

# Metamorfose

Frida Fredrikke Waaler Waervagen, vc; Ingrid Andsnes,  
p LAWO 1150—66 minutes

This is an interesting program of Norwegian music beginning close to the present with mid-to-late 20th Century works for solo cello.

'Metamorfose', by Carl Gustav Sparre Olsen (1903-84) lasts 5 minutes. Oistein Sommerfeldt's (1919-94) Mini-suite, Op. 43 takes 4 minutes, Arne Nordheim's (1931-2010) Clamavi 11 minutes.

These are all thoughtful and not technically very demanding pieces that introduce us to a pleasant and melodic world, played by a competent, though seemingly not particularly over-the-top cellist. Clamavi is the only one that I have heard before, played by Waervagen's cello teacher, Truls Mork, in a 1987 recording.

Now we move back a bit in time and the piano joins her in David Monrad Johansen's Suite, written in 1943 and revised in 1968. His dates are 1888-1974, so his style is earlier, though I wouldn't know that while hearing it. It is in five movements and lasts 18 minutes. Pianist and cellist are well balanced, and this is lively and entertaining.

Suddenly we're in familiar land with one Edvard Grieg (1843-1907) whose 28-minute sonata turns out to have been well worth waiting for. Our performers take it on with such sensitive attention to every emotional implication that I felt as if I had never encountered this marvelous piece before, though I play it myself and have always loved it. I was weeping when it was over. This is the most moving rendition of it that I have heard, and that is saying a lot. These fine players work together with remarkable sensitivity and passion, and their Grieg puts this program high on my list of favorites for the year. You may not find the rest of the program as special, but the Grieg is up with the best.

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