

A red rose is preserved inside a glass dome, which sits on a decorative, circular base. The background is a dramatic, cloudy sky with a bright light source, creating a purple and gold glow. The rose is the central focus, and a single petal has fallen onto the base. The overall mood is ethereal and magical.

THOMAS BERGERSEN
ILLUSIONS

ABOUT THOMAS BERGERSEN

Best-selling composer Thomas Bergersen was born and raised in Trondheim, Norway. By the age of 6 it was obvious that Thomas had little interest in playing existing music, but would rather come up with something himself, much to the dismay of his piano teacher. Fast forward some decades and

Thomas' compositions have been featured in some of the biggest motion picture campaigns in the world, such as Avatar, Pirates of the Caribbean, Twilight, Narnia, Harry Potter, Da Vinci Code, The Mummy, The Dark Knight and 100s more. He co-owns a company called "Two Steps From Hell" with

his partner, Nick Phoenix which produces music for motion picture advertisement campaigns. Thomas' extensive and highly specialized knowledge of digital orchestration and sample libraries, combined with his musicality puts him at the top of the world in his craft.

HOW ILLUSIONS CAME TO BE

"Illusions" has been my pet project for the last 3 or so years. Every time I wrote a piece of music I felt was a little more special than my usual output, I would put it aside for this album.

I wanted to create a musical soundscape that transcended all ethnic boundaries, combining traditional western orchestras with folk music culture from around the world.

The purpose was to bring all the wonderful musical wonders of the world together in a big collective hug. That is why you can hear traces of folk music, from my Norwegian heritage, to the mystical voices of the middle east, to the ethereal voices of the Bulgarian people, to the amazing lyrical woodwinds in Armenia.

The list goes on. The amazing technology of today could not be overlooked, so I incorporated a lot of organic synthesized sounds into the music. It is the year 2011 after all, and I wanted to acknowledge that and pay my respect to the musical advancement in the technological field as well.

In the end, though, it is the wonderful voices from around the world that really glue "Illusions" together.

These girls have inspired me so tremendously. I truly could not have done this without them. Music is all about expression. To me, music theory is an obstruction.

I love composing music because it liberates me from social conventions and authorities. It is pure freedom to me. The last thing I want to be doing is follow academic guidelines and rules that directly inhibit my creative freedom.

Music is my sanctum and theory has no access.

"Illusions" reflects this 100%.

"Illusions" has taken me three years to complete and has been a long journey that has required more patience than I thought I had in me.

I spent so much time searching around the world for new unique ideas, musical instruments and most importantly inspiration, but little did I know that it was the truly incredible vocalists that I would encounter in my venture that would shape the musical outcome.

To everyone of you, I am proud, blessed and eternally grateful for your amazing musical contributions. I could not have done this without you. So without further ado, allow me to introduce the singers featured on "Illusions".



THE VOCALISTS

Vladislava Vasileva

From Bulgaria, the wondrous voice of Vladislava Vasileva featured on both "Rada", "Dreammaker" and "Femme Fatale" completely captivated me in a very profound way. Not only is her voice delicate like a leaf in the wind, but at the same time

incredibly powerful, unique and with a sense of rawness to it that comes from the heart.

Elitsa Todorova. Another surprise along my way was Elitsa Todorova, a young vocalist from Varna, Bulgaria. Todorova is well known

for her percussion work and vocal performances, authentic to the Bulgarian folk lore sound. Her voice is bright, sparkly, incredibly controlled and magically beautiful. I feel blessed to have had the chance to work with such a talented woman. Elitsa is featured in "Soulseeker".

Merethe Soltvedt

Norwegian Merethe Soltvedt has the most angelic voice I have ever heard. Her voice is like sunshine, it inspires you, makes you feel wonderful. It is for good reason that her voice is featured on "Ocean Princess", "Gift of Life", "Merchant Prince", "Promise", "Immortal" and "Remember Me".

Kate St. Pierre

Kate St. Pierre is not from this world, although she's been known to work with earthlings like the good folks at Cirque Du Soleil! She has the ability to bring even the strongest man to tears. It is more powerful, more passionate and more unique than

anything I've ever heard and I am absolutely thrilled to have her contribute on my album. You can hear her in "Hurt", "Merchant Prince" and "Illusions".

Jenifer Thigpen

Jenifer Thigpen was introduced to me through a fellow composer and good friend, Colin O'Malley, and wow, am I glad he did! Thigpen has an incredibly pure and sweet, yet powerful voice that cuts through even the loudest orchestral parts without ever becoming strident. She can go from the softest parts to the loudest operatic sections without effort. Thigpen gave her heart in her performance on "A Place In

Heaven". Without her contribution the piece would be nothing.

