

KIELLAND 6 *Sivle Songs*, op. 17. *The Last Spring*. 5 *Obstfelder Songs*. *Sometimes Love Seems a Mystery*. *Three Songs of Doubt and Hope*. 2 *Hymns*. *Hymn. Barnet*. *A Little Verse for Mother*. *Eichendorff Songs*. **DØRUMSGAARD** *Burlesques for Song and Piano*, op. 13. *Hymn. Et Barn*. *Dusk in the Enchanted Wood* • Marianne Beate Kielland (mez); Nils Anders Mortensen (pn) • LAWO 1145 (77:45 📀)



Dorumsgaard & Kielland: Songs
Audio CD
Lawo Classics

Many *Fanfare* reviewers have praised Norwegian mezzo-soprano Marianne Beate Kielland's singing: James H. North (37:3), Jerry Dubins (38.5), James A. Altena (34:3), and Bertil van Boer (389:5), as well as myself (38:2). Kielland has a light mezzo voice, close in timbre to a lyric soprano, and a wide range of colors available to her. She is a singer sensitive to text, clear and crisp in her diction, and able to convey the ideas behind the notes as well as the notes themselves. Nils Anders Mortensen has customarily been her collaborator on disc (I avoid the word "accompanist"), and he has also received praise in these pages.

For this new release Kielland and Mortensen chose songs by two 20th-century Norwegian composers, both writing in a conservative style with roots in folk material. In the case of Olav Kielland (1901–1985) the performers have collected all of his available songs for this disc. In her excellent notes, Kielland says "Olav Kielland is not my grandfather, as some have wondered. We are related, but only distantly." They then filled out the program with selected songs by Arne Dørumsgaard (1921–2006). Each selection is attractive, and anyone who finds the idea of Romantic and post-Romantic song literature appealing is likely to be enchanted with this disc. Both composers show some influences of Grieg and touches of Mahler and Wolf as well. The excellent program notes that accompany the disc along with full texts and translations enhance enjoyment. The songs cover the full range that one expects in this kind of repertoire: tenderness, sorrow, delight, wistful regret, and love of nature. For two composers whose music has not really found a home in the international scene, there is a surprising degree of melodic invention. The piano parts are often more than mere accompaniments, offering their own strong profile, particularly in Dørumsgaard's *Burlesques for Song and Piano*.

A very natural recorded balance and overall sound picture round out this delightful and lovely disc. **Henry Fogel**

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