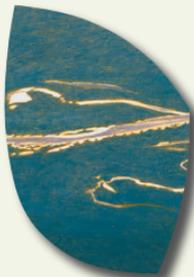


**POUL RUDERS**  
**RUDERSDAL**  
**CHAMBER PLAYERS**



**JONAS FRØLUND** Clarinet

**CHRISTINE PRYN** Violin

**ISABELLE BANIA** Violin

**MINA FRED** Viola

**JOHN EHDE** Cello

**MANUEL ESPERILLA** Piano



*Lars Physant "Panta Rei" 2003  
(80 x 80 x 2,1 cm. Acrylics and oil on canvas on wood)*

## Notes by the composer 17.06.2022

The music presented on this recording straddles almost three decades, beginning with the clarinet and piano piece *Throne* from 1988 through the *Clarinet Quintet* and the most recently composed, the *Piano Quartet* from 2016.

Needless to say, stylistically the early piece differs significantly from the two later works, both of them sharing a kinship, a “brother-and-sister act”, but in tender and loving recognition of their older ancestor *Throne*.

In 1988 I was approached by the American organization *Concert Artists Guild* with a view to write a, I’m tempted to say, *pièce de resistance*, for the Swedish clarinet virtuoso Håkan Rosengren, who came out First Prize Winner of the 1987 *Concert Artists Guild International New York Competition*.

The title *Throne* doesn’t lay itself open to the usual sort of educational programme note explaining what it’s all about. I’d rather have the listener contemplate the following evocative hints, hopefully summing up the soul of the piece, which is ultimately about ... nothing:

ELEVATION  
UNITY  
DIAMONDS  
CROWN  
GLORY  
VELVET  
FRAILTY  
DECLINE  
OBLIVION  
NOTHING



I can say though, that toward the end, there's possibly the longest stretch of nobody playing before picking up again, a so-called general pause, in the history of Western music outside John Cage ...

The terminology of classical music isn't always awash in logic; any normal thinking person would assume that a *Clarinet Quintet* is a composition for five clarinets, likewise a *Piano Quartet* a piece of music involving four pianos. But no such luck ... the instrument "high-lighted" in these classical titles always plays a prominent part in concert (literally) with the chosen string ensemble. Clarinet and String Quartet, Piano and, not surprisingly, three string instruments: violin, viola, violoncello.

My contribution to the genre *Clarinet Quintet* (with iconic pieces by Mozart and Brahms before me, it wasn't a task to be taken lightly) came about as a commission by the British clarinetist Harry Cameron-Penny, and was written in 2014 for him and *The Benyounes Quartet*. There are three movements: *Avanti alla breve* – *Adagio Sognante* – *Animato*.

It's a piece that doesn't carry with it a statement or "message". It's quite simply a composition for clarinet and string quartet, with the clarinet as the dominant voice, on top of and in between the four string instruments, exploring the endless sonorous treasures lying hidden in that particular instrumental combination.

The *Piano Quartet* was written between 2015 and 2016, just in time for its world premiere by Anne-Marie McDermott and *Ensemble Opus One* at the *Bravo! Vail Music Festival*, Colorado, the commissioning body behind the work in collaboration with the *Ocean Reef Chamber Music Festival*, *Key Largo*, Florida. The soul behind this piece is easier to put into words, almost poetically so. *AWAKENING* is the title of the first movement, giving the listener a hint of the nature of the music that is going to unfold over the following seven minutes.

A fragile, lonely tune is presented in the piano, almost hesitantly so, then the violin joins in, followed by the viola, and when it's the cello's turn the music begins to open up, like the dewy petals of a flower welcoming the warmth of the rising sun at dawn, from there on the music takes off, soaring and with increasing intensity. The final bars, very soft and contemplative, make a sort of motto reoccurring at the close of each of the four movements.

The next movement INNOCENT is about evoking the sensation of innocence, in other words simplicity and the total absence of any hidden agenda. It's a soft and gentle song unfolding with bated breath, so to speak.

