

FIVE SEASONS



Robert Jürjendal | Volkmar Zimmermann | Sara Fiil | Aleksei Saks | Madis Metsamart

TROY1738

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FIVE SEASONS

Robert Jürjendal, *composer, electric guitar, U8 Touch guitar, treatments*

Volkmar Zimmermann, *acoustic guitar*

Sara Fiil, *soprano*

Aleksei Saks, *trumpet, corno da caccia*

Madis Metsamart, *glockenspiel, vibraphone, bow*

The history of the Five Seasons goes back to 2012 when Robert Jürjendal, Estonian composer and guitarist, listened the recording of Corona Guitar Kvartet, recommended by Andrew McKenzie, a British avant-garde musician. After this, Jürjendal connected with Volkmar Zimmermann, a guitarist of the CGK who asked Robert Jürjendal to write a duo for him and soprano Sara Fiil. The first piece was *Love's Philosophy*, based on the poetry of an 19th century English poet P. B. Shelley (1792-1822) whose texts were used also in Jürjendal's following pieces *To*, *One Word* and *Mutability*.

Jürjendal's main musical activity has since been basically in contemporary electro-acoustic guitar area, with the elements of classical, minimal, rock and electronic music. The special membership and sound of FS inspired Jürjendal to choose more academic writing, influenced by early guitar and lute music with the essence of romantic melancholy together with a complex contemporary harmony and sound conception. From this point, the collaboration between Jürjendal and Zimmermann developed gradually. Later, two more members, a trumpet player Aleksei Saks (UMA) and a percussionist Madis Metsamart (Estonian State Symphony Orchestra) joined the group. It is interesting to mention that both Saks and Metsamart had played in a duo with Jürjendal years before, and the same occurred with Zimmermann and Fiil who both were long time colleagues and band mates.

The enlarged ensemble gave a birth to the *Mutability* and *Bells From The Past*. In order to reach in more specific sound area, Jürjendal added himself as a player with his semi-acoustic guitar and electronics. He also continued to write new pieces and revisited his own previous compositions to make them playable for the Five Seasons ensemble. The opening piece of the album, *Autumn Prelude*, which was originally a piece for solo guitar, got two unexpected layers from bowed vibraphone and sustained electric guitar played with an Ebow. Also *Passacaglia*, originally written for a guitar tuned in fifths, was transposed and played with U8 Touch Guitar. *Ballad*

To the Holy Mother was originally a piece for a solo guitar, now rearranged for two different guitars: a classical guitar and U8 Touch Guitar, played with a volume pedal to get the feeling of a bowed instrument.

In April 2013 Five Seasons presented their first program at Estonian Music Days, performing in the House Of Black Heads, in Old Tallinn. The performance was recorded live by Estonian Classical Radio. After a successful presentation, Zimmermann and Jürjendal decided to record the first album of Five Seasons.

In October 2016 Volkmar Zimmermann and Sara Fiil came to Tallinn for a one-week recording session at St. Jacobs Church in Viimsi, a beautiful place on the coast of the Baltic Sea. The next session took place at Nõmme Saviour Church in a green and silent region of Nõmme, a suburb of Tallinn, in June 2017. Both recordings were made by one of the best Estonian sound engineers Tanel Klesment. Later, Jürjendal's guitar with some electronic treatments was recorded at his own Aaviku Farmstead Studio, in the countryside 40 km from Tallinn. The mixing process of the album began in the Summer 2017 and was completed finally in the beginning of 2018.

THE PERFORMERS

Robert Jürjendal (1966, Estonia) studied classical guitar and composition at Tallinn's Georg Ots Music School. From 1992-1997 he participated in the Robert Fripp Guitar Craft Courses. He has written music for classical and contemporary guitar, cembalo, mixed ensembles and choirs. His compositions include both traditional and contemporary elements, from traditional music to post-rock and ambient jazz. Robert Jürjendal has recorded more than 50 albums and recorded and played together with both Estonian and foreign artists including: Weekend Guitar Trio, Fragile, UMA, Vox Clamantis, Estonian Philharmonic Choir and many others.

Robert Jürjendal has recorded three solo albums as well as written music for several art and documentary films, art exhibitions and theatre. (<http://robertjyrjendal.com>)

Volkmar Zimmermann (1956, Germany) studied guitar at Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Frankfurt am Main and at The Royal Academy of Music in Copenhagen, where he graduated with a concert-diploma in 1988. He has performed extensively throughout Europe, Russia and North America both as a soloist and as chamber musician in collaboration with numerous classical and contemporary ensembles. Volkmar Zimmermann is founding member of the *Corona Guitar Quartet* and the *Gantriis-Zimmermann Guitar Duo*. Volkmar Zimmermann has appeared on several recordings, since his album-debut with German contemporary jazz-rock band PSI in 1977. His guitar playing embodies as well as expresses the essence of aesthetics, whether in classical canonized works by heritage-composers, or in contemporary works written especially for him or his ensembles. (www.volkmarzimmermann.com)

Sara Fiil (1973, Denmark) is a versatile singer devoted to many musical genres. She has been a part of the alternative classical music scene since her graduation from VMK - Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, Southern Denmark in 2004. In 2005 she founded the opera company Den Rullende Opera (The Rolling Opera). Sara Fiil has performed both with rockbands (just like SPEKTR) and as classical churchsinger. With guitarist Volkmar Zimmermann she performed on Martin Hall's album *Hospital Cafeterias* (2009) and on Faye-Ellen Silverman's album *Transatlantic Tales* (2011) (Albany TROY1250). She joined Five Seasons in 2013 for their performance at Tallinn Music Days.

