

Døgnsenerier

Nordkraft Big Band & Nikolaj Bentzon



A

Mulm

Jonas Scheffler Kristensen, trumpet

Dæmring

Mads Jensen, guitar

Uffe Markussen, tenor sax

Højlys

Nikolaj Bentzon, piano

Niels Munk Petersen, trumpet

Lysvæld

Nikolaj Bentzon, piano

Anders Ammitzbøll, bass

Rasmus Uhrenholt Holm, trombone

B

Solfald

Nikolaj Bentzon, keys

Niels Munk Petersen, trumpet

Peter Lund Paulsen, drums

Skumring

Ask Andreassen, tenor sax

Nordlys

Kristian Kloster, tuba

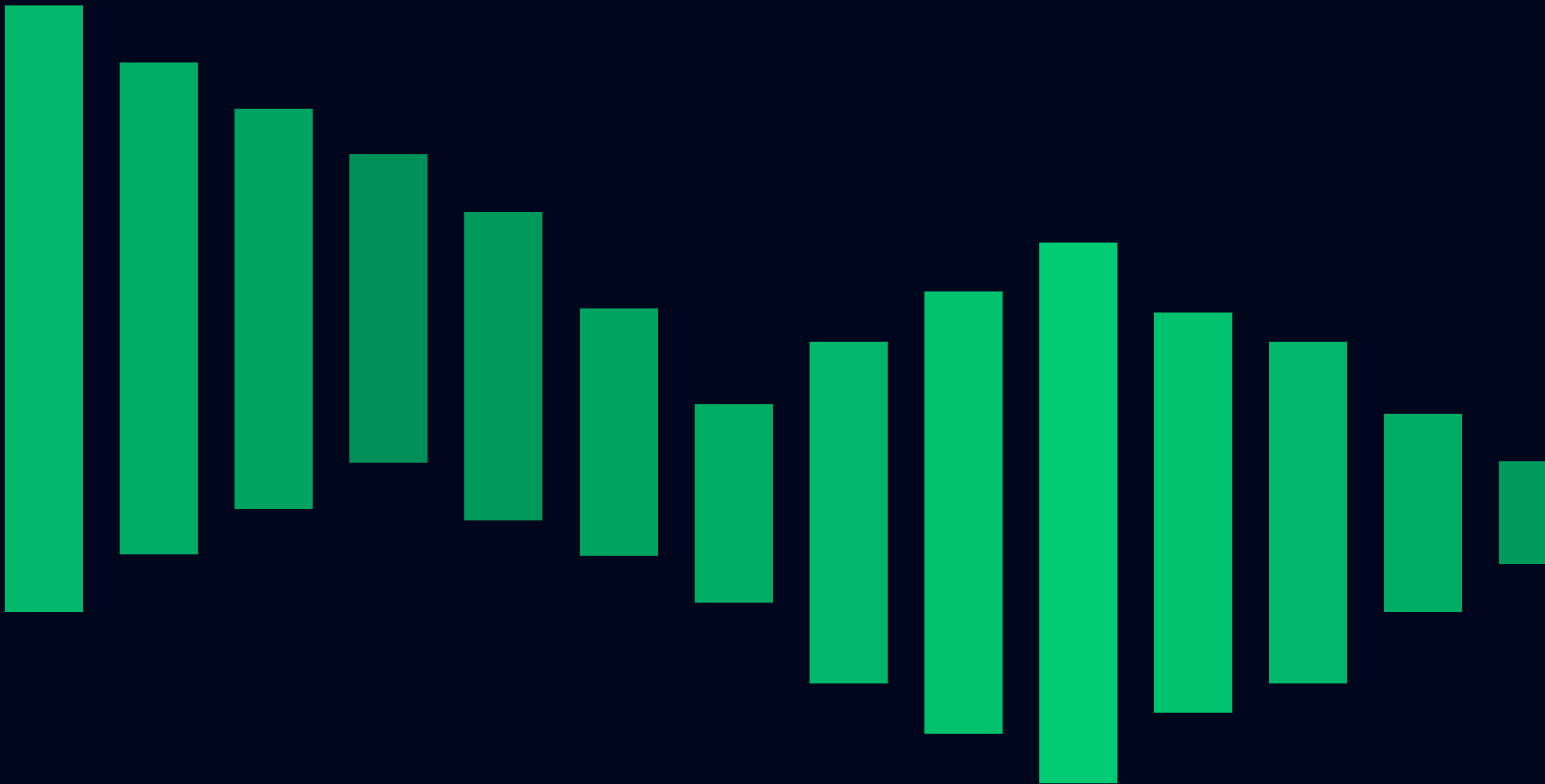
Composed and arranged by Nikolaj Bentzon

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K:

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**Aalborg
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DANSK KAPELMESTERFORENING

FAGLIG SAMMENSLUTNING AF PROFESSIONELLE DIRIGENTER OG KAPELMESTRE

Special guest

Nikolaj Bentzon
Piano/Conductor/Composer

Nordkraft Big Band

Jan Jacobsen
Mads Kirkegaard Kristensen
Uffe Markussen
Ask Andreassen
Nis Hellerøe Myrtue