In the third movement, SPRIGHTLY, the situation changes dramatically. The heat is turned up considerably and the music evolves in the form of a near-classical scherzo-rondo, literally a “jest revolving around itself”, leading directly without any break into TRANSLUCENT, a relative or soul mate of the second movement. The music is less forward-aiming, as it were, rather it's a statement of bell-like clarity (as suggested in the title), heralding the end of the day. The petals fold and close. It's night again ...

[www.wisemusicclassical.com/composer/1342/Poul-Ruders/](http://www.wisemusicclassical.com/composer/1342/Poul-Ruders/)



*POUL RUDERS and "Gimmer"*



## POUL RUDERS in a nutshell ...

Born on 27 March 1949 at the small Danish town of Ringsted to parents Inge Ruders, house wife and English translator, and Poul Ruders (senior), florist and visual artist.

Following highschool (1968), Poul “junior” embarked on a long and rather turbulent career, beginning with a degree as church organist (1975), and as a (mostly self-taught) composer, he can today look back at a huge catalogue of compositions straddling almost all genres and with commissions from not only all Danish orchestras, but from international top ensembles such as *New York Philharmonic*, *Berlin Philharmonic*, *BBC Symphony Orchestra*, *Dallas Symphony Orchestra* and many others. Six symphonies and five operas, of which *The Handmaid’s Tale* (1998), based on Margaret Atwood’s iconic dystopian novel, is the most frequently performed.

Poul Ruders lives a quiet life in the Danish country side with his wife Annette and their dogs.



## RUDERSDAL CHAMBER PLAYERS

Founded in 2017 by violinist Christine Pryn, *Rudersdal Chamber Players* (Rudersdal Kammersolisten) consists of highly regarded soloists and chamber musicians from various countries. The ensemble is based in Rudersdal, a beautiful and locale place 20 km north of Copenhagen where it is the ensemble in residence at the *Rudersdal Sommerkonserter* music festival. They perform throughout the nation as well as internationally, with several tours in Europe and overseas in the pipeline.

The idea for the ensemble came from the internationally acclaimed composer Lera Auerbach and her husband Rafael DeStella who visited the festival in 2017. Auerbach was featured composer and suggested that a flexible ensemble of dedicated musicians would be a great asset to *Rudersdal Sommerkonserter*.

The core of *Rudersdal Chamber Players* is a piano quartet, but they perform in different settings including clarinet quintet, piano quintet, flute quartet, piano trio, string quartet and string trio. This flexible set up allows them to fit into various kinds of venues, to accommodate miscellaneous repertoire demands and to collaborate with composers performing a substantial part of their chamber music production.

*Rudersdal Chamber Players* often collaborate with writers, visual artists, historians and scientists on interdisciplinary projects. Since 2019 they have combined music with other arts and science in a 4-year project on *The Four Elements* (with a delay due to the pandemic) drawing on topics such as the fall of the *Berlin Wall*, female pilots and sailors, mythology and the apocalypse.

Besides the many classical masterpieces composed for various combinations of the instruments in *Rudersdal Chamber Players*, they like to search for lesser-known repertoire including compositions by female composers who have been neglected during their lifetime. Contemporary music is also an important part of the ensemble's activity. They have premiered pieces by composers from Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Russia, Azerbaijan, Ireland and USA and collaborated with world famous composers such as Giya Kancheli.