Tina Guo

Tina Guo is one of the most gifted musicians I've ever met. She plays her cello like it is part of her, and she embodies everything that music is about. An amazing woman and an amazing musician. Listen to her in "Promise" and "Gift of Life".

So as you can see, I once again find myself graced by the enigma of the fairer sex!

With musical regards,
Thomas Bergersen

THOMAS BERGERSEN
ILLUSIONS



1. AURA (7:43)

Au-ra/'ôr?/Noun

The distinctive atmosphere or quality that seems to surround and be generated by a person, thing, or place.

This piece is a blend of everything from modern trance music to classical operatic and folk music.

A driving rhythmic ostinato in the strings propel the piece forward throughout and creates a sense of mystique and motion.

Close your eyes and listen. What colors do you see? What is your Aura?

2. STARVATION (4:26)

This Bulgarian folk choir driven piece takes a step into new musical territory, blending two separate worlds with ethnic percussive flavors, western orchestra and modern synths. This piece of music was based on the old Bulgarian folk song Aishinko (which means "little bird").

"Ruin of the Hungry Ghosts" by Espen Von Hirsch Kummeneje:

"The white cliff city of Katan was under siege, its port blockaded by the vast Tauric armada and all farmland put to fire. Despite possessing

thrice the men, the generals of Tauri held the attack; such was their fear of the Katan

Lion Guard and the horned gatekeepers that defended that city.

They say surrender was a word not known to the Katan, and that no prouder or more stubborn folk has ever lived. Three times thirty the sun rose and fell over the white cliff city, with no word or letter passing the walls. Their own supplies fading, the generals of Tauri commanded a storm on the horned gatekeepers. Truly profound was their amazement when they faced the Katan Lion Guard, still standing to defend their sacred home. Great songs are forever sung about that battle.

Yet they pale compared to the dirges sung about the starvation of Katan, forever after known as the Ruin of the Hungry Ghosts."

3. DREAMMAKER (4:17)

Featuring Vladislava Vasileva (Vocals)

"Dreammaker" Poem by Roy Storey

"On a night
when the moon is bright
I will come for you
we will dance in your dreams.
over mountains, valleys, streams.
In distant lands,
to rock and roll bands.
On sliver sands,
at the threshold of life
where the dream maker stand."

4. HURT (1:43)

Featuring Kate St. Pierre (Vocals)

I wanted to create a piece of music that illustrates our deepest human feelings of despair, suffering, hurt, heartbreak, loss and tragedy for which words don't suffice, so I told Kate St. Pierre to sing like she was crying. Kate is singing in a spontaneously made-up language that came to her there and then, straight from her heart. When we hurt the most, words cannot comfort us. Maybe this is where music transcends what words can truly express, and takes on an ever so important role?

5. OCEAN PRINCESS (2:52)

Featuring Merethe Soltvedt (Vocals)

"Ocean Princess" Poem by Annie O'Halloran

"I am myst
I am dawn
I kissed truth
And fought the dark.
But you will not know me.
Only two may see me...
The first, you deny."

6. GIFT OF LIFE (3:22)

Featuring Tina Guo (Cello) & Merethe Soltvedt (Vocals)

We are surrounded by such unbelievable beauty. Life is enigmatic. Life is delicate. Life is painful. Life is inspiring. Life is love. Life is the tears we shed in joy and in sorrow. Life is magical. Life is the greatest Gift.

7. RADA (4:35)

Featuring Vladislava Vasileva (Vocals)

Rada, Rada
Beautiful Rada
Why you are so sad
While you are walking you're crying
You're crying...

8. A PLACE IN HEAVEN (4:13)

Featuring Jenifer Thigpen (Vocals)

"Please don't sing sad songs for me,
Forget your grief and fears,
For I am in a perfect place
Away from pain and tears

It's far away from hunger
And hurt and want and pride,
I have a place in Heaven
With the Master at my side."

9. MERCHANT PRINCE (2:26)

Featuring Merethe Soltvedt (Vocals) & Kate St. Pierre (Vocals)

"Merchant Prince" Poem by Annie O'Halloran

"I know it is time.
My angel to guide me
My demon to fight.
May God give me strength to trust in my light.

I am Prince, I am warrior
And my time to stand is here."

10. PROMISE (4:58)

Featuring Tina Guo (Cello) & Merethe Soltvedt (Vocals).

"Promise" was written in extreme haste when my friend called me up and said he had an amazing cellist coming over, so if I wanted to record anything now was the time! I sat down and sketched out the bare bones of "Promise" in 15 minutes, ran over to his studio and met with Tina Guo, a wonderfully gifted cellist, who proceeded to blow my mind when she started playing. Two weeks later the piece was finished.

