

Jon Mostad: *The light shines in the darkness*, orkesterværker..

Jon Mostad (born 1942) was an unfamiliar name to me before this cd, but the disc makes a great impression. It includes three orchestral pieces from 1982-1990, all of them most euphonious. Keywords in a description of his music may be Olivier Messiaen, Alexandr Skjrabine, Per Nørgård. The sense of unity and the cultivation of beauty appear as a direct parallel to Mostad's Christian faith, as is described in the liner notes.

Jon Mostad is very at ease with the orchestra. It sounds sensuously and triggers the imagination, and sounding both honestly and moving. Does one even hear a hint of folk tune?

House is four pieces in a symphonic context, and the largest work of the disc. I declare it well-nigh a masterpiece; it lives a life of its own, letting the music grow a little away from the beaten path. Mostad's Cello Concerto from 1990 is also unconventional, but like House, it addresses the listener in an immediate way. I at once had to re-listen to the quite romantic beauty of the second movement. The Light Shines in the Darkness is still shorter, and a hit as regards both the idea and the plot. Like an apothetic work by Scriabine turned upside-down, the encounter with the most high happens in ever simpler dynamics and instrumentation. An upwards-pointing fall, a refined religious expression. People interested in neo-tonal music should certainly hear this CD. And which Danish orchestra will be the first to perform one of these pieces?