“*Rudersdal Chamber Players* is an outstanding ensemble. All members are first class instrumentalists with a responsive attitude and a deep understanding of the musical material. This is chamber music making at very high level. For the first time ever I listened to a performance of my piano quartet *In l'istesso tempo* without having anything to criticise. I also enjoyed the *Rudersdal Chamber Players*' energetic, devoted and well-balanced interpretations of Brahms and Mozart. The audience was enthusiastic and the whole atmosphere at the concerts was indeed wonderful.” Giya Kancheli. [www.rudersdalchamberplayers.com](http://www.rudersdalchamberplayers.com)



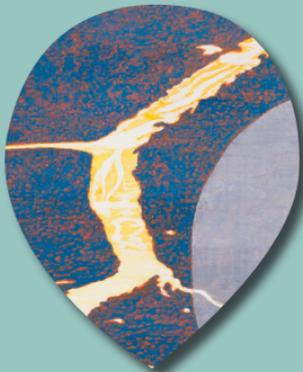
**JONAS FRØLUND Clarinet** a graduate from the *Paris Conservatoire*, is a passionate freelance musician whose credits include the *Danish Chamber Orchestra* and member of the wind quintet *V Coloris*. He is an ambassador for contemporary music, and for Jonas communication with the audience is key. Jonas received *The Danish Music Critic's Award 2021* and an honorary mention in the *Prague Spring International Music Competition* in 2022.







**CHRISTINE PRYN Violin** has performed in more than 25 countries throughout Europa, Asia and North America. She received numerous prizes including the *Danish Music Critic's Award* and the *Polish Gloria Artis* medal. Christine has performed as a soloist with orchestras such as *The Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra*, *RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra*, and *Latvian National Symphony Orchestra* and premiered more than 100 solo and chamber works. Since 2010 she has been the artistic director of *Rudersdal Sommerkonserter*.



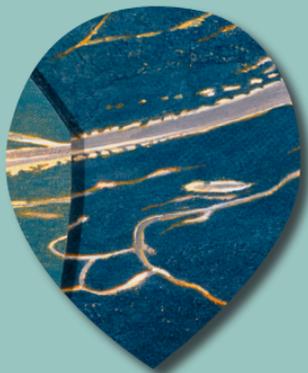
**ISABELLE BANIA Violin** was born into a family of musicians and studied at *The Royal Danish Academy of Music* in Copenhagen, *Universität der Künste* in Berlin and the *Norwegian Academy of Music*. She has played with the *Rundfunk Sinfonie-Orchester Berlin* and the *Norwegian Chamber Orchestra* and has worked with ensembles such as the *Berolina Ensemble* and the contemporary string quartet *Halvcirkel*. In 2022 she was awarded the prestigious *Sonning Talent Prize*.







**MINA FRED Viola** is internationally active as a chamber musician, improviser and soloist. She was solo violist in *Det Jyske Ensemble* and is now a member of *Athelas Sinfonietta Copenhagen* and principal violist in *The Danish Chamber Orchestra*. Mina has performed at festivals such as *Kontraklang Berlin*, *Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival* and *Darmstadt Music Festival*. Since 2004 she is organizing concerts at the *Kirsten Kjør Museum*.



**JOHN EHDE Cello** has performed as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the USA, Europe, Asia and Canada. For many years he was a member of the renowned *LIN Ensemble*, and he has released numerous critically acclaimed recordings. During his studies in Vienna, he has played with the *Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra* and later he became principal cellist in the *Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra*. John is a sought after teacher and had engagements at various music academies in Scandinavia. He is also in demand as a conductor.







**MANUEL ESPERILLA Piano** is a prize winner of multiple competitions and an active soloist, chamber musician and orchestra pianist (i.a. *Danish National Symphony Orchestra*, *Malmö Symphony Orchestra*, and *Arctic Philharmonic*). He is a member of *Athelas Sinfonietta Copenhagen* and performed at numerous festivals in Europe, including *Tage für Neue Musik*, Zürich and *Festival Musica*, Strasbourg. Manuel has taught at the music academy in Madrid and is currently employed at the *Royal Danish Academy of Music*.



