

Four Dances from Læsø

Recorded after Madvig Vilsen (## 1-3) and Hartvig Mortensen (#4).

Arranged by Klaus Bjerre 2003

for 8 part recorder ensemble (2 sopranos, 2 altos, 2 tenors, bass in F, and great bass in C). A cello (reading the bass clef part as non-transposed) might substitute/supplement the great bass.

Aside from music this arranger is very interested in the topics circling around geography and sociology. A few years ago a Google.com search on the topic of the Danish island Læsø yielded an unexpected result: the treasure of characteristic Læsø folk dances transcribed from original solo violin performances. Some of which can be heard via www.folkmusic.dk/laesoe/

This arranger has performed Danish folk music on as diverse instruments as recorders, trumpet, French horn, baritone, euphonium, tenor and bass trombones, plus bowed string bass. Which together with fairly intensive acquaintanceships with medieval, renaissance, baroque (please spell that J. S. Bach), Vienna classic, pre-serial Schönberg, Thad Jones, and even funk music genres of course mark these settings. Also some theories of mathematical rhythm distribution have been employed. So you are not encountering the real stuff, but an interpreted version. Which however has not been dismissed by a recent listening by a torchbearer of the original tradition.

The original concept of this arranger is, that these dances should be performed as an *attacca* suite. But performers should feel free to do as many or as few repeats as wanted (with or without variations in the numbers of players employed on each part) and to split the dances as the actual situation calls for.

This arrangement is intended for use, wherever happy recorder players come together. It might also be used in educational contexts. You can perform this arrangement free of charge, but a postcard or an e-mail reporting on its use would be nice.

I am grateful to Mr. Esben Wolf, manager of the <http://www.folkmusic.dk> site. With an admirable absence of fuzz he promptly cleared the copyright issues.

A few final disclaimers:

If you are expecting music for a 1.0.1 performance level, you might be up for a disappointment.

Publicising an arrangement comprising some 26 pages of music with text in a foreign tongue is a quite risky project. Please mail me about proofreading goofs of whatever linguistic or musical nature.

This setting for recorders is not compatible with my settings of the same dances for polka band and other musical formations.

Korsør the 9th of March 2003

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