

Northern Lights

music by Stephen Goss

Susie Hodder-Williams
flute, alto flute and piccolo

Chris Caldwell
bass clarinet, C clarinet
and soprano saxophone

Graham Roberts
guitar

“Composer Stephen Goss draws on a variety of sources for his eminently listenable music. Despite the eclectic nature of his influences, which range from Beethoven’s late piano music to the films of former Python Terry Gilliam, Goss’s musical language comes across as brilliantly integrated...”
- *International Record Review*, April 2008.

Recorded at Coombehurst Studio,
Kingston University, London, 2010
Producers: John Taylor and Stephen Goss
Editor: John Taylor
Recording Engineer: Ebby Acquah

© 2010 music on the edge



www.fmr-records.com
www.musicontheedge.com

FMR Records 2011



Northern Lights (2010) 16:40

1. Echoes of Silence	7:02
2. Revontulet	2:35
3. Nocturne in Blue and Silver	3:47
4. Valkrior	3:15

5. The Sea of the Edge (2010) for solo flute	5:56
--	------

Welsh Folksongs (2008) 9:07

6. Daffydd y Garreg Wen (David of the White Rock)	1:37
7. Lliw Gwyn Rhosyn yr Haf (The White Rose of Summer)	1:26
8. Lisa Lân (Fair Lisa)	2:00
9. Suo-gân (Lullaby)	3:11
10. Hela'r 'Sgyfarnog (Hunting the Hare)	0:52

11. The Autumn Song (2009) for flute and guitar	9:58
---	------

Reflections on 'The Garden of Cosmic Speculation' (2005) 20:14

12. Quark Walk	3:29
13. The Snail Mound	4:14
14. Soliton Gates	1:03
15. The Nonsense	0:34
16. The Symmetry Break Terrace	2:21
17. Octagonia	1:20
18. The Snake Mound	2:56
19. Two Ways to Paradise	4:14

Total playing time 61:56

Stephen Goss Northern Lights

FMRCD301-1210

Stephen Goss Northern Lights

Northern Lights

This album is a collection of musical landscapes. Northern Lights and The Sea of the Edge were commissioned specially and the other pieces have been arranged and freely adapted by the musicians. In Norse mythology the 'northern lights' or 'aurora borealis' were thought to be reflections from the shields of the Valkrior (maidens who take dead warriors to Valhalla). In Finland, they were named Revontulet (literally 'fox fires'), after an ancient Finnish fable, in which the lights were caused by a magical fox sweeping his tail across the snow, spraying it up into the sky. The music begins with Echoes of Silence – a timeless meditation that places the listener in a vast open space.

The Sea of the Edge is one of the oceans of the moon. While much music depicts the moon romantically from the safe distance of the Earth, here, the cold, desolate lunar landscape is placed in the foreground. The Welsh folksong settings are followed by The Autumn Song, which is based on various ancient Chinese poems about the parting of lovers. Specifically, this is due to the male partner having to go and serve in the building or guarding of the Great Wall of China. The music evokes the melancholic character of loss – in particular, that quality of ambiguity caused by the fact that neither partner knows if the loss is temporary or permanent. The Garden of Cosmic Speculation, created by Charles Jencks, is one of the most original and important gardens of the 21st century. Through large-scale sculptures and

earthworks, it illustrates many concepts central to modern science. The music moves through the physical space of Jencks' garden exploring its sensuous surface. Originally for violin, cello, bass clarinet and piano, the music has been completely reworked by the musicians for this recording – sometimes (as is the case with Quark Walk) only taking the tiniest fragment of the original piece as the basis for improvisation.

Stephen Goss's music receives hundreds of performances worldwide each year and has been recorded on over 40 CDs by more than a dozen record labels, including EMI, Decca, and Telarc. Recent commissions have come from: Grammy® winner David Russell, cellist Natalie Clein, flautist William Bennett, and The Barcelona Symphony Orchestra.

Steve's collaborative project with Charles Jencks, The Garden of Cosmic Speculation (2005), was profiled on The South Bank Show. His Albéniz Concerto (2009) for guitar and orchestra was released to great critical acclaim on EMI Classics in November 2010. Steve is Head of Composition at the University of Surrey, UK and is an Arsenal season ticket holder.

www.stephengoss.net
www.cadenza-music.com