



Matthew Owain JONES

String Quartet No. 1, 'Deletia'

Wind Quintet

NIELSEN

Aladdin, Op. 34

(excerpts arr. M.O. JONES)

ENSEMBLE MIDTVEST

Matthew Owain JONES (b. 1974)

String Quartet No. 1, 'Deletia' (1993)

[19:32]

1 I. Andante

[9:02]

2 II. Allegro minaccioso

[10:30]

Ensemble MidtVest

Matthew Owain Jones, Karolina Weltrowska *violin*

Sanna Ripatti *viola*

Jonathan Slaatto *cello*

3 Wind Quintet (Liberamente – Più mosso – Andante semplice e cantabile – Poco meno mosso) (2016) [16:44]

Ensemble MidtVest

Charlotte Norholt *flute*

Peter Kirstein *oboe*

Tommaso Lonquich *clarinet*

Yavor Petkov *bassoon*

Neil Page *horn*

Carl NIELSEN (1865–1931)

	Aladdin, Op. 34 (1919) (excs. from complete ballet, ed. and arr. M.O. Jones, 2020)	[27:22]
4	I. Negro Dance	[4:42]
5	II. A Beautiful Square in Isfahan	[3:15]
6	III. Distant Festival Music	[2:16]
7	IV. Andante	[3:17]
8	V. Chinese Dance	[3:33]
9	VI. March	[1:42]
10	VII. Hindu Dance	[2:38]
11	VIII. Aladdin's Dream / Dance of the Morning Mist	[2:47]
12	IX. Oriental Festival March	[3:12]

Total Timing:

[63:53]

Ensemble MidtVest

Karolina Weltrowska, Ana Feitosa *violin*

Sanna Ripatti *viola*

Jonathan Slaatto *cello*

Charlotte Norholt *flute*

Peter Kirstein *oboe*

Tommaso Lonquich *clarinet*

Yavor Petkov *bassoon*

Neil Page *horn*

Martin Qvist Hansen *piano*

All première recordings

Publisher: © 1993, 2016, 2020 Matthew Owain Jones

Matthew Owain JONES: String Quartet No. 1 • Wind Quintet

Carl NIELSEN: Aladdin, Op. 34 (excerpts edited and arranged by M.O. JONES)

This album represents a span of 25 years of my chamber music, including original and arranged works.

The *String Quartet* was begun when I was 19; the first movement was completed during a National Youth Orchestra course, attempting not to get caught being awake after evening curfew; the remainder was written in a somewhat dodgy student house in Coventry during the following year and first performed in St. Briavels Church by the College Quartet.

The title *Deletia* arose after the original version containing four movements was whittled down to two when I revisited the piece nearly two decades later for its Danish première by Ensemble MidtVest.

Following the *Quartet* and the musical *Slingshot!* written with my sister Bethan during a family holiday (which received its première in Warwick University while I was finishing my maths degree), I had a break from composing – partly due to some confidence-sapping composition lessons during my postgraduate studies on violin, and later due to blossoming careers in playing, teaching and musicians' health consulting.

Thanks to the enthusiastic reception to my *Quartet* both from the performers and audiences in Denmark, confidence

began to return, and Ensemble MidtVest commissioned a wind quintet, première in 2016 in Denmark followed by a UK première in St David's Hall, Cardiff as part of the Vale of Glamorgan Festival in 2018. Influenced by the unique nature of each of the instruments, I was also inspired by the performers themselves, having played extensively with them while a member of the ensemble. One clear memory is of the variety of glamorous locations in which the piece was written, aside from my home in Kent – these included Gate 46 at Stansted Airport and a picnic bench in Sizewell, Suffolk with a view of the fascinating combination of a beach and a nuclear power station.

The ensemble also commissioned a chamber arrangement of fragments from Nielsen's evocative music from the ballet *Aladdin, Op. 34*. Nielsen described the essential elements of composition to be 'tonality, clarity, strength', all clearly on display in his colourful score of the ballet, commissioned by the Royal Theatre in Copenhagen and first performed in 1919. Nielsen asked that his name be removed from the programme following extensive cuts to his music made by the producer at the première, but he later conducted extracts from the ballet which proved highly popular with audiences. My arrangement of nine movements from the original ballet score was first performed in 2018.

