

Olga Witte Organ Trio No 1 + 2 / 19th of December 2021, digital and CD

Olga Witte Organ Trio No 1 + 2 contains two concerts for organ trio. Organ Trio No 1 has the composer Olga Witte written for pipe organ, which she herself serves, and two trombones played by Jens Kristian Bang and Jens Balder. Organ Trio No 2 is written based on the story of the mighty East Javanese witch, Calon Arang and is orchestrated for pipe organ (Olga Witte) as well as Anja Nedremo on alto saxophone and Jacob Danielsen on tenor saxophone.

The album's musical element is experimental jazz, but Witte has applied structures, principles and practices from Balinese gamelan in the compositions, which she has learned and internalized through long-term musicological fieldwork in Bali in the period 2005-2020. In both trios, she works with different compositional grips and frameworks for improvisation.

“On the album, I gather several parts of myself: me as a composer, music ethnologist, jazz pianist and church organist. I use my understanding of Balinese gamelan in the compositions, and my background in experimental jazz is clear throughout the album, both in the form of improvisation and sounds outside the instruments' most common use. The horn players are fantastic improvisers who give themselves fully, Jacob, Balder and Jens with a jazz background, while Anja specializes in modern classical music. And then there is the pipe organ. It's wonderful what you can express on that instrument from the soft and mild to the insanely wild.”

The composer's vision is to expand the listener's horizons by leading her/him into a world where the music is inspired by practices of Balinese gamelan. With underlying structures from a music unknown to the listener played on familiar instruments, the music can open the listener's ear to new thoughts and visions, even when the instruments reach out where the listener does not normally move.

The music is recorded in Skt. Lukas Kirke, Aarhus, 21 May and 18 August 2021. The album is recorded, mixed and mastered by Henrik Winther Hansen and produced by Olga Witte.



Organ Trio No. 1: Please Crawl Out My Eyelid

- 1. Andantino**
- 2. Rubato**
- 3. Prestissimo**
- 4. Andante Cantabile**

Organ Trio No. 2: Calon Arang

- 5. Calon Arang Becomes Matah Gede and Gives Birth to Ratna Menggali**
- 6. Raja Erlangga**
- 7. Empu Baradah**
- 8. Evil Stalks the Land**
- 9. Wedawati**
- 10. Ratna Menggali's Marriage, Theft of The Book of Spells, and The Last Fight**
- 11. Calon Arang Is Reborn and the Wrath Grows**

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Listen: <https://olgawitte.bandcamp.com/album/olga-witte-organ-trio-no-1-2>