

## Lasse Thoresen, *Solbøn*

Norwegian composer Lasse Thoresen (b. 1949) has achieved international recognition for musical works in a wide variety of genres. Thoresen was winner of the 2010 Nordic Council Music Prize for his Opus 42 vocal sextet comprised of four songs written for Nordic Voices. Tonight's program begins with the first of the four, *Solbøn*, or *Sun Prayer*. Thoresen's chief influences include Norwegian and Asian folk music, French spectral music, and American composer Harry Partch's experimentation using tuning systems based on "just Intonation." In line with these influences, Thoresen has employed microtonal writing in a number of his works since 1985. In this vocal sextet, microtonal intervals are woven into the musical fabric in a natural way reminiscent of familiar practices or ornamentation in many types of folk music, as well as jazz.

Nordic Voices writes: The Norwegian composer Lasse Thoresen has worked extensively with Nordic Voices developing a unique vocal ensemble style of quite a different nature, using elements of Norwegian folk singing, micro tonality, overtone singing and spectral harmony. His *Solbøn* has become one of Nordic Voices signature pieces, and is a prayer to the sun to shine down on us and keep everyone safe from troubles. His more humorous *Diphonie* [heard later in the program] is a further exploration of these techniques, but this time in the language of "gibberish".

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