
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, **Barokksolistene** is recognised as one of the world’s most dynamic and exciting early music groups, 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 is an ever-changing 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 was released on Rubicon Classics and immediately made the UK top 10 classical charts. Since then Barokksolistene has toured Alehouse throughout Europe and the US and it continues to return season-after-season, each time with new ideas. A favourite at the major European festivals, *The Alehouse Sessions* has found itself a home in spaces as diverse as barns and rock clubs, candlelit theatres and major concerts halls including Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and Usher Hall Edinburgh, excelling in all cases by the immediacy of the music and the connection between performers and audience. In 2023, *The Alehouse Sessions* was broadcast as a feature film on BBC Four.

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. It went on to win

“International Recording of the Year” at the Danish Prisen Awards.

Their newest album “*The Playhouse Sessions*” was also released by Rubicon Classics and has been enthusiastically received with critics praising the exhilarating and stylish performances.

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 and has resulted in three acclaimed albums on ECM.

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. They took their approach to integration further, appearing on stage both as musicians and actors in productions of Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas* at Den Ny Opera Esbjerg and Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at Haugesund Teater.

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