

“LIFE ON JUPITER” — THE DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT

This documentary began as a portrait of an maverick genius who continued to make great music despite grave difficulties—mental illness, bone marrow cancer, and the general indifference of the New York music establishment. As we gathered interviews and music recordings, we realized that the most intriguing aspects of the project were the questions raised by Jens Nygaard’s tireless pursuit of perfection.

His tenacious adherence to principles, and the price he was willing to pay for his ideals, make us rethink our own experience and direction. Some of Jens’ causes seem outright quixotic, but his life sustains our respect and admiration, even awe. Those feelings were reinforced by the great concerts we captured and the heartfelt interviews of the world class musicians who have known Jens for decades. The material forces us reconsider issues of success, excellence, and values. We feel that Jens Nygaard’s story is more than a biography of a musician and conductor, it examines questions that often remain unexplored—let alone answered.

Creating this musical chronicle has been a great journey for me and my fellow filmmakers, an experience echoed by the standing ovations that screenings of the documentary have received.

Jens Nygaard died on September 24, 2001. The spirit of his work continues with Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players concerts here in New York City.

Martin Spinelli
Producer/Director
LIFE ON JUPITER—The Story of Jens Nygaard, Musician

www.lifeonjupiter.com