

Rued Langgaard

I HOLMENS KIRKES KAPEL (Lille Strygekvartet)

IN THE CHAPEL OF REST AT HOLMEN'S CHURCH (Little String Quartet)

1949

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Edited by

Bendt Viinholt Nielsen

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FORORD

I *Holmens Kirkes Kapel* er en komposition, som med sine blot 31 takter i ekstrem grad lever op til sin undertitel "Lille Strygekvartet". Satsen blev komponeret af Rued Langgaard den 20. august 1949 mellem kl. 4 og 7.45 om morgenen. Langgaard sendte det renskrevne partitur til Radiosymfoniorkestrets koncertmester, Leo Hansen. Han var primarius i Leo Hansen-Kvartetten, som i 1947 havde opført Langgaards strygekvartet nr. 5 i radioen. Partituret til *I Holmens Kirkes Kapel* har imidlertid ikke kunnet lokaliseres.

Langgaard udarbejdede dog også en klaverversion, som han sendte til Gade-familien, enten Niels W. Gades datter Dagmar Gade (1863-1952) eller Lili Gade (1888-1961), som faktisk var Rued Langgaards kusine. Gadeforskeren Inger Sørensen fandt i 2016 en fotokopi af denne version, som hun velvilligt har stillet til rådighed for Rued Langgaard Udgaven. I dette manuskript er de fire stemmer samlet på to systemer, og der er tilføjet enkelte klavertekniske angivelser (arpeggio og pedal). Nærværende udgave er en rekonstruktion af strygekvartetversionen på basis af dette manuskript. Skitsen, som findes på Det Kongelige Bibliotek (Rued Langgaards Samling, RLS 77,2), har tjent som kilde til enkelte, supplerende detaljer. Redaktionelle tilføjelser er typografisk markeret i partituret ved hjælp af skarpe parenteser og buer med brudt streg.

Skitsen til kompositionen har overskriften *Suk ved Gades Grav*, og værkets endelige titel, *I Holmens Kirkes Kapel*, refererer således til Niels W. Gade, hvis sarkofag står i kapelsalen i Holmens Kirke i København. Mærkeligt er det dog, at Langgaard også har forsynet skitsen med ordet *Rosengaarden* ved siden af dateringen 20.8.1949. "Rosengården" var den ejendom i Kyrkhult i Blekinge, hvor han tilbragte sommeren 1913. En række nostalgiske og romantiske minder var knyttet til dette sommerophold, men relationen mellem sommeren 1913 og Gades grav i Holmens Kirke er endnu ikke klarlagt. Klaverversionen er dateret *Komp. 4 Morgen 20/8, 49 i Ribe* og er forsynet med følgende påskrift: *Kan jo evt. bruges som Indledning til en Kvartettransmission – Oh! jeg går amok i denne Tid! – Jeg har sendt den til Leo Hansen (maaske haabløst)*.

Kompositionen vil blive uropført i 2017 i 200-året for Niels W. Gades fødsel.

Bendt Viinholt Nielsen, marts 2017

FOREWORD

I *In the Chapel of Rest at Holmen's Church* is a composition which, with its mere 31 bars, to an exceptional degree lives up to its subtitle 'Little String Quartet'. The piece was composed by Rued Langgaard on 20 August 1949 between 4am and 7.45am. Langgaard sent the fair-copy score to the leader of the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Leo Hansen. He was first violinist in the Leo Hansen Quartet, which had given a radio performance of Langgaard's String Quartet no. 5 in 1947. It has, however, unfortunately not proved possible to locate the score of *In the Chapel of Rest at Holmen's Church*.

Langgaard also made a piano version of the quartet, which he sent to the Gade family, either to Niels W. Gade's daughter Dagmar Gade (1863-1952) or to Lili Gade (1888-1961), who was actually Rued Langgaard's cousin. The Gade researcher Inger Sørensen discovered a photocopy of this version in 2016, which she has been kind enough to place at the disposal of The Rued Langgaard Edition. In this manuscript, the four parts have been written out in two staves, with the addition of certain technical indications for piano (arpeggio and pedal). The present edition is a reconstruction of the string quartet version on the basis of this manuscript. The sketch, which is to be found at The Royal Library (Rued Langgaard's Collection, RLS 77,2), has served as source regarding certain supplementary details. The editor's additions are indicated typographically in the score by square brackets and broken slurs and ties.

The sketch of the composition has the heading *Sigh at Gade's Grave*, and the final title of the work, *In the Chapel of Rest at Holmen's Church*, thus refers to Niels W. Gade, whose sarcophagus stands in the hall of the chapel of rest at Holmen's Church in Copenhagen. Even so, it is strange that Langgaard has also provided the sketch with the word *Rosengaarden* (The Rose Garden) next to the dating 20 Aug. 1949. "Rosengården" was the property in Kyrkhult, Blekinge in Sweden where he spent the summer of 1913. A number of nostalgic and romantic memories were linked to this summer stay, but the relation between summer 1913 and Gade's grave in Holmen's Church has not yet been clarified. The piano version is dated *Comp. 4am 20/8, 49 in Ribe* and is provided with the following inscription: *Can of course possibly be used as an introduction to a quartet transmission – Oh! I am going amok at present! – I have sent it to Leo Hansen (possibly hopeless)*.

The composition will have its first performance in 2017, the bicentenary of the birth of Niels W. Gade.

Bendt Viinholt Nielsen, March 2017