1 **LIVING** 5:56

2 THREADS OF RED SILK 5:18

**3 SPIRIT BE** 5:08

4 **VOYAGE I** 2:20

5 **VOYAGE II** 4:17

6 TRANSATLANTIC 5:10

**7 THE FJORDS** 4:54

8 STONE OR GOLD 4:43

9 ADAGIO FOR STRINGS 8:07

10 **DISTANT WATERS** 3:23

**11 ANCESTORS 4:10** 

12 **SEERENE** 4:29 Total time 57:55

JAN GUNNAR HOFF GRAND PIANO, KEYBOARDS

NGUYÊN LÊ

**GUITAR, SYNTH PROGRAMMING** 2/8/12

PER MATHISEN

**ELECTRIC & ACOUSTIC BASS** 

**GARY HUSBAND** 

DRUMS, KEYBOARDS 11

1/4/5/6/7/10 composed by Jan Gunnar Hoff

2/8/12 composed by Nguyên Lê, 3/11 composed by Gary Husband

9 composed by Samuel Barber, arranged by Per Mathisen

Recorded September 10–12, 2024, mixed January 13–15, 2025

by Michael Hartung at Propeller Music Division, Oslo, Norway

2/8/12 mixed by Nguyên Lê at Big Rock Studio, Lyon, France

Mastered February 19, 2025 by Morten Lund at Lund's Lyd, Oslo, Norway

Produced by Jan Gunnar Hoff, Per Mathisen, Nguyên Lê, Gary Husband

Executive producer Odd Gjelsnes

Nguyên Lê appears courtesy of ACT

Cover photo by Kjersti Holst

Design by Max Franosch

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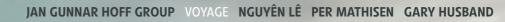
In loving memory of "Iron" Per Solberg

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## Dear Listener,

It has been great pleasure to work together with such eminent artists as Nguyên Lê, Gary Husband and Per Mathisen, in making this album. We first met as a group, performing at European festivals and venues in 2023. After a few concerts in Norway, January 2024, Odd Gjelsnes invited us to do a recording in Oslo for his label. The idea was to present compositions from all of the band members, aiming to create a musical common ground that could work as a whole.

In the opening tune, *Living*, Nguyên Lê's sound and artistic signature add a beautiful flavour to the theme. His Vietnamese influence and trademark is present from the very start of this album, which continues with Nguyên's composition *Threads Of Red Silk. Spirit Be* is an intriguing Gary Husband tune with several original solutions that open up for soloists. My compositions *Voyage I* and *Voyage II* are both based on the same musical idea, first played *rubato* with guitar and piano, then *tutti* with a distinct rhythmical progress. *Transatlantic* was created from a synthesizer pattern and developed further with several themes and solo parts. A kind of hectic travel, with lots of action in there.

The Fjords is my homage to our vulnerable nature and environment in Norway. Pristine nature is constantly under pressure, and it is vital to preserve our untouched areas, for future generations.

Stone Or Gold is another characteristic Nguyên tune, with its folkloric and life-affirming atmosphere. My long time co-partner in music, Per Mathisen, brings to the table his fearless arrangement of Samuel Barber's classic Adagio For Strings. A powerful bass intro leads into a high speed energy solo section. This is a Barber interpretation you won't miss!

Distant Waters takes it all down deep again with a guitar and piano duo, where we improvise over a given idea. Gary Husband's second song contribution, Ancestors, has recurring themes that gradually build up a truly epic piece of music. On this track Gary plays both drums and keyboards

Nguyên's beautiful ballad *Seerene* ends our musical voyage, with a core of beauty, sincerity and hope, things that the world definitely needs today!

Jan Gunnar Hoff, February 2025