



January @ February 2014 Short Takes

Ólavur Jakobsen "Awake My Soul, and Sound Your Strings," 2012

Ólavur Jakobsen is a classical guitarist from the Faroe Islands, a Danish archipelago halfway between Norway and Iceland. His current release, "**Awake my Soul and Sound your Strings,**" is an alluring and eclectic collection of Faroese compositions. Jakobsen studied at the Royal Danish Academy of Music, attended master classes with Sir Julian Bream and David Russell, and currently performs as a soloist and chamber musician throughout Europe, South Africa, and the United States.

On "**Awake my Soul and Sound your Strings**" Jakobsen cleverly navigates his way through gorgeous, melodic Faroese melodies mixed with daring atonal excursions.

The opening title track contains lush, pastoral themes and pensive, thoughtful interludes. On "**Pictures, Self Portrait,**" Jakobsen executes some nice glissando and percussive phrases supported by determined and dynamic musical motifs.

The album ends with the modern, surrealistic epic, "**40 Miles Ground,**" serving as an appropriate conclusion to an adventurous but accessible recording, which should bring the music of the Faroe Islands to a larger listening community.

Ólavur Jakobsen's "**Awake my Soul and Sound your Strings**" is a bold, noteworthy release, and is highly recommended for enlightened listeners of contemporary classical music.

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