

## **Extracts and quotes from media about Symbio**

"Hurdy-gurdy and accordion have always been a popular combination, but what Johannes Geworkian Hellman and Lars Emil Öjeberget deliver on their third album takes these instruments to a new level. Their compositions are elegiac, dreamy, wallowing in great imaginative, cinematic melodies, then mesmerizing again and the next moment pulsating, exciting and emotionally touching. They create a sound cosmos in which the two musicians form a truly symbiotic unit and become soul mates" - **FOLKER music magazine (DE)**

"Johannes Geworkian Hellman & LarsEmil Öjeberg, hurdy-gurdy & accordion, continues to make great strides as musicians. Nowadays, the duo can be heard all over the world and musically they develop their personal style further by each record. This album consists of eight of their own compositions where they go further with creating new ways of combining their instruments musically and technically. It's highly personal, it's an album to dream about, to be influenced by, to feel good about. This is grand art!" - **Swedish Folk music magazine Spelmannen**

"Endeavour is their third album release. Geworkian and Öjeberget continue to demonstrate a very symbiotic musical relationship, a mutually beneficial interaction that leads to some very unique instrumental musical conversations. The duo is clearly out to create an innovative sonic kaleidoscope of emotional colors. Their music is a curious mix of prurient questioning and grateful joy. For all their hard work, Endeavour is an enterprising and enlightened foray that leads to bountiful sonic rewards. " - **Joe Ross, Roots Music Report (US)**

"Wonderful catchy instrumental music with melodies that associate freely around the concept of folk/trad music and seek both electronic and art musical inspiration...The sound is about mood and produces a very special kind of shimmering warmth...The new album is one more fall ahead for Symbio!" - **Swedish leading daily newspaper Dagens Nyheter**

"I have a feeling that Johannes Geworkian Hellman and LarsEmil Öjeberget were destined to make music together, regardless of what instruments they might have played."  
- **Fiona Talkington, Songlines Magazine (UK)**

A unique electro-acoustic duo - accordionist LarsEmil Öjeberget and hurdy-gurdy player Johannes Geworkian Hellman are dazzlingly skilled and there are plenty of phrases where you wonder how it is even possible to play like that. In addition, they use electronics to further shape the sound of the instruments. At the same time, it is the songs themselves, the moods and the expressions that are in the first place, and the songs are incredibly strong." - **Swedish music magazine LIRA**

"Symbio, sounds that celebrate life! Joy and sorrow, longing, melancholy: The audience was always emotinally close to „Symbio“ so that this Nordic cosmos of sounds became an especially long lasting experience – simply great. – **Westfälische Anzeiger (DE)**

"These two musicians love each other, that's for sure. It almost has to be, because, I dare to think, it is damn difficult to expose yourself musically. There are only two of you so you have to...it's wonderful to see. Two masterful musicians, who completely find each other and who purify beautiful melodies from that - what more could one ask for from a record?"  
- **Dani Heyvaert Rootstime (BE)**

“The Swedish duo Symbio kidnapped the audience in to a world of Nordic folk music. The duo thrilled the audience with unique and melodic sounds of hurdy-gurdy and accordion. Professional and above all international music. ”– **Siegener Zeitung (Daily newspaper, DE)**

"Accordionist LarsEmil Öjeberget and hurdy-gurdy wielder Johannes Geworkian Hellman are both supremely accomplished on their instruments, lending their music a very polished and almost classical character...In fact, for all its rich variety of rhythms and textures, Endeavour is surprisingly smooth, almost easy listening...The buzz of the wheel and the beat of the reeds are still there, but the music transcends the physical instruments somehow, leaving an almost ethereal impression - well worth a listen." - **Alex Monhagan, [folkworld.de](http://folkworld.de) (DE)**

“1+1=2? Could be, but you cannot be not sure. Listening to the Swedish duo Symbio certainties like that might easily lose ground. Their music sounds like so much more than „just“ hurdy-gurdy and accordion. Lush, wide audio landscapes open up in front of you, Nordic folk, minimalistic art music, elements of electronic club sounds and a hypnotic interaction which just draws you in.”  
- **Miriam Rossius, Rudolstadt Festival On the move (DE)**

“Swedish duo Symbio is a lively exclamation mark! It is about airy chamber music with wide views, with elements of elegant club music, and it often feels larger than duo music.”  
– **Tove Djupsjöbacka, Hufvudstadsbladet (Daily newspaper, FI)**

