

HOFF: Songs

Marianne Beate Kielland, s; Jan Gunnar Hoff, p

LAWO 1125—54 minutes

The title of this album, “Terra Nova”, suggests new musical territory. Jan Gunnar Hoff is a jazz pianist-composer, but his melodious style is very close to classical; Marianne Beate Kielland is a classical singer with a soft but clear voice. Put the two together and you have what the notes call a “genre-free musical experience”! I’m not sure that is accurate; I’ve heard jazz concerts similar to what this album offers. Jeffrey Franzel, for example is a jazz pianistcomposer who has worked with everyone from Domingo to Sinatra; whether the results sound jazzy or classical depends on the collaboration and the singer. (Of course Gershwin, Weill, and many others have their own versions of jazz-classical.) In any case, these are wistful, open-hearted songs executed with the creativity of two gifted Norwegian musicians. Texts are by Blake, Hansen, and Hoff himself, chosen for what the notes call their “melancholy and directness”. Also included are classics by Thomsen, Parry, and others arranged by Hoff.

SULLIVAN

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