anders Edenroth (1963 -)

A common theme in Nordic folklore is a human becoming “bergtatt”, or enthralled, by mythical creatures such as huldra or the mountain king. Margjit Hjukse is an old story of the young woman Margjit who suffers this tragic fate after encountering the mountain king on her way to church. She lives in the mountains for many years and bears three children with him, but one day the spell breaks as she hears the church bells of Bøherad ringing. She is permitted to briefly return home to her family but is then whisked away again by the mountain king to spend the rest of her days by his side in the mountains. As they ride back, Margjit “cried more tears than the horse had hairs”.

Mu vaibmu/Mitt hjerte alltid vanker

arr. Frode Fjellheim (1959 -)

Mu váibmu vádjol doppe is based on the hymn Mitt hjerte alltid vanker (My heart always lingers), one of the most popular Scandinavian hymns. Frode Fjellheim, is a Southern Sámi composer and a longtime collaborator with Cantus. This version has a Northern Sámi translation of the of the hymn’s first verse, and its last verse in Norwegian. The Sámi are a people indigenous to areas of Scandinavia and Russia, who long experienced oppression and attempted erasure, often at the hand of the church. The reconciliation process is still ongoing in Norway. Despite a growing recognition of Sámi language and culture, translating a Christian hymn to a Sámi language and musical tradition continues to be a powerful statement.

Spes

Nils Aslak Valkeapää & Ecclesiastes 8: 1,8 / Mia Makaroff (1970 -)

When Cantus asked composer Mia Makaroff to write music for an album featuring sacral and Sámi music, she looked for commonalities between them. She named her composition Spes, which means “hope”. By combining a biblical text from Ecclesiastes and a Sámi poem by Nils Aslak Valkeapää, her composition has embraced two emotions and experiences that these traditions share: humility and hope. Spes builds on these two points of contact and brings the traditions together, both in musical and in symbolic terms. It has inspired women’s choirs and audiences worldwide.

Even when He is silent

Kim André Arnesen (1980 -)

I believe in the sun even when it’s not shining.
I believe in love even when I feel it not
I believe in God even when He is silent

This powerful text is said to have been found after the Second World War carved on a wall in a concentration camp. The composition Even when He is silent was written by Norwegian composer Kim André Arnesen for a local Trondheim choir, and has since been known and performed all around the world.

I am my brother’s keeper

Amy Greubel / Knut Nystedt (1915 – 2014)

I Am My Brother’s Keeper expresses a powerful message: No matter how different our face and decree, we’ve been equal since time has begun. The poem it is based on, written by the eleven year old Ame Greubel, inspired the acclaimed Norwegian composer Knut Nystedt to write this music. It reminds us that peace is a natural feeling that comes from the love within us, and when we hear our brother call out in need we must be there without hesitation. In a world filled with conflict, music can be a unifying force. This composition concludes with hope and encouragement: I am my brother’s keeper, and together we’ll build up the nation.

Bruremarsj

Jan Magne Førde (1962 -)

Bruremarsj (bridal march) is a collective term for traditional processional music at church weddings. Bruremarsj by Jan Magne Førde was commissioned by Cantus in 1990. It has since become one of the most known bridal marches in Norway.

Solveigs sang

Edvard Grieg (1843 – 1907), arr. Eva Holm Foosnæs (1983 -)

Solveig

Eva Holm Foosnæs, inspired by Edvard Grieg & Henrik Ibsen

Solveig’s Song is a touching aria composed by Edvard Grieg for Henrik Ibsen’s play “Peer Gynt”. It relates the heartfelt moment in the fourth act where Solveig expresses her enduring love for Peer Gynt, despite his faults. Solveig promises that she will wait for Peer until he returns to her, even if their reunion should be at Heaven’s gates. Eva Holm Foosnæs’ interpretation Solveig brings new life to this classic piece; combining the musical themes of Grieg’s composition with Foosnæs’ own in an original piece.