“The Swedish duo Symbio convinced their audience with extraordinary sounds and the combination of accordion and hurdy-gurdy made singing unnecessary. Johannes Geworkian Hellman and Larsemil Öjeberget impressed the audience with unique and melodious souds from the hurdy gurdy and the accordeon. The topcis of their self-composed pieces were friendship, love and longing and each piece told its own story – all the while without vocals. The musicians shared these sometimes private stories with the audience, so that the music enabled he listeners to dive deep into a world of fantasy. Especially touching was the soulful and dramatic piece „Rising“, which was dedicated to people who are going through rough times. The suspenseful song with its climactic highlight was supposed to give energy and new courage to face life – that this was a success was shown by the loud applause and the request for an encore. ” –**Hellwegeranzeiger (Daily newspaper, DE)**

“This duo walks their on there own path, and in their music you can hear traces from both prog rock and techno, to name a few genres. It is often intense and lively with heavy riffs, pulsating rhythms and pumping bass, but there are also fine lyrical pieces here. The duo only have one instrument each, but they really know how to get out it's the full potential and find possibilities for variation. Symbio stand out to the highest degree as one of the most distinctive groups in the environs of folk music in recent years. Since the duo is relatively new, Symbio will probably continue to develop in there very own direction. It will be exciting to hear where they go next.” - **Rasmus Klockljung, LIRA Folk/Jazz/World Music magazine (SE)**

“The young Swedish duo Symbio is a true phenomenon on stage. Every show is an experience due to the musical telepathy between these musicians and their catching stories. In their energetic performances hurdy- gurdy player Johannes Geworkian Hellman and accordionist LarsEmil Öjeberget are mixing film music, techno, Scandinavian folk and a big blues vibe easily. From the first song the listener is lifted from their daily boring routine and is taken away to a new, more hopeful universe” - **Elda Dorren, Program manager of Folk & World music at De Doelen Concert Hall Rotterdam (NL)**

“The interaction of Johannes Geworkian Hellman and LarsEmil Öjeberget left nothing to be desired. Johannes Geworkian Hellman has taken the hurdy-gurdy to a whole new level of music, creating sounds never heard before. Hellman plays the hurdy gurdy with the attitude of a rock guitarist and has developed some unusual tricks and techniques. The interaction with the equally virtuoso accordion player Lars Emil Öjeberget, who amazes with great independence between his left and right hands, is on a rare high level. You get the impression that the the two of them complement one another perfectly and simply had to find each other. The audience of the, despite the warm autumn weather, well-attended event was completely thrilled by this brilliant start to the series.” - **Rolf Graff, Mindener Tageblatt (DE)**

“The musicians in Symbio bewitch us with their hypnotic playing of the hurdy-gurdy and the accordion. In spite of there only being two of them, they produce an unbelievably full- bodied sound which fills the entire hall. Yet first and foremost Symbio is something very much its own. I liked them from the first moment that I heard them!”

- **LIRA Folk/Jazz/World Music magazine (SE)**

“When the two musicians in Symbio play I feel like a muggle. On stage: wizards, weaving their magic to create crazily swinging and up-to-date music on instruments not associated with modern-day popular music. I have never heard anything like it, whilst at the same time the duo’s music sounds strangely familiar. As though from a parallel world, though I am aware that it is in fact simply a matter of everyday honest musicality, creativity and thousands of hours of practice and studies.” - **Catarina Nitz, Eskilstunakuriren (SE)**

"I do not want to miss a concert with Symbio, because the band on this album shows a great compositional talent and an ability to play together, which you rarely find... You will notice that these Swedes are not afraid to give the heavier emotional work a place, although there is also room for joy and delightfulness!... With such a determination I humbly bow my head and I put on this very beautiful and completely instrumental record again: 37 minutes of intense musical pleasure!"

- **Dani Heyvaert, Rootstime (BE)**

"LarsEmil Öjeberget and Johannes Geworkian Hellman know how to create drama and intensity ... easily accessible, smartly made and modernized Swedish folk music where the songs are dripping with melody ... The listener is drawn into the swirls. And the strange feeling afterwards is that one has traveled a long distance but still remains in the same place."

- **Alexander Agrell, Daily newspaper "Sydsvenskan" (SE)**

“Symbio convinces with virtuosity, joy of playing and above all with courage to own compositions.” - **Nordische Musik (DE)**

“Symbio rejuvenize Swedish Folk with hurdy gurdy and accordion. With traditional folk, minimal music and tenderly woven electronic sounds they create an atmospheric hypnotic sound, which you need to listen to!” – **InMusic (DE)**