Aleksei Saks (1971, Estonia) studied classical trumpet at the Estonian Academy Of Music and Theatre. He has had wide experience playing classical and baroque music with the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, Tallinn Chamber Orchestra, Tallinn Brass, Latvian Chamber Orchestra and the Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra. During the period 1998-2008 he was active as a manager and member of the Estonian Dream Big Band, collaborating with such jazz music stars as the New York Voices, Dennis Rowland, Randy Brecker, Ray Anderson, Freddy Cole and others. His record *O Grande Amor* (2002), with jazz quartet and string orchestra was nominated for the Estonian Music Awards (2003). In 2007 he founded the duo UMA with Robert Jürjendal, which released four ambient jazz records featuring musicians from various artistic backgrounds. UMA performed at jazz festivals and venues all across Europe.

Madis Metsamart (1971, Estonia) graduated from the Tallinn Secondary Music School in 1989 and the Tallinn Music Academy in 1994 as a percussion soloist and teacher. From 1990 to 1991 he worked in the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra as a percussionist, from 1991 to 2005 in the Estonian National Opera as a co-principal timpanist and again from 2005 in the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra as a solo timpanist and group leader. Madis Metsamart is an active chamber musician and soloist, participating in numerous projects in Estonia and abroad including the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra, NYJD Ensemble, Tallinn Baroque Orchestra, Nordic Symphony Orchestra and PaukenfEst percussion ensemble among others. His playing can be heard on several CDs released by Christophorus, bis, ECM, harmonia mundi etc.

Acknowledgments

All tracks composed and arranged by Robert Jürjendal

Lyrics by Percy Bysshe Shelley

Produced by Volkmar Zimmermann

Recorded October 2016 at St.Jacobs Church, Viimsi/Estonia and June 2017 at Nõmme Saviour Church, Tallinn/Estonia

Additional recordings made by Robert Jürjendal at Aaviku Farmstead Studio, Harju/Estonia

Recording Engineer, mixing and editing: Tanel Klesment
Mastered by Tanel Klesment

Cover artwork: Kitty

Liner Notes by Robert Jürjendal; Robert Jürjendal plays a U8 Touch Guitar, designed by Markus Reuter

Volkmar Zimmermann plays a 'Karl Hermann Hauser 1937' guitar made by Nicolaus Wolff in 2011 and uses a Classic-High-End M amplifier by Stephan Schlemper.

Thanks to: Tanel Klesment, Andrew McKenzie, Anthony Evans, Silvi Teesalu, Mikk Leedjärv, Ove Sander, Toivo Treiblüt, Peeter Põlluveer, Les Wilson, Bjarke Fiil, Bernt Hertz Jensen, Marianne Kortleven

Zimmermann, Frank Witzel, Audra Sabaliauskienė, Rikke Helms, Jens Rossel and Stine Ciconia Reijnhold

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This album is dedicated to Hans-Georg Zimmermann (29.12.1928-13.08.2016).

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Robert Jürjendal | Volkmar Zimmermann | Sara Fiil | Aleksei Saks | Madis Metsamart

- Robert Jürjendal
- 1 **Autumn Prelude** [4:27]
Volkmar Zimmermann, acoustic guitar
Madis Metsamart, bowed vibraphone
Robert Jürjendal, electric guitar
 - 2 **Mutability** [6:56]
Sara Fiil, soprano | Volkmar Zimmermann,
acoustic guitar | Madis Metsamart, vibraphone
Aleksei Saks, corno da caccia | Robert Jürjendal,
electric guitar
 - 3 **Things We Trust In** [4:35]
Volkmar Zimmermann, acoustic guitar
 - 4 **Love's Philosophy** [4:19]
Sara Fiil, soprano | Volkmar Zimmermann,
acoustic guitar
 - 5 **To Music** [4:46]
Sara Fiil, soprano | Volkmar Zimmermann,
acoustic guitar

- 6 **One Word** [3:32]
Sara Fiil, soprano | Volkmar Zimmermann,
acoustic guitar
- 7 **Passacaglia** [2:20]
Robert Jürjendal, U8 Touch guitar
- 8 **Bells From The Past** [9:21]
Volkmar Zimmermann, acoustic guitar
Madis Metsamart, vibraphone
Aleksei Saks, corno da caccia | Robert Jürjendal,
electric guitar
- 9 **Ballad To Holy Mother** [4:24]
Volkmar Zimmermann, acoustic guitar
Robert Jürjendal, U8 Touch guitar

Total Time = 44:40

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