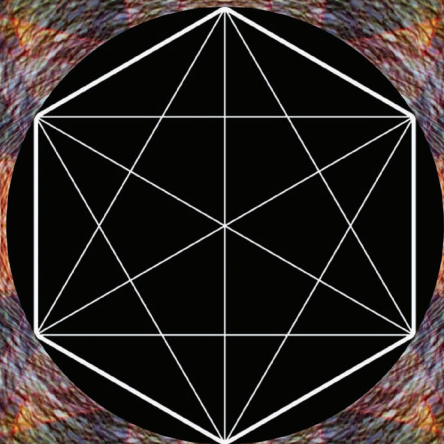


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TW O SIDES  
BAROKKBANDIÐ BRÁK

# Tvær Hliðar | Two Sides

Tvær Hliðar/Two Sides presents two contrasting sides of our music-making. On the first CD we perform our core repertoire of Italian and Swedish Baroque music, but Barokkbandið Brák also seeks to expand the repertoire for historical instruments by commissioning new works by up and coming Icelandic composers, and the second CD showcases new Icelandic music written specially for the ensemble. All of these works share the same sound world as all the music is performed on historical instruments from the baroque era.

## Disc 1

**1-3** 'Il Giustino' Sinfonia RV 717  
Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Allegro	[2:24]
Andante	[2:34]
Allegro	[0:46]

**4-6** Violin Concerto in G major \*  
Johan Joachim Agrell (1701-1767)

Allegro	[3:32]
Largo	[3:12]
Allegro	[2:58]

(Solo violin: Elfa Rún Kristinsdóttir)

**7-10** Trio Sonata op. 1 no. 4 in a minor  
Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

Vivace	[1:15]
Adagio	[0:59]
Allegro	[1:06]
Presto	[1:32]

(Elfa Rún Kristinsdóttir, Laufey Jensdóttir, Steinunn Arnbjörg Stefánsdóttir, Halldór Bjarki Arnarson)

**11-13** Sinfonia in A major op. 1 no. 3  
Johan Joachim Agrell

Allegro	[3:18]
Andante	[4:06]
Allegro ma non presto	[3:07]

**14** Trio Sonata in d minor [6:54]  
Alessandro Stradella (1643-1682)

(Elfa Rún Kristinsdóttir, Steinunn Arnbjörg Stefánsdóttir, Halldór Bjarki Arnarson)

**15-18** Concerto Grosso op. 5 no. 4  
Giuseppe Sammartini (1695 - 1750)

Allegro	[3:01]
Andantino	[1:53]
Allegro moderato	[4:14]
Minuet Gratosio	[2:19]

**19-21** Concerto for 2 Violins and Cello in d minor, RV 565  
Antonio Vivaldi

Allegro; Adagio e Spiccato; Allegro	[3:57]
Largo e Spiccato	[2:06]
Allegro	[2:15]

(Solo parts: Elfa Rún Kristinsdóttir, Laufey Jensdóttir, Steinunn Arnbjörg Stefánsdóttir)

## Disc 2

**22-25** Fold (2015)  
Finnur Karlsson (1988-)

Prelude	[2:01]
Slow and steady	[2:06]
Pattern	[3:44]
Passacaglia	[3:30]

For Harpsichord, 4 violins, 2 violas, violoncello, double bass

(Halldór Bjarki Arnarson, Elfa Rún Kristinsdóttir, Laufey

Jensdóttir, Sólveig Vaka Eypórsdóttir, Guðbjörg Hlín Guðmundsdóttir, Guðrún Hrunn Harðardóttir, Þóra Margrét Sveinsdóttir, Steinunn Arnbjörg Stefánsdóttir, Richard Korn)

**26** Recitar Cantando/Speaking in Song (2021) [6:16]  
Þráinn Hjálmarsson (1987-)

For string quartet

(Laufey Jensdóttir, Sólveig Vaka Eypórsdóttir, Þóra Margrét Sveinsdóttir, Steinunn Arnbjörg Stefánsdóttir)

**27** Quorum Sensing (2021) [11:03]  
Bergún Snæbjörnsdóttir (1987-)

For 4 violins, viola, cello, double bass

(Elfa Rún Kristinsdóttir, Laufey Jensdóttir, Guðbjörg Hlín Guðmundsdóttir, Sólveig Vaka Eypórsdóttir, Guðrún Hrunn Harðardóttir, Þóra Margrét Sveinsdóttir, Steinunn Arnbjörg Stefánsdóttir, Richard Korn)

**28-29** BRK (2020)  
Kristinn Kristinsson (1990-)

I	[7:35]
II	[3:24]

