

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.

Her appearances include concertos with Oslo Philharmonic, Bergen Philharmonic, 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, 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, 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.

Recent highlights include Mendelssohn, Barber and Sibelius concertos in her debuts with the Bournemouth

Symphony, the Trondheim Symphony, and Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, Bruch with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in her debut at London's Royal Festival Hall and Kingston's Rose Theatre, and Tchaikovsky's *Souvenirs d'un lieu cher* with James Gaffigan and the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra. Further performances include chamber music at Oslo Opera House, Mendelssohn's Octet at Wigmore Hall with Janine Jansen, recitals at Bergen International Festival with Robert Levin, Christian Ihle Hadland and Leif Ove Andsnes, and chamber works by Shostakovich at Rosendal Festival with Marc-Andre Hamelin.

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 a 1714 Alessandro Gagliano kindly on loan from Dextra Musica. .

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info@rayfieldallied.com