



nordic
sound

Ove Berg Russanen

STRING THEORIES

SOUND IMAGES FOR ELECTRIC GUITAR & PERCUSSION

STRING THEORIES



Ove Berg Russanen: Electric Guitar

Even Finsrud: Drums & Percussion

String theory

is a theoretical framework in which the point-like particles of particle physics are replaced by one-dimensional objects called strings. String theory describes how these strings propagate through space and interact with each other.

In string theory, one of the many vibrational states of the string corresponds to the graviton, a quantum mechanical particle that carries the gravitational force.

STRING THEORIES

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|----|--------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1 | Une Ballet | 3:18 |
| 2 | String Theory | 3:29 |
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| 4 | Image of Love | 3:40 |
| 5 | Vintergata / The Milky Way | 2:43 |
| 6 | How to Put a Radio Transmitter
on Miss Kloppen's Nice Ass | 2:09 |
| 7 | Sagbruket / The Sawmill | 6:46 |
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| 9 | Orion - Sound Image No. 9 | 5:03 |
| 10 | Sus Plus Eleven Minus | 4:01 |

1 Une Ballet

I've always wanted to compose music for a ballet. Text-based music like pop and opera has never caught my interest as much as instrumental music, like classical and jazz.

2 String Theory

This song has it all, and most of this album is built around this form - lots of sound, lots of guitar, and lots of drums. This is "string theory" in practice.

3 Two String Fantasy

An improvisation played on the E and A strings of the guitar. Perhaps a small memory from the time I played bass in the first orchestra I was in, only 16 years old.

4 Image of Love

A "String Theory variation" in mind for all the cute girls I've met at gigs. Even though it wasn't that impressive musically, the girls strangely took an interest in us. Girls are a bit weird.

5 Vintergata / The Milky Way

My grandfather Albert predicted the weather for the whole year by looking at the Milky Way one evening when the winter was at its clearest and coldest. People in the village often asked him what the weather would be like in the summer. At that time, his predictions were probably as reliable as the weather forecast on the radio. I never get tired of looking at the "Vintergata", our own galaxy.

6 How to Put a Radio Transmitter on Miss Kloppen's Nice Ass

Many years ago Solveig Kloppen was the host of a performance at the Kulturhuset in Jessheim. This was long before she became a celebrity on TV. For some reason I ended up "backstage" with the responsibility of setting up wireless microphones for the artists and the radio transmitter itself was a heavy piece of equipment with a big sturdy clip. Solveig comes in, slinking around in a mini-skirt and is about to be fitted with the microphone. I had to pull out the elastic in her skirt to attach the clip to the skirt hem - and for a tiny microsecond I thought: "don't fiddle now Berg". Fortunately it went smoothly, and it became inspiration for a little song!

7 Sagbruket / The Sawmill

My first summer job was at the sawmill in Grinder. One summer I earned enough to buy my first Fender Stratocaster, a used '66 model for NOK 1,500 (about US\$218). A fantastic guitar, too bad they don't make them like that anymore.

8 A Travel to Alpha Centauri

Alpha Centauri is a collection of three stars that is our closest stellar neighbor, "only" 4 light years away from Earth. Despite its proximity, with today's technology it would take us over 4,000 years to travel there, but if we are really good with the technology we might be able to do it in 400 years. So - we have to stick to Earth for now. Maybe we should take better care of our planet? Get rid of nuclear weapons and pollute a little less?

But no, humanity will destroy itself, and when we are finally gone, no one, absolutely no one, will miss us.

9 Orion- Sound Image No. 9

Another soundscape inspired by the starry sky. Orion is a magnificent sight, easily recognizable with his belt and sword. The opening and ending, however, are inspired by a powerful northern light I was exposed to when I was in the military in Northern Norway. The whole sky exploded in crazy colors above my head and I HEARD the northern lights like small, bright ringing bells.

No one believes it, but it's absolutely true!

10 Sus Plus Eleven Minus

Originally this song was called "Difficult Chords", but it got a bit boring. Another sound image similar to "String Theory"

String Theories

I've been working on sound images for electric guitar since I bought an old Schaller Echosound echo machine from a friend in the mid-70s. It was a fantastic machine that produced otherworldly sounds, especially when you pushed it a little outside its comfort zone.

Over the years I have played a few soundscapes with different groups, but it only became a single number, or two, which also scared the hell out of people at NRK (Norwegian Broadcasting) who had the dubious task of presenting local bands to their dear listeners.

The sound images were quietly tinkered with until I ended up at a concert with the English guitarist Derek Bailey at the Kongsberg Jazz Festival. He used the guitar in a way I never thought possible and it inspired me to attack my old images in a new and exciting way.

So here, dear listener, is the result - and the name was not chosen by chance. String Theory is, simply explained, a scientific theory that is based on the fact that the world is made up of tiny vibrating strings. And as a guitarist, this is a fantastic thought. Because imagine if our wonderful world maybe consists of a lot of tiny vibrating strings. **Play it Loud!**



Good art requires good music, and as a regular feature at Inger Brita Lange Ørmen's exhibitions, I had the opportunity to develop new sounds and new ways of using the guitar.



Solo playing is fine, but I wanted to expand the concept with some drums, so I asked Even Finsrud if he would like to work a little outside the usual forms. He took the challenge head on and did so well that I decided to record an album with these sound images.



Recording "String Theories" at Rainbow Studio
Recording engineer Martin Abrahamsen,
Ove Berg Russanen and Even Finsrud



Fram — Grinder
Fest onsdag 10. april kl. 20.00.
COMICK ROCK
Grinder fotballgr.



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Recording engineer: Martin Abrahamsen

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All compositions
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Cover photo and photos at Galleri Tysken:
Inger Brita Lange Ørmen
Photo at Raibow Studio: Kristiane Ingebretsen

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