



Wood Works
The Danish String Quartet

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Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen & Frederik Øland, violins; Asbjørn Nørgaard, viola; Fredrik Schøyen Sjölin, cello

1. *Ye Honest Bridal Couple / Sønderho Bridal Trilogy – Part I* (5:10)
 2. *Sekstur from Vendsyssel / The Peat Dance* (4:02)
 3. *Vigstamoin* (3:20)
 4. *Waltz after Lasse in Lyby* (4:42)
 5. *Ribers #8* (2:59)
 6. *Sønderho Bridal Trilogy – Part II* (3:10)
 7. *Five Sheep, Four Goats* (4:30)
 8. *O Fredrik, O Fredrik* (4:15)
 9. *Ack Värmeland, du sköna* (3:16)
 10. *Easter Sunday / Polsk after Rasmus Storm* (4:23)
 11. *Jässpodspolska* (2:54)
 12. *Old Reinlender from Sønndala* (3:06)
 13. *Sønderho Bridal Trilogy – Part III* (3:40)
- Total: 49:27



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We are in the tiny village of Sønderho on the island of Fanø. It is the westernmost Danish island, and the wind lashes the shore relentlessly. Today is the third Sunday of July – it's 'Sønderho Day', a local day of celebration, music and dance. From the village hall the sounds of fiddles can be heard, and people are dancing round and round for hours. The music is simple, yet with a touch of exotic melancholy.

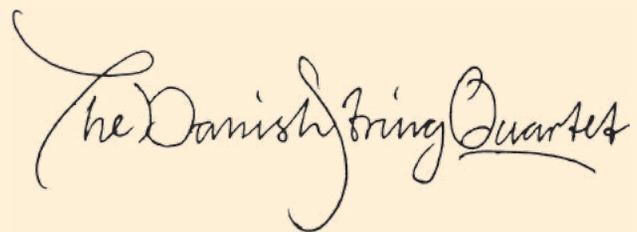
In the forests of southern Sweden we find Lasse. He is a traveling fiddler and he provides the music for festive occasions. Lasse is poor, so he will play you some music if you give him a meal. As he can't afford new strings for his violin, he tunes the ones he has down to make them last slightly longer. His claim to fame is a waltz he is always playing; a little melody that people enjoy dancing to. Sometimes Lasse plays it to himself while sitting alone in his wooden shed.

Up in Norway a young man has just returned from his Grand Tour of Europe. While passing through the Rhineland, he picked up a very popular dance that everyone danced in the elegant salons. He doesn't know the name of the dance, so he simply calls it a 'Reinlender'. Wanting to introduce it to his friends, he writes a couple of tunes to accompany the new dance.

Folk music is the music of all the small places. It is the local music, but as such it is also the music of everywhere and everyone. Like rivers, the melodies and dances have flowed slowly from region to region: Whenever a fiddler stumbled on a melody, he would play it and make it his own before passing it on. You don't own a folk tune, you simply borrow it for a while.

On this recording we have borrowed and arranged a selection of tunes that are all very close to our hearts. We perform them as a string quartet, one of the most powerful musical vehicles we know of. The string quartet is a pure construct: Four simple instruments made of wood. But in all its simplicity the string quartet is capable of expressing a myriad of colours, nuances and emotions – just like folk music. Our idea is to marry these two simple but powerful things; the folk music and the string quartet. Normally the string quartet has been reserved for the classical masters. Now we want to see what happens when we let the Nordic folk music flow through the wooden instruments of the string quartet.

Does it work? We hope so. And remember: We simply borrowed these tunes. They have already been returned.



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1. *Ye Honest Bridal Couple / Sønderho Bridal Trilogy – Part I* (5:10)

We set out in the fog covering the Faroe Islands. A lonely violin plays a traditional Faroese wedding song. After a while we reach the Danish island of Fanø to immerse ourselves in Part I of the *Sønderho Bridal Trilogy*, a set of three *sønderhonings* that dates back some four hundred years.

2. *Sekstur from Vendsyssel / The Peat Dance* (4:02)

A Danish *sekstur* is a lively dance that closely resembles the Irish jig. *The Peat Dance* is a Danish reel tune. Thus this is a Danish version of the traditional Irish jig-reel set.

3. *Vigstamoin* (3:20)

Vigstamo was a small farm in the Gudbrand Valley in Norway, and *Vigstamoin* was the man who lived there. This tune is a *springleik* – a local version of what we in Denmark call a *polisk*.

4. *Waltz after Lasse in Lyby* (4:42)

Lasse lived in Lyby in Sweden's Skåne region and he was a traveling fiddler playing for food. He was known for often playing this simple little waltz.

5. *Ribers #8* (2:59)

Ribers #8 is a *polka*: A dance that originated in central Europe and, somewhat confusingly, has nothing to do with the *polisk* or *polkska*. This is one of the happiest Danish tunes that we know.

6. *Sønderho Bridal Trilogy – Part II* (3:10)

Notice the exotic colour of this *sønderhoning*. Some people believe that the people on Fanø learned their melodic twists from visiting sailors.

7. *Five Sheep, Four Goats* (4:30)

feat. Mads la Cour, flugelhorn

Rune stumbled on this little Danish tune with its strange name

and liked it so much that he came up with an arrangement for three string quartets.

8. *O Fredrik, O Fredrik* (4:15)

Our cellist Fredrik is a tough Norwegian sailor. His childhood friend Johannes Rusten wrote this catchy tune and dedicated it to him.

9. *Ack Värmeland, du sköna* (3:16)

An old Swedish folk song. The title was given in the 19th century and celebrates the beauty of the Värmland region.

10. *Easter Sunday / Polsk after Rasmus Storm* (4:23)

We pair a *polisk* from 1989 by Danish fiddler Poul Bjerager with an old *polisk* we found in a handwritten collection of tunes from the 1760s by Danish sailor and fiddler Rasmus Storm.

11. *Jässpodspolska* (2:54)

Here is a nice little *polkska* (Swedish for *polisk*) from the region of Dalarna in Sweden.

12. *Old Reinlender from Sønndala* (3:06)

The title indicates that this dance came to Norway from the Rhineland. In Denmark we call this type of tune a *schottis*. Did it come up north via Scotland or Germany? Not so important, perhaps. The funky possibilities of the tune inspired us to make this arrangement.

13. *Sønderho Bridal Trilogy – Part III* (3:40)

This is dance music, but inspired by the unique tonal colours of the music our good friend Nikolaj Busk made a very contemplative arrangement of this final part of the *Sønderho Bridal Trilogy*. After all the excitement of reels, *polkskas*, sheep and goats, we are back at the island of Fanø, disappearing into the Atlantic fog.





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for track 13 arranged by Nikolaj Busk.

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For concert schedule, discography and more about
The Danish String Quartet, visit:

www.danishquartet.com



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