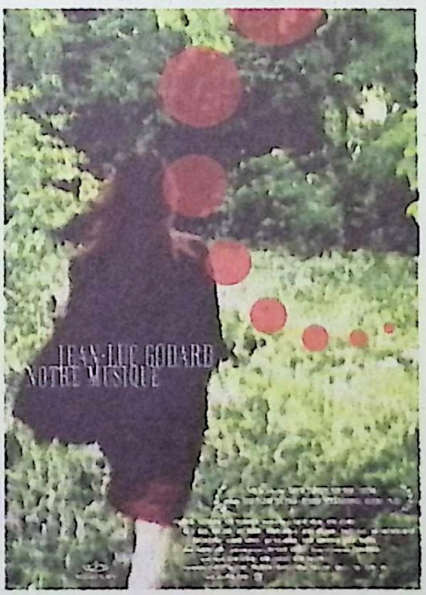


PHOTO: BENEDICTE UGLAND

Ketil Bjørnstad

> "We tried to adopt an orphan child from Chittagong. His mother was alive but she was not able to take care of him. We brought him to Norway for a year."



piano or something totally different. So to serve his need we went to the studio and remade it. In this case I needed to follow the director's mind to get to know what he wanted.

I grew up with French New Wave films. It was also the time of Italian master Michelangelo Antonioni and French filmmaker Jean-Luc Godard. From them I learnt that the director is a dictator too. So you have to listen to him properly about what he needs, you have to imagine to find out visuals for the music. You have to listen to the original mood of the film. You have to feel the words; you need to be very sensitive to understand how the words are arousing emotions inside you. And then you need to translate the feeling of the word into sound and music. So it's a difficult job I think. So in one case, when I am composing music for an album I am independent and in the other I am totally dependent on what the script demands.

One of your novels Nåde has been translated into Bangla. Have you ever visited Bangladesh before writing it?

Yes, I visited Bangladesh twice in 1993 and 95. During my first visit I went to Dinajpur and then to Chittagong. I saw a little bit of the countryside. My wife has a deep connection with Bangladesh. We tried to adopt an orphan child from Chittagong. His mother was alive but she was not able to take care of him. We brought him to Norway for a year. We saw him struggle in a new country.. We are extremely fond of him. But we saw how he felt that Norway was an empathic society. I think he missed Bangladesh very much and on the other hand Norway was very confusing for him. He lost his Bengali identity, his language, which made his life even more difficult. Nåde is all about my experience with him. I always write from my experiences, even in my poetry. Because I think words are your deeper inner reflections. I feel that literature has to be connected with life.

Ketil Bjørnstad is a well-known Norwegian author and musician. Bjørnstad has published more than 30 literary works. Renowned recording company ECM has documented some 50 recordings and his work has been used in several European movies.