



**Niels Rønsholdt
Country (2019/2020)**

Concerto for Cello and Chamber Orchestra in 18 songs

Jakob Kullberg

Orkiestra Muzyki Nowej / Szymon Bywalec

Spor Festival
Musikhuset Aarhus
04.09.2020 19.30

'Country' is a cello concerto in the shape of a song cycle. The piece is based on the american country-folk tradition which largely builds on music brought with immigrants from Europe. In 'Country' the music briefly returns to an old-world european context - the cello, the orchestra. 'Country' is an ambiguous reflection on belonging and authenticity. The songs are shaped as duets between the soloist and an enigmatic voice (sampler) - the earth, nature, a loved one, the country.

The texts in 'Country' are by Niels Rønsholdt partly based on American archive material.

Jakob Kullberg - soloist

Szymon Bywalec - conductor

Orkiestra Muzyki Nowej

Alicja Lizer Molitorys - flute

Adam Stachula - oboe

Jadwiga Czarkowska - clarinet

Jacek Olesik - bassoon

Dorota Adamczak - piano

Wojciech Herzyk - percussion

Adam Bonk - percussion

Tomasz Soswa - trumpet

Miroslaw Kuchlewski - French horn

Mateusz Konopka - trombone

Irena Kalinowska Grohs - violin

Agnieszka Lasoń - violin

Krzysztof Batog - viola

Danuta Sobik-Ptok - cello

Łukasz Bebłot - contrabass

Niels Rønsholdt - speaker

Anne Kraglund - sampler voice recordings

Part One

1. We Will Dissolve

We will dissolve into dirt someday
Then we'll unite with the land on which we stand
and we'll hold hands, as two grains of sand

2. Trees I

Just like the trees
you reach for heaven
Just like their roots
I reach for hell
We only meet in between
where earth meets the sky
Land of love

Above me are the heavens of the Lord

Below me are the kettles of Devils Hell

Land of lies

Just like the butterfly
I stand on the sand in between

Your eyes shine with color
Just like the moth
you're as pale as the night
We only meet in between
where night meets the day
Hour of love
Hour of lies

3. Island

Some places the sun never rises
I'd rather be on some dark island

where the sun would never shine
Some places the sun never sets
than for you to be another man's darling
and to say you'll never be mine
I am longing out!
I am longing home!

4. We Don't Ride The Same Horse

Don't we ride the same horse?
We don't ride the same horse!
Don't we drink from the same well?
We don't drink from the same well no more
So get out of here, ride away in the dark!

Don't we breathe the same air?
We don't breathe the same air!
Don't we eat the same corn?
We don't eat the same corn no more
So get out of here, ride away in the dark!

Don't we feel the same rain?
We don't feel the same rain!
Don't we walk the same soil?
My torments to the river!
We don't walk the same soil no more
My pains to the wind, my aches to the fire!
My sufferings to the kettles of Hell
So get out of here, ride away in the dark, get out of here!
Above me is heaven!

5. Train to Glory

I wish to the Lord, that train would come
to take me back to where I belong

I wish to the Lord, that train would come
This train is bound for glory
This train is bound for home
to take you back to where you belong

6. Someday

Someday we'll meet again
I like the way you smell of pine
I like the way your sand caress my toes
In the ballroom of love
I like the way you burn my neck
I like to feel your wind against my skin
I like it, I like it, I like it
And we'll dance until the mornin'
I like your dust and your rain in my eyes
I like your thorns in my flesh

Someday we'll meet again
On the steamboat of hope
And we'll sail into the future
I like it, I like it, I like it

7. Man of Honor

I am a man of honor
From Virginia I did come
I courted a pretty fair Lady
Miss Polly was her name
I am build from your water and bacteria
I am build from your oxygen and nitrogen
I am build from your calcium and phosphorus
I won her affection
Her love did plainly show
Her self-conceited brother
Did cause our overthrow
I am build from your hydrogen and carbon
I am build from your sulphur!

8. My Guitar

*My guitar is made out of wood from the forest
My guitar is made out of guts from the cattle
My guitar is made out of hair from the horse
My guitar is made out of steel from the mountain
My guitar is made out of air from the sky
My guitar is made from the sun and the rain
My guitar is made from the night and the day
My guitar is grown from the soil of my home
My guitar is made by God
Only I can play it, you can't play it.
You don't understand, you ain't from here.*

9. Your Land, Your Love

Your lakes are blue, like my eyes are
Your sand is brown like my skin is
Your treetops are like my hair
*Who was it who wrote this song?
It was a fair-skinned cowboy
Searching for a home*

I am your land, I am your love
You smell me wherever you go
Don't you know you'll never leave?
Don't you know you're mine?
I won't let go until the end of time
You are mine to keep!

Part Two

1. Death, Where Is Your Sting?

Oh Death where is your sting?
Oh Grave where is your victory?

No, I will conquer it all!
I will rule the sky and soil.

Oh Time, where is your poison?

If I had wings like the raven

If I had legs like the panther

Oh Sin where is your consequence?

