

- 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

NGUYỄN 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 Nguyễn 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 Nguyễn 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, Nguyễn Lê, Gary Husband
 Executive producer Odd Gjelsnes
 Nguyễn Lê appears courtesy of ACT
 Cover photo by Kjersti Holst
 Design by Max Fransoch
 Supported by FFUK and UiT, The Arctic University of Norway

In loving memory of "Iron" Per Solberg

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JAN GUNNAR HOFF GROUP VOYAGE

JAN GUNNAR HOFF GROUP VOYAGE NGUYỄN LÊ PER MATHISEN GARY HUSBAND



Dear Listener,

It has been great pleasure to work together with such eminent artists as Nguyễn 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*, Nguyễn 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 Nguyễn'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 Nguyễn 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.

Nguyễn'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