
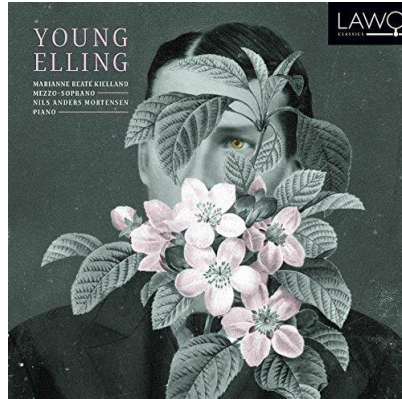
 **ELLING** *Songs to Texts by Shakespeare*, op. 42. **4 Songs**, op. 41. **5 Songs**, op. 40. **4 Poems by K. R. Randers**, op. 45. **Songs from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*** • Marianne Beate Kielland (mez); Nils Anders Mortensen (pn) • LAWQ 1072 (43:22 )



Young Elling by Marianne Beate Kielland

Audio CD

Lawo



Catharinus Elling was a Norwegian composer whose dates (1858–1942) are slightly later than his famous compatriot Edvard Grieg. Paul Orgel reviewed a disc of his chamber music in *Fanfare* 35:1, and was quite favorable about it. I am similarly positive about these songs, all of them early works (in fact the disc's title is *Young Elling*). Grieg admired Elling and helped to promote his music.

The songs on this recording are relatively simple and tuneful, with clear roots in Norwegian folk music. There is nothing really challenging or complex here; the piano parts lack the individuality that one finds in Grieg's finest songs. But for collectors interested in 19th-century songs, and in discovering material that they have not encountered before, these songs will provide pleasure. There is considerable variety of mood throughout the group. I know that I will listen to them again.

That reaction is certainly assisted by the fine performances. Kielland and Mortensen are not just going through the motions or giving dutiful exposure to this material. They are inside the music and do their utmost to bring it to life, and Kielland has a lovely and flexible mezzo-soprano voice.

Excellent and informative notes along with texts and translations are plusses, but the 43:22 duration is a big negative. Elling wrote over 200 songs, and the producers should have included more of them to fill out the disc. **Henry Fogel**

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