



Astrid Lindgren's **THE BROTHERS LIONHEART** Music from the stageplay at The Norwegian Theatre Composed by Eirik Myhr

Pling Kong Recordings is proud to present the soundtrack for the stageplay adaptation of Astrid Lindgren's seminal fantasy novel *THE BROTHERS LIONHEART*, to be released February 26.

TEXT: THOR JOACHIM HAGA

About the play:

Astrid Lindgren's *THE BROTHERS LIONHEART* (1973) is a cornerstone of Scandinavian literature – a heartbreaking, bittersweet story about childhood and death. Young "Rusky" is fatally ill, but loses his big brother Jonathan before he himself succumbs to his illness. In the afterlife, they reunite in the mythological realm known as Nangijala – a fantasy world inhabited by orchards, quirky characters and evil rulers. In 2014, the novel was transcribed to stage at The Norwegian Theatre in Oslo, directed by Svein Sturla Hungnes and starring Emil Johnsen and Oddgeir Thune as the siblings. It's a more minimalistic interpretation than the famous film version from 1977 – realized through trap doors, levels and white silk sheets – and relies more heavily on the emotional presence of the characters on-stage.

About the music:

Eirik Myhr's music is delicate and melancholic, written for string quintet, wordless vocals, percussion, synths and samples – with particular use of melodic percussion, organ and harp. The score is organized around leitmotifs for the most prominent characters, with the lofty, ethereal theme for Nangijala as the centerpiece. Its harmonic language is firmly molded in the Nordic sensibilities of Edvard Grieg and Jean Sibelius, but also with more contemporary fairytale stylings in the tradition of Danny Elfman and Alexandre Desplat – all the while sounding like its own sound world as it tries to musically portray the inner life of the characters.

About the composer:

Eirik Myhr (b. 1982) has composed music for film, television and theatre since 2006, including the family films *RAFIKI* (2009) and *THE TOUGH GUYS* (2013). For the latter, Myhr was awarded the 2013 Music Award by composer and lyricist organization NOPA, as well as "Best Comedy Score" by film music website Reel Music. In addition, he has penned themes for a number of famous Norwegian TV series like *TANGERUDBAKKEN BORETTSLAG* (2009), and also crafted the entire musical fairytale universe of the popular amusement park *HUNDERFOSSEN FAMILIEPARK* (2011 and onwards). More recently, he worked on the famous standup success *MANN (44)* (2014), in addition to the award-winning documentary *I AM KUBA* (2014). For more information, visit eirikmyhr.no.

The soundtrack of *THE BROTHERS LIONHEART* is an exclusively digital release, and will be available on TIDAL, Spotify, iTunes, Apple Music, Amazon and all other relevant digital music services, February 26. The iTunes version comes with a beautiful digital booklet which features pictures from the play.