Matthew Owain Jones



Matthew Owain Jones

Matthew Owain Jones is widely regarded as a visionary musician and educator. Despite prodigious talent as a violinist and composer, Jones studied mathematics and Italian at Warwick and Bologna universities respectively. Once he had determined to change to a musical career, injury sent him on a detour to train as a teacher of Alexander Technique and Kundalini Yoga and Meditation. On returning to playing and after studies with legendary violist Rivka Golani, he became one of the leading violists and violinists of his time, recording 25 solo and chamber albums to date, premièring numerous concertos and commissioning dozens of works. His album of Britten's works for violin/viola and piano with Annabel Thwaite has attracted more than 4.5 million streams. As a chamber musician he has performed with groups including the Bridge Duo (with whom he made a critically acclaimed Carnegie Hall début in 2008), the Badke Quartet (winner of the 2008 Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition) and Ensemble MidtVest.



Ensemble MidVest

Ensemble MidtVest (EMV) is a versatile group of international musicians based in Denmark, known for its high-quality chamber music concerts, as well as for creating innovative musical experiences both on and off stage. Often experimenting with new formats, the Ensemble sheds new light on a wealth of repertoire from the past 500 years through lively and touching interpretations. It also creates free improvisation born of the moment and generates cross-over collaborations with a variety of artists outside the classical music sphere.

Established in 2002, EMV consists of nine classical musicians: a string trio, a wind quintet, and a pianist. It plays around 100 concerts a year in Denmark and abroad, and has performed at Carnegie Hall in New York, Kings Place in London, as well as at the Musikfestspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Rio International Chamber Music Week, ULTIMA Festival in Oslo and the Vale of Glamorgan Festival in Wales.

EMV collaborates regularly with such high-profile artists as violinists Pekka Kuusisto and Tai Murray, cellists Andreas Brantelid and Matthew Barley, clarinetists Martin Fröst and Charles Neidich, pianists Alexander Lonquich and Aleksandar Madžar, as well as with The Danish String Quartet and Trio con Brio Copenhagen.

Between 2014 and 2018, the world-renowned bassoonist Sergio Azzolini worked with EMV as an artistic consultant. Award-winning jazz pianist, Carsten Dahl was artistic consultant from 2007–2017.

EMV has recorded 24 albums which have received numerous accolades including the Danish Broadcasting Corporation's P2 prize for Best Danish CD (Mozart and Brahms: Piano Quartets).

In 2020, the critically acclaimed *Whirl's World* album with works by Per Nørgård was nominated for a Gramophone Award.

EMV's motto, 'music is a right, not a privilege', signals its mission to ensure that everyone has equal access to top-quality classical music. Apart from traditional concerts, EMV is committed to outreach projects for both children and adults, as well as talent development. Creating a personal relationship with our audience and inspiring young musicians are integral to the Ensemble's vision of carrying the transformative power and relevance of classical music into the 21st century.

EMV is based at HEART – Herning Museum of Contemporary Art and it is funded by the Danish Arts Foundation as well as three municipalities: Herning, Holstebro and Struer.



**ENSEMBLE
MIDTVEST**

Tracks 1–3 recorded at the Concert Hall, HEART (Herning Museum of Contemporary Art), Birk, Denmark,
6 December 2017 (tracks 1–2) and 11 January 2018 (track 3)

Recorded and produced by **Michael Ponder**

Edited by **Jennifer Howells**

Mastered by **Adaq Khan**

Tracks 4–12 recorded at Den Jyske Sangskole, Herning, Denmark, 29–31 August 2018

Recorded, edited and produced by **Morten Mogenson**

Mastered by **Morten Mogenson** and **Adaq Khan**

24bit, 96kHz high resolution recording, editing and mastering

All tracks: surround sound 7.1.4 spatial audio with Dolby Atmos mastered by **David Jones** (Sonus Audio)

Album cover painting by **Kirsty Matheson**

Artwork by **David Murphy** (FHR)

Photos:

Page 5 Carl Nielsen by **Georg Lindstrøm**, 1908

Page 6 Matthew Owain Jones by **Tas Kyprianou**

Page 8 by **Caroline Bittencourt**

FHR thanks Peter Bromley