

# VALGEIR SIGURÐSSON

## Composer

Valgeir Sigurðsson is an acclaimed composer, producer, engineer and musician, and is the founder of Greenhouse Studios and the Bedroom Community record label, based in Reykjavík, Iceland. He has released three solo albums (*Ekvilibríum*, *Dreamland* and *Architecture of Loss*) and has collaborated with artists such as Björk, Bonnie 'Prince' Billy, CocoRosie, Feist, Damon Albarn, the Kronos Quartet, Nico Muhly, Ben Frost and many, many others. Valgeir has composed music for film, stage and dance and his work has been performed by the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Chiara String Quartet and others.

A boundless approach to music informs Valgeir's work. He studied classical guitar and plays keyboards, bass and percussion as well as being skilled in electronics/programming. In 1991 he earned a Tonmeister degree from London's SAE Institute and his recording career flourished in 1998 when fellow countrywoman Björk requested him as engineer and programmer for Lars Von Trier's **Academy Award**-nominated *Dancer in the Dark* soundtrack, a monumental project that combined Valgeir's passion for electronic, orchestral and film music. Valgeir's musical relationship as one of Björk's primary studio collaborators from 1998 until 2006 thrived through contributions to all her albums and projects in the period, most notably *Selmasongs*, *Vespertine*, *Medúlla*, and *Drawing Restraint 9*.

Valgeir set up Greenhouse Studios in Reykjavík in 1997, where he has worked in varying ways with such artists as Bonnie 'Prince' Billy, Damon Albarn, Nico Muhly, Brian Eno, Sigur Rós, as well as Björk and many others. In 2006 he founded record label and collective Bedroom Community, which is home to Sam Amidon and Ben Frost and has launched the recording careers of Nico Muhly, Daníel Bjarnason and Valgeir himself.

In 2007 Valgeir debuted his own album *Ekvilibríum*, which The Fader Magazine heralded as "a singular album, as ornate as it is direct." In 2009, collective members Valgeir and Muhly co-composed and premiered *Scent Opera* at the Guggenheim Museum. In 2010, Bedroom

Community released an album of Valgeir's documentary soundtrack for ***Dreamland (Draumalandið)***, the score was performed live in 2011 by The Iceland Symphony Orchestra and by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in 2012.

Film and TV work includes the documentary film *Draumalandið (Dreamland)*, the feature film (or collection of five films by different directors) ***Dramarama*** (aka ***Villiljós***) and the TV mini-series ***Mannaveiðar***.

In all of his projects, Valgeir bends and blends familiar sounds to expose the new within the known, lending depth to pop and mainstream music through care and an ear for esoteric, eclectic sonic experimentation. His aural oeuvre and collaborative contributions collide organic with synthetic, acoustic with digital, connection with isolation, and domestic with ethereal – resulting in a body of work ripe with emotion, curiosity, and humanity.

## VALGEIR SIGURÐSSON - SELECTED FILM AND TV CREDITS

### **Draumalandið (Dreamland)**

(Ground Control Productions/TC Films/Zik Zak Filmworks, 2010)

Directors: Þorfinnur Guðnason, Andri Snær Magnason

Producer: Sigurður Gísli Pálmason

### **Mannaveiðar**

(Rekyavik Films, 2008)

Director/Producer: Björn Br. Björnsson

### **Dramarama (aka Villiljós)**

(Zik Zak Filmworks, 2001)

Directors: Ragnar Bragason, Dagur Kari, Inga Lisa Middleton, Asrimur Sverrison, Eina Thor

Producers: Skuli Fr.Malmquist, Thor Sigurjonsson

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