
Barokksolistene



“ The whole joyous evening was a liberation, carrying us back to a time when the words “classical” and “folk” hadn’t yet been invented, and music was simply music” **The Telegraph**

Founded and led by Norwegian violinist Bjarte Eike in 2005, **Barokksolistene** is now recognised as one of the world’s most dynamic and exciting groups working in the field of historically informed performance, fusing virtuoso musicianship with flawless ensemble playing. Constantly striving to reach out to new audiences, their passion to engage with folk and experimental music, improvisation, visual arts, dance and story-telling has led them to create unique concert experiences which play to sold-out audiences worldwide.

Nowhere is this more evident than in their signature project “*The Alehouse Sessions*”. Curated and devised by Bjarte Eike, this project is an ever-changing and evolving look into the music of the English 17th century tavern, with the group diverting away from the traditional concert model, to create an evening that is “innately theatrical, genre bending and suffused with great musicianship” (The Strad). An album of the project was released on Rubicon Classics in 2017 and immediately made the UK top 10 classical charts. Since then Barokksolistene has toured the project throughout the UK, Germany, Scandinavia, the US and Ireland, and it continues to return season-after-season, each time with new ideas.

Their album *The Image of Melancholy*, one of the group’s first major recordings, was released on BIS and explores the use of melancholy in music throughout the centuries. In the same month that the album was released it featured as Recording of the Week on Danish Radio, going on to win “International Recording of the Year” at the Danish Prisen Awards.

On stage their collaborations have found them working with artists as diverse as

choreographer Liam Scarlett on his ballet *Vespertine* and Norwegian jazz musician Jon Balke, whose *Siwan* project explores the links between North African Arabic, Andalusian and baroque music. Further concerts have included performances of the Malcom Bruno reconstruction of Bach’s *St Markus Passion* and a series of major opera productions, including a staged *Messiah* with Netia Jones at the Bergen International Festival and Handel’s *Alcina* for Den Norske Opera Oslo, where they return in 2019 for a new production of *Dido and Aeneas*. Directed from the violin by Bjarte Eike the group will appear on stage as both actors and musicians.



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