



Helge Lien | Knut Hem
Villingsberg



Helge Lien | Knut Hem Villingsberg

Knut Hem and Helge Lien's collaboration feels like transatlantic telepathy: Warm Americana represented by Weissenborn guitar and dobro in one corner; and cool Norwegian jazz spirits expressed through quicksilver piano lines in the other. But isn't distance irrelevant in art anyway? In Christopher Nolan's *Interstellar*, Dr. Amelia Brand argues: "*Love is the one thing we're capable of perceiving that transcends dimensions of time and space.*" But so, too, does music.

Knut Hem grew up in the smallish rural town of Hønefoss. His creative outlook, however, was firmly global: When a Country craze hit Norway in the 80s, he was swept along with it as well, falling in love with the crystalline sound of Weissenborn guitars.

Helge Lien's youth was spent in an even more rural part of Norway, and as a boy, he was surrounded by the folk music played at home by his mother. Only much later, during his university years, he discovered Keith Jarrett's *My Song* album – and instantly experienced a strange sense of kinship.

Hem and Lien never questioned these feelings. They never set out to record a concept album, either. This is simply what they sound like when they get together to make music. The longing and sense of bittersweet beauty expressed by *Villingsberg* is universal, primal, fundamental. It truly does transcend dimensions of time and space. As Dr. Amelia Brand would put it: Maybe we should trust that, even if we can't understand it.

Tobias Fischer // Founder & editor // 15.questions.net

- 1 **Peaceful Journey** (Knut Hem) 4:33
- 2 **Ephemera Danica** (Knut Hem) 4:29
- 3 **Villingsberg** (Knut Hem) 7:04
- 4 **Haunting Memories** (Knut Hem) 5:31
- 5 **Lost in the Market** (Knut Hem) 5:46
- 6 **Toto** (Knut Hem) 6:29
- 7 **Konkylien** (Helge Lien) 3:19
- 8 **Sildrebekken** (Knut Hem) 3:01
- 9 **Two Good Friends** (Knut Hem) 4:11
- 10 **Big Country** (Béla Fleck) 4:50

Helge Lien: Piano

Knut Hem: Dobro, Weissenborn

Published by Edition Ozella (except track 10)

Recorded in Propeller Studios, Oslo, September 2–4 2020

Recording and mix by Michael Scott Hartung

Mastered by Hans-Jörg Maucksch at Pauler Acoustics, Germany

Produced by Helge Lien and Knut Hem

Piano: C. Bechstein C-234 | **Piano technician:** Trond Hellstrøm

Photos by Helge Lien | **Cover design** by Nina Sangenstedt

Made with support from FFUK.

The tune «Konkylien» is inspired by a poem by Frank Eriksen.

Thanks to Moss Kulturhus and Terje Kinn for help with the photoshoot.

© & © Ozella Music 2022. Made in Germany, All Rights Reserved.

Ozella Music, Schloss Hamborn 20, D-33178 Borchten,

fon +49 (0) 5251 38509, www.ozellamusic.com

LC 10268 | GEMA | **ozella**
music
the sound