For 3 violins, viola, violoncello, double bass, harpsichord

(Elfa Rún Kristinsdóttir, Guðbjörg Hlín Guðmundsdóttir, Sólveig Vaka Eypórsdóttir, Þóra Margrét Sveinsdóttir, Steinunn Arnbjörg Stefánsdóttir, Richard Korn, Halldór Bjarki Arnarson)

Total Time: [1:37:26] \* World Premiere Recording

### Kristinn Kristinsson (1990-)



Kristinn Kristinsson is an Icelandic guitarist, composer and producer currently living in Reykjavík. Kristinn works across genres composing for various projects, installations and theater. With his extensive and varied musical background he combines his knowledge of music traditions, technology, sound-design and programming to explore new sounds, consistently re-inventing his approach to music. Kristinn holds a Bachelor degree in jazz guitar from the Basel Music University and a Master of Performance and Composition from the University of the Arts in Bern. He has been nominated for the Icelandic Music award and won Gríman, an Icelandic theater award in 2021. He has performed his own music in 12 countries and appeared on over 10 records. He is a member of the electro-acoustic trio Minua, avant-rock quintet Monoglot and co-founder of the jazz record label HoutRecords.

### Finnur Karlsson (1988-)



Finnur Karlsson has been called “*without a doubt one of the most noteworthy composers of his generation*” and his music has been described as “*honest and sincere*” and “*... captivatingly beautiful*”. His music has been performed by groups including the Danish National Symphony Orchestra, Elja Ensemble & Jónas Ásgeir Ásgeirsson, Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Reykjavík Chamber Orchestra & Elblag Chamber Orchestra, Soggi String Quartet, TAK and Århus Sinfonietta & Concert Clemens. Finnur’s *Accordion Concerto* won the Icelandic Music Awards 2020 in the category “Composition of the year”. He was also nominated in 2018 for *From My Green Karlstad* and in 2015 for *Fold*. Finnur’s piece “*Till heavens*

*changed have their course*”, was selected by DR to represent Denmark on the International Rostrum of Composers in 2018. Finnur studied composition at the Iceland University of Arts and Royal Danish Academy of Music with Hans Abrahamsen, Úlfar Ingi Haraldsson, Atli Ingólfsson, Simon Løffler og Niels Rosing-Schow.

### Bergrún Snæbjörnsdóttir (1987-)



Hailing from the peripheries of Iceland, Bergrún Snæbjörnsdóttir music has been described as “*elemental*” (The New Yorker) and “*intoxicating... huge, hyperreal sonic expansions*” (5:4). Her work has been presented around the world by renowned groups such as the Oslo Philharmonic, Iceland Symphony Orchestra, International Contemporary Ensemble, Norrbotten NEO, Esbjerg Ensemble, The National Sawdust Ensemble, Decibel, Avanti! Chamber Orchestra and Nordic Affect, while also featured in major festivals and events such as Mostly Mozart, Tectonics, Nordic Music Days, Only Connect, SPOR, Ultima, Dark Music Days, Sigur Rós’s Norður og Niður, KLANG, ISCM’s World New Music Days, Sound of Stockholm, Prototype and more. Bergrún studied composition at the Iceland University of the Arts, and at Mills College in California where she gathered intel from the likes of Pauline Oliveros, Fred Frith and Zeena Parkins.

*Quorum Sensing: a mechanism by which life forms regulate gene expression through the use of signal molecules, allowing communication and coordination of group behaviour.*

## Práinn Hjálmarsson (1987-)



Icelandic composer Práinn Hjálmarsson studied composition at Iceland University of the Arts and Royal Conservatoire in Den Haag from 2006- 2011.

Critics describe Hjálmarsson's music as a “*sonic experience that is hard to put into words and oddly addicting.*” (Jarrett Goodchild - I care if you listen) and one in which “[e]verything feels decisive and structured while remaining alive to unexpected details appearing at every moment.” (Ben Harper - Boring like a drill).

In his music, the act of listening plays a vital role, where the perception of sound is ever transforming, revealing an obfuscated narrative, unfolding in time.

### Recitar cantando / Speaking in song

“...*music is nothing other than speech, then rhythm, and lastly sound...*”  
- Giulio Romolo Caccini (1551-1618) in “Le nuove musiche” (1602).

This work was written for Barokkbandið Brák 2020-2021 with support by Iceland Artists' Salary fund.

Dedicated to Ronja Vala Práinsdóttir.

**Johan Joachim Agrell** (1701-1765) was born in Löth in Sweden 1701, studied in Uppsala and became a violinist and harpsichordist based in Germany, where he met Locatelli, Leclair and Bach, before becoming Music Director of the city of Nürnberg. This is the first recording of his violin concerto contained in a manuscript from Lund University Library (Saml. Kraus 106).

**Alessandro Stradella** (1643-1682) was a violinist, singer and composer from an Tuscan aristocratic family. He produced over three hundred works in his lifetime.

