

Sonoko Miriam Welde

Violin



“ It was a delight to hear Welde's natural affinity with her instrument.”

**Magnus Andersson,
Klassekampen**

Sonoko Miriam Welde is one of the most exciting young violinists to emerge from Norway in recent years. Born in Bergen in 1996 she made her debut with the Bergen Philharmonic aged nine and has since gone on to win the Norwegian Soloist Prize and Virtuos competition, as well as representing Norway in the European Broadcasting Union's Young Musicians Competition. Sonoko is also the recipient of the Equinor Classical Music Scholarship. From 2024 she is Artistic Director of the Vinterfestspill i Bergstaden.

Her appearances include concertos with Oslo Philharmonic, Bergen Philharmonic, Norwegian Radio Orchestra, WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, Estonian Chamber Orchestra and Kremerata Baltica, with conductors including Andrew Litton, James Gaffigan, Joshua Weilerstein, Edward Gardner, Kwamé Ryan, Corinne Niemeyer, Han-na Chang, Tabita Berglund, Marta Gardolinska, Harish Shankar, Johannes Gustavsson and Peter Szilvay.

An enthusiastic chamber musician, Sonoko has been championed by Leif Ove Andsnes and Janine Jansen, with whom she performs regularly, and has also worked with Tabea Zimmermann, Marc-André Hamelin, Robert Levin, Christian Ihle Hadland, Clemens Hagen, Sergio Tiempo, Enrico Pace, Gidon Kremer, Alisa Weilerstein and Jonathan Biss. She appears frequently at the Bergen International Festival and has given recitals at Grachtenfestival Amsterdam, Risør Chamber Music Festival, ArtLink Belgrade, Oslo Chamber Music Festival, Bad Ragaz "Next Generation" Festival, Harpa Festival Reykjavik and the International Chamber Music Festival Utrecht. She has performed Mendelssohn's Octet with Jansen at Wigmore Hall and Cologne Philharmonie, and toured Ireland with Amy Dixon and Simon Mulligan.

Sonoko is part of the Opus13 String Quartet, who took second prize in the 2022 Banff International String Quartet Competition.

Recent highlights include Bruch with Bergen Philharmonic, Barber with the Stavanger Symphony and Aalborg Symphony, Piazzolla with the Orquesta Sinfonica de Tenerife and the Brahms Double Concerto with cellist Pieter Wispelwey and the Rheinische Philharmonie, Koblenz.

In 2021, she released her debut album, of Bruch and Barber violin concertos and *The Lark Ascending* with the Oslo Philharmonic on LAWO Classics. It was an instant success, receiving superlative reviews from critics, and catching the attention of Classic FM who made it Album of the Week and featured Sonoko as one of Charlotte Hawkins's Young Classical Stars. BBC Music Magazine named her a 'Rising Star' and Gramophone Magazine 'One to Watch'.

Sonoko studied with Janine Jansen and Denis Kozhukhin at Haute École de Musique Sion. She also studied formerly with Stephan Barratt Due in Oslo and Kolja Blacher at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin and was on the Crescendo Programme 2018 – 2020, mentored by Janine Jansen.

She plays an Antonio Stradivarius from 1736, the "Spencer Dyke", on loan from Anders Sveaas' Almennyttige Fond.

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