
Bjarte Eike

Selected Reviews

The Alehouse Sessions

Bjarte Eike/ Barokksolistene

The authenticity being aimed for is less that of performance style – though the calibre of playing is unimpeachable – and more that of experience. The audience stands, beer in hand, and listens to Eike chat from the platform. Some heckle. Before anyone is more than a pint down, Eike manages to get the crowd chanting a call-and-response number – this is not very classical, certainly not very British. But it is exhilarating – **Erica Jeal, The Guardian**

Eike was a beacon of focus throughout, linking his ensemble into a chain of artful exchanges, comic interludes, and audience rapport. The energy flying from his bow was an inspiration – **Tyran Grillo, Rootsworld**

The mercurial Norwegian violinist Bjarte Eike and his group [Barokksolistene](#) recreated the rowdy atmosphere of a 17th-century drinking den with a fabulously unrestrained set combining folksy vigour and classical virtuosity. It was a long way from the sobriety of most early music recitals; though any group that can have a festival audience performing an Icelandic football chant has to be doing something right. – **Alfred Hickling, The Guardian**

The performances had a wonderful sense of being thoroughly lived in. The variety of tone and texture was astonishing ... The whole joyous evening was a liberation, carrying us back to a time when the terms "classical" and "folk" hadn't yet been invented, and music was simply music. – **Ivan Hewitt, The Telegraph**

The Alehouse Sessions (Rubicon)

Bjarte Eike/Barokksolistene

Eike is a charismatic artist with a talent for conceiving live and recording projects ... He leads the line here across instrumental and vocal pieces, brings a clear bell-like tone to the dances and ballads, and isn't afraid to roughen the sound where the style or subject matters require it. – **Tim Woodall, The Strad**

The Image of Melancholy (BIS – 2057)

Bjarte Eike/Barokksolistene

This is a compelling and moving program. The playing is rich and gorgeous, to say nothing of creative ... Eike seems to have thought of everything in his presentation of melancholy. – **Crawford, American Record Guide**

The spotlight falls on violinist Bjarte Eike, whose effortless technique allows him to slip easily from improvisatory style to folk and art music. – **Kate Bolton, BBC Music Magazine**

The string-playing throughout has the affecting physicality of folk, whether tugging at your emotions in a lament or stirring your (melancholy) feet with bite and swing in a galliard. – **Lindsay Kemp, Gramophone**