He studied in Rome and started to make a name for himself early on. He lived a colorful life, often having to move cities and composing by commission. He was stabbed to death in 1682. This trio sonata is one of his most played chamber music works.

**Arcangelo Corelli** (1653-1713) is one of Italy's most famous baroque composers. He was an established violinist in his time. As a composer his works are important in the development of the sonata and concerto genres. He studied in Bologna which was a major musical center at the time. He composed several works which have become well known classical hits, such as La Folia and the Christmas Concerto. This sonata is from a set of 12 Trio sonatas dedicated to the Queen Christina of Sweden, which Corelli referred to as ‘the fruits of my study’.

Born in Venice, **Antonio Vivaldi** (1678-1741) was a famous violinist, composer, teacher and Roman Catholic Priest. While Vivaldi is regarded as one of the greatest and most influential Baroque composers of his time, he was also described as an exceptional violinist and an excellent improviser. Despite his popularity during his time, Vivaldi's work faded into obscurity after his death only to be rediscovered in the 20th century. Vivaldi died in poverty in July 1741.

Sinfonia from the opera Giustino which was composed for the 1724 carnival season in Rome. A very exciting and playful piece which captures all the attention from the audience. What a perfect intro to an opera.

The concerto for two violins and cello in d-minor is part of Vivaldi's first collection of concertos appearing in print named *l'estro armonico* (*The Harmonic Inspiration*).

Born in Milano, **Giuseppe Sammartini** (1695 - 1750) was an Italian composer and oboist during the late Baroque and early Classical era. Sammartini was forward thinking as a composer, incorporated many Classical elements and was one of the early proponents of the galant style. He spent most of his life in England, where he worked closely with Handel, and became one of the most famous oboists of his time. The concerto grosso op. 5 no. 4 is one of 24 concerto grosso by Sammartini. Its powerful opening and contrasting gentle and sweet solos give it its distinct characteristics.

### Barokkbandið Brák

Barokkbandið Brák was founded in 2015 by Icelandic violinists Elfa Rún Kristinsdóttir, Guðbjörg Hlín Guðmundsdóttir and Laufey Jensdóttir. The ensemble mainly consists of Icelandic musicians who all share a passion for historically informed performance of Renaissance and Baroque music and seek to bring the music from this period to a wide audience in Iceland and abroad.

Since its founding the group has held numerous concerts in Iceland with great success. Most of Brák's performances have been recorded and broadcasted by the Icelandic National Radio (RÚV). Brák has been regularly nominated for the yearly Icelandic Music Awards, and in 2020 won the award for "Concert of the Year". Barokkbandið Brák constantly seeks new concepts and frequently collaborates with renowned singers, dancers and instrumentalists from all over Europe to expand the range of possibilities.

**Elfa Rún Kristinsdóttir** has led Barokkbandið Brák since it was founded; she first came to international prominence in 2006, when she won the Grand Prize, Audience Prize and prize for the youngest finalist in the International Bach Competition in Leipzig. Since then she has made her mark in the

European early music scene, performing with and regularly appearing as a guest leader with ensembles such as Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, Il pomo d'Oro, Concerto Köln and Collegium 1704.

### Thank you!

Fella og Hóla­kirkja, Lilja Hjaltadóttir, Vladimir Waltham, Eiríkur Orri, Þráinn Hjálmarsson, Guðmundur Lárusson, Svandís Kristjánsdóttir, Guðrún Hallgrímsdóttir, Maria Theresia Rupf-Bolz, Útón, Bryndís Jónatansdóttir, Ásdís Kristjánsdóttir, Sigurður Halldórsson, Iceland Academy of the Arts, Guðrún Óskarsdóttir.







Elfa Rún Kristinsdóttir, *violin, leading*; Gróa Margrét Valdimarsdóttir, *violin*; Guðbjartur Hákonarson, *violin*; Guðbjörg Hlín Guðmundsdóttir, *violin*; Laufey Jensdóttir, *violin*; Sólveig Vaka Eyþórsdóttir, *violin*; Gunnhildur Daðadóttir, *violin*; Guðrún Hrund Harðardóttir, *viola*; Þóra Margrét Sveinsdóttir, *viola*; Steinunn Arnbjörg Stefánsdóttir, *cello*; Guðný Jónasdóttir, *cello*; Richard Korn, *bass*; Halldór Bjarki Arnarson, *harpsichord*



# Tvær hliðar | Two Sides

**Producer:** Ragnheiður Jónsdóttir

**Recording, Editing, & Mixing Engineer:** Ragnheiður Jónsdóttir

**Mastering Engineer:** Daniel Shores

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**Liner Notes:** Barokkbandið Brák

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**Executive Producer:** Collin J. Rae

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