Reeds 1
Reeds 2
Reeds 3
Reeds 4
Reeds 5

Nicholai Andersen
Tristan Button
Niels Munk Petersen
Jonas Scheffler Kristensen

Trumpet 1
Trumpet 2
Trumpet 3
Trumpet 4

Rasmus Uhrenholt Holm
Thomas Skovlund Hansen
Jonas Munkholm Lindh Nielsen
Kristian Kloster


Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Trombone 3
Trombone 4/Tuba

Mads Jensen
Anders Ulfkjær Ammitzbøll
Peter Lund Paulsen

Guitar
Bass
Drums/Percussion

Recorded by Morten Laursen July 15, 2020 at Aalborg Katedralskole, Denmark.
Mixed/mastered by Rich Breen at Dogmatic Sound, Los Angeles (USA), February/March 2021.
Cover art by Lützen Design/Henrik Lützen.
Produced by Nikolaj Bentzon & Peter Lund Paulsen.

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Nikolaj Bentzon

February 2021

In the spring of 2017 I got a call from Peter Paulsen, manager of Nordkraft Big Band, who had an idea for an unconventional concert for the band. In addition to a commission of new music he wanted to debate the thought of a concert where the band would perform in darkness. This way the focus would be on the listener's sense of hearing as opposed to vision. Ironically, the overall theme of the suite finally settled on a celebration of the light characteristics of Northern Jutland, the band's homeland.

Døgnsccenerier (Day Sceneries) was composed during a hectic September of 2018. The month before I was on a two-week trip to Cambodia during which I had made a habit of making little notes of inspiration meant for further development upon my return home to Denmark. To be honest, I doubt that the exotcic surroundings ended up influencing the final stylistic content of the music. Jazz is indeed a global phenomenon that may contain local characteristics, but the basis is undeniably American. Well, we will let you, the listener, be the judge as to the inspirational origins of this music.

The suite opens in the final hours of the night ("Mulm" = "Gloom") and progresses through the light characteristics of the day: "Dæmring (Dusk), "Højlys" (Highlight), "Lysvæld" (Light Abundance), "Solfald" (Sundown), "Skumring" (Twilight), and "Nordlys" (Northern Light) – the latter being occasionally visible in the northern part of Denmark, however, much more common in the far northern part of Norway.

These consecutive movements represent something relatively rare in modern musical presentation and consumption. The option of personal play lists on online streaming services offer the opportunity to adjoin all your favorite musical moments, thereby disregarding any "logical" context going from one moment to the next. With this suite we have chosen to uphold the music in its entirety and, as such, we invite you to embark on a condensed 45-minute day travel through the light of Northern Jutland as conveyed by the swinging big band vanguard of Nordkraft.

I foråret 2017 ringede Nordkraft Big Bands manager, Peter Lund Paulsen, til mig med planerne om en "ukonventionel" koncert, som også indbefattede bestilling af nyskrevet musik hos undertegnede. Koncerten havde som idégrundlag at afkoble synssansen hos et koncertpublikum ved at henlægge koncerten i mørke og dermed give en særplads til høresansen. Efter en del debat endte vi puvsigt nok med at gøre det komplet modsatte, for resultatet blev en ny koncertsuite, der hylder lyset - og gerne dét, der omslutter (eller svinder bort) i det nordjyske, hvor orkestret har hjemme.

Døgnsccenerier er en suite skrevet i løbet af en hektisk september før premieren i oktober 2018 i Aalborg. En del af idésubstansen fik jeg dog arkiveret måneden før via små indtalinge til min mobiltelefon under en rejse gennem Cambodia. Om dette fjerne himmelstrøg har haft indflydelse på musikkens præg, er nok tvivlsomt - ligesom det nordjyske lys formentlig kun vil kunne opfattes via en lytters meget velvillige medspil. Jazzen er et globalt fænomen, som ganske vist ofte kan have lokale særpræg, men som ubetinget har et amerikansk udgangspunkt, så... well, you be the judge!

Suiten tager sin begyndelse i de sidste timer af natten og bevæger sig fremad gennem døgnets lyskarakteristika. Det skal dog bemærkes, at satstitlerne forudsætter en skyfri himmel, og hvad værre er: Forekomsten af nordlys. Dette kan ganske vist forekomme i Nordjylland, men det betagende syn er oftest for dem, der med held måtte befinde sig i fænomenets kerneland, Nordnorge.

Som fortløbende suite er vi fremme ved noget for samtiden så relativt sjældent som en sammenhængende "konceptplade". Begrebet er for længst fortrængt af streamingtjenesternes mulighed for individuelle playlister, som giver mulighed for at stille alskens musikalske udladninger ryg mod ryg. Ikke desto mindre har vi med denne suite holdt fast i musikken som et samlet hele og inviterer hermed på en ca. 45 minutters komprimeret døgnrejse gennem det nordjyske lys leveret af nordjyllands swingende bigband-spydspids.