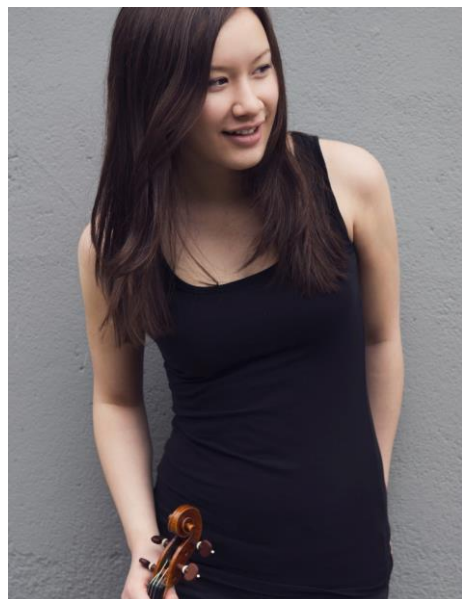


# Sonoko Miriam Welde

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. She is currently on the Crescendo programme, mentored by Janine Jansen, and is a recipient of a Statoil Talent Scholarship. From 2024 she is Artistic Director of the Vinterfestspill i Bergstaden.

Her appearances include concertos with Oslo Philharmonic, Bergen Philharmonic, Stavanger Symphony, Norwegian Radio Orchestra, WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Combattimento Consort Amsterdam, Kremerata Baltica, Zagreb Soloists, Oslo Camerata, and the Estonian Chamber Orchestra with conductors including Andrew Litton, James Gaffigan, Johannes Gustavsson, Peter Szilvay, Joshua Weilerstein, and Edward Gardner.

An enthusiastic chamber musician, Sonoko has been championed by Leif Ove Andsnes, 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 is part of the Opus13 String Quartet, who took second prize in the 2022 Banff International String Quartet Competition.

Recent highlights include Mendelssohn, Barber and Sibelius concertos in her debuts with the Bournemouth Symphony, Stavanger Symphony, Aalborg Symphony, Trondheim Symphony, and Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, Piazzolla with the Orquesta Sinfonica de Tenerife, Bruch with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in her debut at London's Royal Festival Hall and Kingston's Rose Theatre, Further

performances include chamber music at Oslo Opera House, Mendelssohn's Octet at Wigmore Hall with Janine Jansen, and a tour of Ireland.

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 currently studies with Janine Jansen in Switzerland, and studied formerly with Stephan Barratt Due in Oslo and Kolja Blacher at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin. She has also benefitted from regular lessons with Vilde Frang and Henning Kraggerud.

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

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