



BENEDICTE MAURSETH & ENSEMBLE NEON

ALWAYS AND NEVER THE SAME

Title	Always and Never the Same
Composer	Benedicte Maurseth
Catalog number	ACD5125
Record label	Aurora Records
Release date	January 30, 2026
Durata (TT)	41:33
Format	Digital album
EAN/UPC	7090057990464 (digitalt)
ISRC	NOLFA2601010-080
Recorded at	Paradiso Studio, Oslo June 18-19, 2025
Producers	Håkon Mørch Stene, Jørgen Træen & Benedicte Maurseth
Recording technicians	Christian Engfeldt, Marcus Forsgren, Jørgen Træen
Mix/master	Jørgen Træen, Luftgrotten studio, Bergen
Design	Simone Hooymans

Material composed and presented by Benedicte Maurseth (TONO). All music is developed and arranged by Maurseth in collaboration with neon and Jørgen Træen.

Track titles are excerpts of fragments found in early buddhist sutras, gāthās, etc published in the book buena nada by Hendl H Mirra for the XXIII Bienal de Arte Paiz in Guatemala in 2023.

Supported by Arts Council Norway, Norwegian Society of Composers, The Fund for Performing Artists, Bergen kommune

Web site <https://www.aurorarecords.no/alwaysandneverthesame>

Track list

Benedicte Maurseth & Ensemble neoN

Always and Never the Same // 41:33

1 - <i>Contented Pelicans I</i>	//	08:20
2 - <i>Without path endless field</i>	//	08:32
3 - <i>As a bee among blooms just walking through</i>	//	06:21
4 - <i>Contented Pelicans II</i>	//	02:34
5 - <i>Delightful are forests unintended for delight</i>	//	03:43
6 - <i>Unmoved by praise or blame</i>	//	04:42
7 - <i>Nor mine, nor me, nor I</i>	//	04:55
8 - <i>Contented Pelicans III</i>	//	02:22

With

Inga Grytås Byrkjeland

cello, wah-wah tubes

Ane Marthe Sørlien Holen

vibraphone, percussion, drums

Yumi Murakami

flute, bass flute, wah-wah tubes

Solmund Nystabakk

lute

Jan Martin Smørdal

6 & 12 string guitars, prepared and unprepared, piano

Kristine Tjøgersen

clarinet, bass clarinet, zither, Casio Casiotone MT-70, wah-wah tubes, harmonica, percussion

Benedicte Maurseth

Hardanger fiddle, vocal, piano, wah-wah tubes

Special guest appearance by

Jørgen Træen

modular synthesizer

Aurora Records proudly presents a new album by Ensemble neoN and Benedicte Maurseth. The album project Always and Never the Same is scheduled for release on Aurora Records on January 30th, 2026. The music is the result of a collaboration between Ensemble neoN and Hardanger fiddle player and composer Benedicte Maurseth.

The first version of the piece was written in 2023 and performed as an audiovisual production during the Ultima Festival, where Simone Hooymans contributed live video animation. The newly recorded version of the work is a reworked and recomposed version. Hooymans' art is still an integral part of the work and, naturally, also shape the album cover.

Particularly important to Maurseth is the exploration of repetition and the variations that can develop from the same theme. Together with Ensemble neoN, Maurseth has composed a new piece in which the exploration of the suggestive power of repetition is a central device. Maurseth and neoN have examined how the qualities of the Hardanger fiddle can be transferred to an expanded ensemble with its rich rhythmic, tonal, and timbral palette. The soloist holds an important place in Norwegian folk music traditions, and the work makes room for each musician's individual character.

That folk music is in constant change, carrying both past and present with it, is also reflected in the visual art of Simone Hooymans. Her work is characterized by a form of naïvism stemming from a desire to invite emotional expression, atmospheres and imaginary worlds. In Hooymans' animations, different fantasy realms are often built from simple elements, alternating between moments of continuity and extreme contrasts.



Benedicte Maurseth, an esteemed Hardanger fiddler, composer, and author, is a distinguished and award-winning performer. She has apprenticed under master fiddler Knut Hamre for several decades, specializing in the traditional music of Hardanger. Maurseth has toured extensively as a soloist both within Norway and internationally, collaborating with numerous renowned artists across various genres, including theatre, contemporary, and improvised music such as Jon Fosse, Nils Økland, Knut Hamre. Maurseth has composed multiple commissioned works for prestigious groups such as Kronos Quartet, Prague Music Ensemble, Marvel Studios, National Theatre in Norway, and various TV and film productions.

Additionally, she has authored books, articles, and essays. Her latest solo album, *Hárr* (2022), received the Nordic Music Prize and was recognized by The Guardian as one of the ten best folk music albums globally in 2022. The same year, her non-fiction book *Fiddlesisters* was published, offering a groundbreaking exploration of female fiddlers from the 18th century to the present. This work, along with a concert performance and museum exhibition of the same title, earned her the Folkelarm Award as «Folk Musician of the Year» in 2023, as well as the SFF prize for her significant contributions to Norwegian folk music. In 2025, she released the highly regarded follow-up album *Mirra* and also co-composed the work *Elja* with Kristine Tjøgersen. This composition was performed by the Kronos Quartet and Maurseth, premiering at Carnegie Hall in New York within the same year.



Ensemble neoN was founded in 2008 with the aim of initiating, producing, and performing music that reflects current developments in music and other art forms. The ensemble was established by a group of musicians educated at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo, driven by a strong and long-standing engagement with contemporary music. Ensemble neoN is actively involved in the development of cross-genre projects that bridge Western art music with a wide range of other musical traditions. The ensemble frequently works across artistic disciplines, collaborating with visual artists, performance artists, and installation artists to create new and compelling works.

In 2016, Ensemble neoN released its debut album neoN, which received the Norwegian Grammy Award (Spellemannprisen) in the Contemporary Music category. In 2017, the ensemble was named “Performer of the Year” by the Norwegian Society of Composers. Ensemble neoN has established a strong national and international presence, appearing at festivals such as MATA (New York), Ultima (Oslo), Molde Jazz Festival, klub katarakt (Hamburg), Darmstadt Summer Courses, Weimarer Frühlingstage, Only Connect (Oslo), and the Oslo Chamber Music Festival. The ensemble has received critical acclaim from the press, including praise such as “(...) an impressive ensemble” (The New York Times) and “(...) the impressive Ensemble neoN” (ballade.no).



Simone Hooymans is an animator, visual artist, and filmmaker who primarily works with drawing and animation. Originally from the Netherlands, she is currently based in Ålvik, Norway. She was educated at the art academies in Arnhem and Breda in the Netherlands, and has received numerous awards for her distinctive animated films. Hooymans’ hand-drawn animations are characterized by vivid colors and captivating movements that draw audiences into new universes. Her work creates a mysterious world with an otherworldly and dark undertone.

Hooymans’ artistic practice explores the ways in which humans relate to nature. In 2020, she gained recognition with the large-scale video installation Talking Plants, presented as part of the opening exhibition of Deichman’s new main library in Bjørvika, Oslo. She frequently works at the intersection of innovative music and visual art through her animations and video installations, and has collaborated with several Norwegian musicians while participating in numerous international group exhibitions and film festivals.

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