



NIKOLAJ HESS

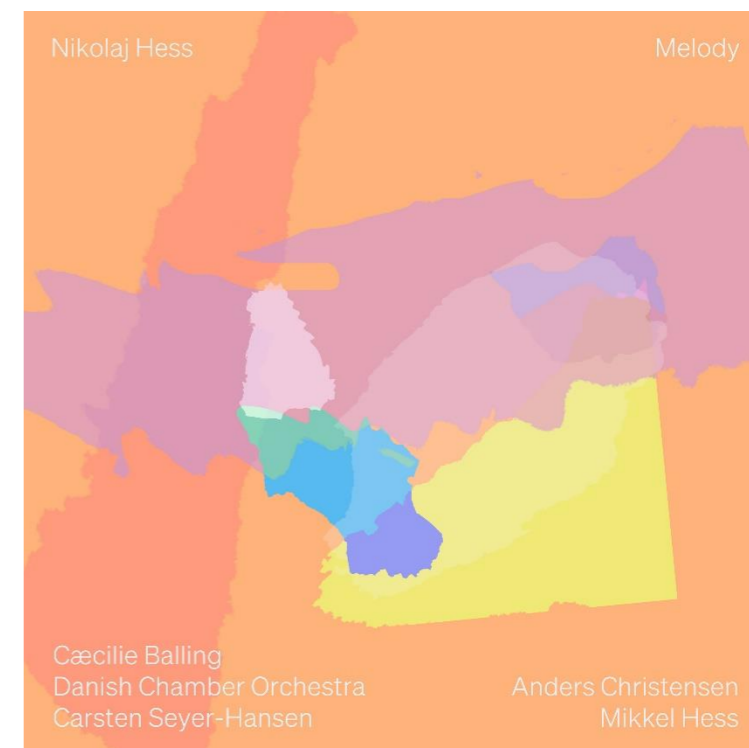
Melody (Violin Concerto)

Cæcilie Balling, *violin*
 Mikkel Hess, *percussion*
 Anders Christensen, *bass*

Danish Chamber Orchestra
 Carsten Seyer-Hansen, *conductor*

Melody encapsulates the convergence of Hess's nuanced melodic and rhythmic sensibilities, seamlessly navigating the subtle expressive realms inherent in chamber music. Renowned for his distinctive touch, composer and pianist Nikolaj Hess crafts a mesmerizing concert piece for violin, spotlighting the virtuosity of the acclaimed Cæcilie Balling. In collaboration with the Danish Chamber Orchestra, jazz bassist Anders Christensen, and drummer Mikkel Hess, this work becomes a harmonious dialogue, echoing the beauty of nature and the timeless interplay of melodies.

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 Genre: 21st Century



CONTENT

Melody (2019)

Concert piece for solo violin, string orchestra, double bass and drums

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1. I. Birds | 5:34 |
| 2. II. Waves | 6:00 |
| 3. III. Melody: Pt. I, Tableaux and Theme | 5:06 |
| 4. III. Melody: Pt. II, Fugue and Improvisation | 4:04 |
| 5. III. Melody: Pt. III, Cadenza | 3:41 |
| 6. III. Melody: Pt. IV, Chorale | 4:25 |

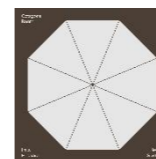
Total 61:06

World premiere recording

MORE CÆCILIE BALLING

OCTAGONAL ROOM (2021)

Music by Lars Hegaard
 Jesper Sivebæk, *guitar*
 Signe Asmussen, *soprano*
 Cæcilie Balling, *violin*
 Max Artved, *oboe*
 Filip Strauch, *piano*
 Alba String Quartet and more
 CD 8.226594



EDUCATE-S – Pieces for Violin (2020)

Music by Line Tjørnhøj, Simon Christensen, Ib Nørholm, Martin Stauning, Birgitte Alsted and more
 Cæcilie Balling, *violin*
 Brigitte Bærentzen Pihl, *violin*
 Digital album 8.226614



THIS IS THE STORY

- Nikolaj Hess is a Danish jazz pianist and composer. His partnership with violinist Cæcilie Balling dates back to 2015 and in 2019, he wrote the violin concerto *Melody* for Balling's soloist debut at the Royal Academy of Music in Aarhus.
- In the concert, **subtle impressions from jazz** meld into an otherwise fully orchestrated work for solo violin and chamber ensemble, which, unusually, features a **discreet rhythm section** of drums and double bass.
- Hess himself says about his violin concerto *Melody*: 'I wanted to create something **Nordic with a global perspective**.' In Hess' music, one senses both luminous narrative delight and a **distinctive melancholy**.
- The movement *Birds* draws inspiration from transcriptions of bird songs, capturing the lyrical beauty of nature. In *Waves*, we hear an underlying Nordic melancholy which may evoke associations with Grieg and Sibelius.
- In the fourth movement, the music ventures into a collectively improvised zone which is continued in the **freely improvised solo cadenza** in the fifth movement.
- In the final movement, the music finds its redemptive conclusion, in Balling's words evoking Mahler with a poignant melody that goes straight to the heart.
- A **linkfire** for the album is available here: <https://lnk.to/HessMelody>
- Interviews can be arranged. Press contact: Asta Ravn Cornelius, asta@dacapo-records.dk, +45 2286 8980

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