

**The Stratosphere** is the atmospheric layer ranging from an altitude of 15 km to 50 km, encircled by the Troposphere and Mesosphere. The stratosphere is characterized by temperatures rising by altitude.

Just like its meteorological counterpart, *Stratosphere* is a musical boundary layer. Music laboriously composed by debuting band-leader Staffan Bråsjö, and arranged as wore it for a group of chamber musicians. Nevertheless, the music is executed by some of Sweden's most interesting contemporary jazz musicians, who with their unmistakably personal touch bring life to the written score. From a wider perspective, the music draws inspiration from the close to sacred sentiment provoked by the encounter of the natural sciences, best expressed by the reciprocity of the stem pillars of a boreal conifer forest with those of a majestic cathedral. With a closer listen, contrapuntal dialogues from Beethoven's seventh Symphony perceive, sharing room with voices from an archaic chorale, surrounded by improvisations drenched in the perfume of Parisian fin de siècle. Still there is room for the simplicity and rhythmical impulse that it the hallmark of contemporary Nordic jazz, resulting in a genre-disintegrating listening experience. *Stratosphere* is visual music from beginning to end. Personal, visual and delicately powerful.



1. Blidväder (Thaw)
2. Archaeopteryx
3. I jordens mull (In Earth's Soil)
4. Stratosfär
5. Cirrus
6. Havet, där är det (The Sea, There it Lies)
7. Begravelse (Funeral)
8. Himlavalvets mekanik (Celestial mechanics)
9. Butterflux

Recorded in December 2020 in Årsta church, Stockholm, Sweden

Staffan Bråsjö (Stockholm 1989) – Pianist, organist, composer and choir conductor educated at the Academy of Music and drama, University of Gothenburg and Royal College of Music, Stockholm. Jazz pianist by trade, Staffan equally dwells in the counterpoint of Bach, and conducts Enskede-Årsta boys choir. Has recorded several albums with the groups Into the Wild, Daniel Onyango, Tobias Andersson among others.

Josefin Runsteen (Göteborg 1990) - Violinist, multi-instrumentalist and composer. In 2019 she won the Swedish National Radio's prestigious award *Jazzkatten* and in 2017 she was violin soloist with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in Stockholm at the Polar Music Prize ceremony. She has toured as a musician with artists like Damien Rice, Feist, Frank Ocean, Ane Brun, Håkan Hellström, Jens Lekman, Loney Dear etc.

Vilhelm Bromander (Uppsala 1988) – Contrabassist, composer and improviser extraordinaire. Has recorded and toured with musicians such as Axel dörner, Tisha Mukarji, Michael thieke, Sten sandell, Christer Bothén, Katt Hernandez, Lisa Ullén, Musette to mention a few.

*Stratosfär* will be released on all digital platforms and CD the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2022.



Photo: Clément Morin