If I could hide underground like the oil

If my soul was dark as the coal

No, I will withstand it all,

I will preside over heaven and hell!

I would escape at sunrise like the night

I will rule the sun and moon!

2. Trees Ila

Just like the trees

you reach for heaven

Just like their roots

I reach for hell

We only meet in between

where earth meets the sky

Land of love

Land of lies

3. Gone Like A Turkey Through the Corn

I'm gone, I'm long gone.

I would tell you all my secrets

I would tell you all my worries

I'm gone like a turkey through the corn

Ain't coming back!

The sun is sinking

My road is clear

The wind is singing

Songs I wanna hear!

What makes you hold your head so high?

That's just how you're gonna die.

You're gone, I'm long gone.
You're gone like a turkey through the corn
Ain't coming back!
The sun is sinking
Your road is clear
The wind is singing
Songs I wanna hear!

What makes me hold my head so high?
I would tell you all my sorrows
I would tell you all my desires
That's just how I'm gonna die.
And you would tell it to no-one

4. Frozen Rose

Try to harvest bug-eaten crop
Try to sow in the hell-like heat
Try to fish from rivers of ice
Try to hunt where no life's in sight

I'll freeze the rose, I'll break the tree
Watch me destroy everything you grow.
Try to walk in ten feet of snow
Try to stand still in the tornado

I'll freeze the rose, I'll break the tree
Watch me destroy everything you know.
No more shall I bow to fear and hunger
No more shall I obey the thirst
No more shall I rely on your rain and sun

5. This road belong to you

This road belongs to you
The sand fills my eyes and my ears

It leads to east, it leads to west

It leads me back home

The dust is on my skin and under my nails

That's why you closed it off

This place has no daylight, no horizon

That's why you covered it with broken trees

That died in the drought

You covered it so no-one can pass it

A place with only storm

A place without sky, without ground

So I'll never pass it

So no-one takes me away

Go ahead and love another

I would never care

You can walk away with pride

But you'll never get far

I'm sure the road will turn and lead you back

Is this place the garden of Eden?

Is this place the desert of Hell?

'Cause the road is in your head

The road is in your heart.

Can we even tell the difference?

6. Kneel in the Grass!

Separated like berries on a bush

Every morning

The sun is up

The fire is on

I close my eyes and hopeful pray

Come to me!

Kneel in the grass!

Lick on the swollen soil!

Every noon when

I burn in the sun

I look to the sky
And scream for help but there's no-one who'll hear

Come to me!
Kneel in the grass!
Lick on the swollen soil!

Every night when
 Gone like bubbles in a stream
 Lonely like boats at sea
The sun goes in
The fire is out
 Distant like stars in the sky
 Missing like flowers in winter
I hang down my head and mournful cry

Come to me!
Kneel in the grass!
Lick on the swollen soil!
 Cold like a heart without blood

7. Heavy is the heart

One day my guitar will sound
So beautiful in the sky
In the heavens of the Lord
One day my voice will sing
Thousands of new songs
In the heavens of the Lord

Now I'm on the ground
Now I'm in the sand
Now I am bound to this barren land.

Heavy is the steel
Heavy is the stone
Heavy is the heart of a lonely one

One day your guitar will burn
 Sunk my fiddle when I sailed
 Threw my songs overboard when I sailed
So beautiful in hell
In the fires of the Lord

One day your voice will scream
Thousands of pleadings
To the devil underground
 Drowned my heart when I sailed
 Overturnd my soul when I sailed

Now I'm on the ground
Now I'm in the sand
Now I am bound to this barren land.

Light is the dust
Light is the rain
Light is my heart if we meet again

8. Trees IIb

Just like the butterfly
Your eyes shine with color
Just like the moth
you're as pale as the night
We only meet in between
where night meets the day
Hour of love
Hour of lies

9. Alphabet Song

A is for Alone
B is for Bride, B is for Burn
A is for Alphabet
E is for Everyone, E is for Exodus
D is for Demon, D is for Devil

M is for Moon, M is for Mourn
C is for Cowboy
S is for Sin, S is for Sun
H is for Heaven, H is for Hell
T is for Threat, T is for Temptation
F is for Flower, F is for Fire
E is for Early, E is for End
L is for Laughter, L is for Lament
O is for Ornament, O is for Omen
V is for Vanity, V is for Violin
H is for Home, H is for Hope
G is for Guitar, G is for Genocide
V is for Value, V is for Violence
I is for Insect, I is for Illness
R is for Reptile, R is for Rose
B is for Bite, B is for Bird, B is for Book
F is for Flesh, F is for Famine
P is for Punishment, P is for Prayer
J is for Justice, J is for Judas
K is for King
Q is for Queen
S is for Slave
C is for Capture
C is for Cowboy
Y is for Youth, Y is for Years gone by
F is freedom
I is for Ice, I is for Intolerance
F is for Fire, F is for Freedom
H is for Home, H is for Hostage
S is for Suppression, S is for Sunshine
F is freedom