11. FEMME FATALE (4:11)

Featuring Vladislava Vasileva (Vocals)

"Nedo, Nedo beautiful Nedo
Hey Golden Girl
Golden coins and Golden adornments
All those Nedo, are for you
For you Gold and Gilt

Go Nedo beautiful Nedo
In a wide plain field
To meet your dearest
To show him the gifts
Your Gifts, Gold and Gilt"

12. HOMECOMING (2:56)

I wanted to write a piece of music that reflected upon memories of a sweet reunion of a friend, loved one or a family. The moments of anticipation before you meet again, the wonderful and overwhelming feelings of love when you finally embrace each other, and the comfort of knowing you have people who care about you in your life. Life is love.

13. IMMORTAL (4:07)

Featuring Merethe Soltvedt (Vocals)

"Hey, Immortal Soul
Thou who walk the darkened nights alone
Selflessly to protect your kind
Do you feel lonely
Knowing you're the only mind
Who will outlive every one you know
Does it bring you sorrow?
Oh, Immortal Soul
Tell me how it feels
To be a spirit walking
The plains of earth you own
Alone"

14. REMEMBER ME (4:29)

Featuring Merethe Soltvedt (Vocals)

"I was going to buy you a gift, a present, but what's the point of bringing gold to the gold mine or water to the Ocean - Everything I came up with was like taking spices to the Orient. It's no good giving my heart and my soul, because you already have these - So I have brought you a mirror, look at yourself and remember me."
- Rumi

15. SONERA (5:45)

Featuring Colin O'Malley (Vocals) & Jenifer Thigpen (Vocals)

The violinists looked at the notes.. then looked at each other..."OK! Lunch time!!". Of all the pieces on "Illusions", "Sonera" was the most difficult one to play. It is almost 6 minutes of virtuoso violin parts, but the Capellen Orchestra performed brilliantly under the direction of Petr Pololanik, and with a sense of effortlessness that makes it sound simple.

16. REBORN (3:53)

Featuring Kate St. Pierre (Vocals)

"Reborn" Poem by Tearkiller

"Draw forth, unto me, oh darkest shadows
and drain the earth of heat.
I am a reborn this eventide.
My cycle of death is complete.

I've looked my last upon hated sun
I crave for spring no more.
I've become a servant to the moon
To the thrill of hunting

I've given all, most eagerly,
To live the life of the undead
The night's become my true companion
It is to shadow that I'm wed."

17. AGE OF GODS (2:30)

18. ILLUSIONS (8:01)
Featuring Kate St. Pierre (Vocals)

"Illusions" Poem by Rachel McCausland

"Reflections in the water
Fade and disappear
Illusions that my eyes can see
But cannot touch nor hear.

And now I come to ask myself
Are you really real?
If I reach out to take your hand
Will it be your hand I feel?

You might be an illusion
My eyes might be deceiving me
You could be someone that I made up
A wish, a dream, a fantasy.

Questions like these just make doubt
stronger
Creating a kind of inner hunger
In quiet solitude I ponder
Leaving my mind to search and wander.
If life is so much like a dream
And things aren't always what they seem

Then let me walk this road with you
Until our waking is due."

19. REBORN (3:53)
Featuring Kate St. Pierre (Vocals)

"Reborn" Poem by Tearkiller

"Draw forth, unto me, oh darkest shadows
and drain the earth of heat.
I am a reborn this eventide.
My cycle of death is complete.

I've looked my last upon hated sun
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I've given all, most eagerly,
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18. SOULSEEKER (3:14)
Featuring Elitsa Todorova (Vocals)

SPECIAL THANKS

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you are) and all my world citizen friends and colleagues, all the amazing musicians that contributed on the album, my absolutely WONDERFUL fans and all your encouragement, dedication and support, my computers for not crashing on me when inspiration hit its peak, life for being such an endless source of inspiration, and my wonderful girlfriend, Cassandra <3

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- 02 **STARVATION**
- 03 **DREAMMAKER**
Featuring Vladislava Vasileva (Vocals)
- 04 **HURT**
Featuring Kate St. Pierre (Vocals)
- 05 **OCEAN PRINCESS**
Featuring Kate St. Pierre (Vocals)
- 06 **GIFT OF LIFE**
Featuring Tina Guo (Cello)
& Merethe Soltvedt (Vocals)
- 07 **RADA**
Featuring Vladislava Vasileva (Vocals)
- 08 **A PLACE IN HEAVEN**
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All tracks written, orchestrated
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Capellen Orchestra.

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