*We want to dedicate this recording to our late friend Hjarne Fessel, who passed away a few months before we started recording. Hjarne was a friend and collaborator of the composer, the ensemble, the producer and the label, and had a key role in initiating this recording.*

*Piano Quartet and Throne* recorded June 17-19 2020 and *Clarinet Quintet* recorded March 10-11 2021 in *Nærum Adventistkirke* with generous support from *William Demant Fonden, Augustinus Fonden, Den Bohmske Fond, Aage og Johanne Louis-Hansens Fond, Kodas Udgivelsespulje, Solistforeningen af 1921, Erik Birger Christensens Fond, Dansk Solistforbund, and Juhl-Sørensen*. We want to express our gratitude to *Nærum Adventistkirke* for housing the recording sessions.

## William Demant Fonden



SOLIST  
FORENINGEN  
af 1921



JUHL-SØRENSEN



AUGUSTINUS  
FONDEN

STIFTET 25. MARTS 1942



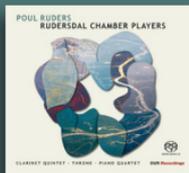
AAGE OG JOHANNE  
LOUIS-HANSENS FOND

Producer, Recording & Balance Engineer Clarinet Quintet: Mette Due  
Producer Recording & Balance Engineer Throne & Piano Quartet: Preben Iwan,  
Editing; Mette Due & Preben Iwan, Mix and mastering: Preben Iwan.  
Executive producer: Hjarne Fessel and Lars Hannibal.  
Cover notes: Poul Ruders. Biographies: Christine Pryn.  
Cover painting: Lars Physant. Photo Poul Ruders: Lars Skaaning.  
Photo musicians: Lisbeth Holtén. Photo page 22: Birgit Tengberg, Hjarne Fessel:  
Michael Hammel. Artwork and cover design: CEZBP/OUR Recordings.

Recorded in the DXD audio format (Digital eXtreme Definition, 352.8 kHz/32bit).  
Pyramix DAW system with Horus preamps/converters. Monitored on B&W 802D  
Nautilus Diamond speakers. Microphones: 2x DPA 4006-TL, 2x Neumann U89, 2x  
DPA 4015-TL, 2x DPA 4011 & Royer SF24.

**OUR Recordings releases:**

- OE** Orchestra/Ensemble
- PH** Petri/Hannibal Duo
- LP** Vinyl
- VG** Violin/Guitar
- EP** Digital only
- CR** Choir/Recorder
- OM** Organ music
- VE** Danish National Vocal Ensemble
- RH** Recorder/Harpsichord
- SW** Spoken words
- CH** Chinese
- RC** Recorder Concertos
- GS** Guitar solo
- BJ** Borup-Jørgensen



**OE 6.220680**



**OE 6.220679**



**PH 8.226914**



**LP OUR-LP002**



**LP OUR-LP003**



**LP OUR-LP001**



**EP 9.70893**



**EP 9.70896**



**EP 9.70896**



**EP 9.70897**



OE 6.220674



OE 6.220673



OE 6.220618



OE 6.220570



PH 6.220619



PH 6.220604



PH 6.220601



PH 8.226900



VG 8.226904



VG 8.226903



VG 8.226902



VG 6.220602



CR 8.226907



CR 6.220615



CR 6.220605



OM 6.220675



VE 6.220676



RH 8.226909



RH 6.220610



RC 8.226912



RC 6.220614



RC 6.220609



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VE 6.220671



VE 6.220612



VE 8.226906



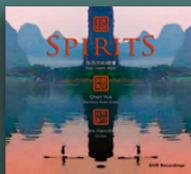
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CH 6.220600



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BJ 6.220672



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BJ 6.220616



BJ 6.220613



BJ 6.220608



BJ 8.226910



BJ 2.110426

# POUL RUDERS RUDERSDAL CHAMBER PLAYERS

## CLARINET QUINTET (2014)

1: AVANTI ALLA BREVE .....05.18

2: ADAGIO SOGNANTE .....09.37

3: ANIMATO .....05.29

4: THRONE (1988) ..... 14.13

## PIANO QUARTET (2016)

5: AWAKENING .....07.39

6: INNOCENT .....07.34

7: SPRIGHTLY .....04.00

8: TRANSLUCENT .....04.16

TOTAL: .....58.38



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