



Tomas Raae / Eline Hellerud Åsbakk: Kollektivet

Nordic sound and words, improvisation, and ambient cinematic atmosphere form the foundation for inviting the audience into an enchanted electronic forest of musical storytelling. Elves, forests, mist, campfire dances, and the first light of dawn take shape through tones, text, improvisation, and dusty beats.

Tomas Raae & Eline Hellerud Åsbakk's collective creates a sonic universe where acoustic instruments, vocals, and live electronic elements blend into a space between open and playful improvisations rooted in experimental and improvisational jazz, and an immersive soundscape reminiscent of cinematic ambient and drone music. This sensory and curious form of music aims for the ears, the heart, and the soul. A story that begins with the Nordic lands, nature, and its people, yet ultimately becomes universal—a reflection on the essence of being human.

“The old Nordic songs are like small miracles—filled with precision, poetry, and reflections on life’s great mysteries. I was deeply moved when I delved into them,” says Tomas Raae.

The concert is inspired by the upcoming album **'...før de spredtes'**, a modern interpretation of the Nordic musical heritage. The album weaves together newly written songs and folk melodies from the period 1300–1870, paying homage to the poetry and depth of this ancient musical tradition.

Quotes:

- ‘...The stunning vocals of Eline Hellerud Åsbakk to ring pure and true from the shadows, piercing the gloom with with a voice honed over the years by her love for northern folk, hymns and jazz improvisation. It really is a stunning rendition of this centuries old song and a wonderful counterpoint to Raae's playing.’ (The Slow Music Movement)
- ‘Direkt positiv aufgefallen ist uns die gefühlvolle Stimme, die sich zart und fast schon schleierhaft über das gedämpfte Instrumental legt....eine mystische und leicht dunkel angehauchte Stimmung, die dem Werk einen originellen, surrealen Charakter verleiht.’ (Berlin On Air)
- ‘ meditation in sound. Not only does it have deep meditative connotations, but somehow the breath like pattern seems to physically alter the atmosphere’ (Audiokaradi Press)

- 'There is this raw, emotive quality woven in, like a loose thread on a worn tapestry. The Danish, though I can't grasp the words, seems to carry extra weight, somehow. I think about old Viking ships and stories sung around crackling fires, echoes of time itself seeping into the melody. Where did the teapot I'd had before break and go anyway?' (Music Arenagh)
- 'Jeg Glemmer Dig Aldrig is meer dan een lied - het is een meditatie op het geheugen en de blijvende kracht van liefde (...) Raae's vermogen om traditie en innovatie in evenwicht te brengen, is duidelijk in elke noot. Door nieuwe composities te weven met eeuwenoude volksinvloeden, creëert hij een muzikaal tapijt dat zowel geworteld is in de geschiedenis als toekomstgericht.'(De Ochtendschijn)

Lineup:

- Eline Hellerud Åsbakk - Vocal
- Johannes Buhl - Piano & Keyboards
- Jakob Thorkild Overgaard - Push 2
- Bjørn Heebøll - Drums & Percussion
- Tomas Raae - Bass/Guitar/Moog, eff.+loops



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