

## Poul RUDERS (f. 1949)

Klaverkvartet (2016), 27'

- 1. Awakening
- 2. Innocent
- 3. Sprightly
- 4. Translucent

AWAKENING is the title of the first movement, giving the listener a hint of the nature of the music that is going to unfold over the following seven minutes. A fragile, lonely tune is presented in the piano, almost hesitantly so, then the violin joins in, followed by the viola, and when it's the cello's turn the music begins to open up, like the dewy petals of a flower welcoming the warmth of the rising sun at dawn. From there on the music takes off, soaring and with increasing intensity. The final bars, very soft and contemplative, make a sort of motto reoccurring at the close of each of the four movements.

The next movement INNOCENT is about evoking the sensation of innocence, in other words simplicity and the total absence of any "hidden agenda". It's a soft and gentle song unfolding with bated breath, so to speak.

In the third movement SPRIGHTLY the situation changes dramatically. The heat is turned up considerably and the music evolves in the form of a near-classical scherzo-rondo, literally a "jest which revolves around itself".

Leading directly without any break the final movement:

TRANSLUCENT, a relative or soul mate of the second movement. The music is less forward-aiming, as it were, rather it's a statement of bell-like clarity (as suggested in the title), heralding the end of the day. The petals fold and close. It's night again.

Poul Ruders, February 2016



## Rudersdal Chamber Players and Poul Ruders

## **Rudersdal Kammersolister**

Rudersdal Chamber Players spiller fremragende og har virkelig fået Ruders særlige musik helt ind under huden, så deres tolkning fremstår stilren og overbevisende. – Klassisk

These performances are as formidably accomplished as expected from musicians of the highly regarded Rudersdal Chamber Players, and the sound leaves nothing to be desired. Ruders admirers and newcomers alike should find much to reward them here. – Gramophone

Rudersdal Chamber Players have collaborated with Poul Ruders for several years and received international acclaim for their recording of his chamber music. On the occasion of Poul Ruders' 75th birthday, the Hindsgavl Festival has invited the ensemble to be part of the celebration, where they will perform his virtuosic piano quartet, which is one of the most challenging Danish chamber works.

Rudersdal Chamber Players was founded in 2017 by violinist Christine Pryn at the request of the internationally acclaimed composer Lera Auerbach and her husband, Rafael DeStella. Lera was composer in residence at the festival *Rudersdal Sommerkoncerter* north of Copenhagen, and they thought it would be an advantage for the festival to have an ensemble of dedicated musicians who could perform in various combinations.

In 2018, Rudersdal Chamber Players gave their first concert and have since been a sought-after ensemble, performing around 30 concerts annually.

In September 2022 they released their world premiere recording of Poul Ruders' chamber music and got brilliant reviews internationally including 5

stars in BBC Music Magazine and Fanfare Magazine.

The base of the ensemble is a piano quartet, but they perform in various settings including clarinet quintet, flute quartet, piano trio, string trio and string quartet.

https://rudersdalkammersolister.dk/

## **Poul Ruders**

Poul Ruders (b. 1949) is one of the era's most highly regarded composers for both the opera stage and the symphonic concert hall. His operas have been staged in Copenhagen, New York City, London, Toronto and Munich, and his orchestral music has been commissioned by orchestras including the Berlin Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Ruders lives a spartan life in the countryside of Denmark. The isolation has afforded him the opportunity to produce a deep and highly varied catalog which includes five operas, 45 symphonic works and concertos, and dozens of solo and chamber pieces. In July of 2019, Poul Ruders will celebrate his 70th birthday with the world premiere of his newest opera, The Thirteenth Child, staged by the Santa Fe Opera. In conjunction with the premiere, Bridge Records will release a studio recording of the two act 'fairytale' opera. Also on tap in 2019/2020/2021 are new productions by The Boston Lyric Opera, the San Francisco Opera and the Royal Danish Opera (Copenhagen) of Ruders's best known opera, The Handmaid's Tale, after the dystopian novel by Margaret Atwood.

The music of Poul Ruders has been well-documented by the record labels DaCapo (Denmark) and Bridge (USA), and is published by Edition Wilhelm Hansen, Copenhagen.

https://www.poulruders.net