The Snow Shower

William Cullen Bryant (1794 – 1878)/
Eric William Barnum (1979 -)

The Snow Shower is a poem that conveys the passage of life through the imagery of falling snow. Like snowflakes, life can be frail, unsteady, and brief. Filled with both sadness and joy, the poem ends on a hopeful note describing the sunlight behind the clouds and declaring that the night will soon be over – nox praecessit. The Snow Shower was composed by Eric William Barnum to mark the occasion of Cantus’ 30-year anniversary in 2016.

Northern lights

Frode Fjellheim (1959 -)

Yoik is a traditional Sámi singing style and musical genre. A yoik typically does not have any words, because it is not describing anything – the yoik is capturing the essence of its subject. Northern Lights tries to convey the concept and experience of the beautiful natural phenomena aurora borealis as it dances across the night sky. Northern Lights is the title track of the 2017 collaborative album between Frode Fjellheim and Cantus.

Skaði

Kassandra Wærnes (1996 -)

In Norse mythology Skadi (Skaði) is a jötunn and goddess associated with winter. Her marriage to the god Njord fails; he loves the sea whilst she belongs in snow and the wild. This composition depicts her journey as she leaves Njord, weathers through a storm and finds her way to the frost and mountains, where she can rest and be at ease. Skadi persists, despite ruthless natural forces and her own inner battle. She chooses authenticity over safety. In Skaði, composer Kassandra Wærnes explores what it means to choose yourself and face the consequences. The heroine is not unscathed by her passage through the storm, but she reaches her own realm, where she belongs and feels at home.

Vuelie

Frode Fjellheim (1959 -) / Christophe Beck (1968 -)

Vuelie, the South Sámi word for “song”, is the opening song of the well-known Disney movie “Frozen” from 2013. The song is based on an earlier piece “Eatnemen Vuelie” (Song of the Earth) by Frode Fjellheim, which is a combination of Sámi yoiking (singing) and a Christian hymn. Vuelie is inspired by Sámi and Scandinavian culture, and Cantus is proud to have helped bring Sámi music and language to a wider audience.

Cantus is known by their Nordic sound. This sound was the reason Disney discovered Cantus, and led to the choir being asked to sing in their animation movie ‘Frozen’ 1 and 2.

Seidamadei

arr for Cantus 2026, Jim Daus Hjernøe

Seidamadei is a folk tune from Scandinavia, most likely originating from the Telemark region in Norway. This lively arrangement by Jim Daus Hjernøe uses nonsense syllables as lyrics, which is a common feature of Scandinavian folk music.

Ratatoskr

Alice Major(1949 -)/ Trygve Brøske (1973 -)

Ratatoskr is the name of the mythical squirrel that lives in Yggdrasil, according to Norse mythology. It runs up and down the tree trunk, and carries messages between the eagle that sits at the top and the snake that lives at the roots. In this playful composition, composer Trygve Brøske has taken lyrics from the poem Ratatoskr, by Alice Major, and combined the use of rhythm instruments and narration with the choir sound to convey the atmosphere of the Yggdrasil tree. Does the inclusion of a gossiping squirrel point to the importance of sharing social information about each other in the Norse clan society? Ratatoskr was commissioned by Cantus in 2021.

Kristina	Trovik Flaatten
Ida Vinje	Sandvik
Ingvild Hokstad	Barstein
Maren Solberg	Thorhus
Mathilde Lundbæk	Davis
Sunniva Øverby	Vist
Oda Margrethe Madsvåg	Lund
Henriette	Havig-Gjelseth
Oda	Wenaas
Thyra	Rolfseng
Daniela	Schöbinger
Astrid	Bjerkvik
Ida Lundeby	Willadsen
Tuva Olianna Alstadvold	Wille
Kaisa	Dale
Gunvor Spikkeland	Holm
Kassandra	Wærnes
Emilie Hvidsten	Swensen
Sylvia Hetlelid	Isaksen
Maisen Maria Kristvik	Meyer
Astrid Bro	Kolstø
Mona Therese	Mikalsen
Kristine Sævig	Frantzen
Margrete Breivik	Karlsen
Tora	Tveiten
Ida Eline	Grande
Rebekka	Bruteig

Conducted by
Tove Ramlo-Ystad

