

# **PROGRAM RISØR KAMMERMUSIKKFEST 2023**

(Festival period: 27th June – 2nd July)

## **Children's Opening Concert**

### **Musical Fantasies**

Tuesday, June 27th, 11.15 / Frelsesarmeen (Salvation Army)

Music creates images and fantasies, but where one hears a peaceful forest and the chirping of birds, another may hear only chaos and noise. Is the music angry, or is it kind and loving – and do those who play together communicate in music like the rest of us use words?

Sara and Catharina Chen are like most siblings, but here they use their violins to talk together, argue, play and compete – helped out by Ole Christian Haagenrud on piano.

## **Free Concert at Torvet**

Tuesday June 27th, 12.00 / Torvet

Every day at 12.00pm the festival musicians perform a short concert at Torvet.

Tuesday, June 27th

## Opening Concert 1 and 2

Tuesday, June 27th at 18.00 and 20.30 / Risør Church

TBA

**Alice Sara Ott** – piano

**Tine Thing Helseth** – trumpet

FRANCIS POULENC (1899 – 1963)

*Fiançailles pour rire, FP 101 (1939)*

*La Dame d'André*

*Dans l'herbe*

*Il vole*

*Mon cadavre est doux comme un gant*

*Violon*

*Fleurs*

**Mari Eriksmoen** – soprano

**Enrico Pace** – piano

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685 – 1750) /

SOFIA GUBAIDULINA (1931\*)

*Bach: Preludium, Suite no. 1 (1717 – 23)*

*Gubaidulina: Staccato-legato, from 10 Preludes for solo cello*

*Bach: Sarabande, Suite no. 1*

**Julia Hagen** – cello

ELEANOR ALBERGA (1949\*)

*'Clouds' for piano quintet (1984, rev. 2022)*

*Scudding*

*Drifting*

*Looming*

*Storming*

**Isata Kanneh-Mason** – piano

**Karen Gomyo** – violin

**Catharina Chen** – violin

**Sào Soulez Lariviere** – viola

**Amalie Thing Helseth** – cello

HENRI DUTILLEUX (1916 – 2013)  
*Sarabande et Cortege (1942)*

**Martin Kuuskmann** – bassoon  
**Gunnar Flagstad** – piano

ARVO PÄRT (1935\*)  
FRANZ LISZT (1811 – 1886)

**Alice Sara Ott** – piano

Wednesday, June 28th

## **Home with Kai & Meta**

Wednesday, June 28th, 11.00 / Kastellveien 1

Kai and Meta open the doors to their historic home, one of the houses that survived the fire of 1861. Tine Thing Helseth, Catharina Chen & Jarle Storløykken bring the music this Wednesday morning!

## **Free Concert at Torvet**

Tuesday June 27th, 12.00 / Torvet

Every day at 12.00pm the festival musicians perform a short concert at Torvet.

## **Sørlandet (“Southern Norway”) – and other works by Vilhelm Krag**

Wednesday, June 28th, 15.00 / Risør Church

Considering Risør and Arendal celebrate 300 years as cities this year, it is safe to say they are a significant part of what we today call Southern Norway (Sørlandet). The name was created by the Norwegian poet Vilhelm Krag who was from the area. He made his debut as a poet with a collection of romantic verses when he was barely eighteen,, and around a hundred composers have created more than three hundred melodies for his poems. Kilden Vokalensemble has put together a beautiful concert based on the poet's texts, and has challenged eight new composers to create music for them.

Settings by: BENTE LEIKNES THORSEN, AGNES IDA PETTERSEN, ELLEN LINDQVIST, ELSE OLSEN STORESUND, KRISTIN NORDERVAL, MARIANNE R. ERIKSEN, BIRGIT DJUPEDAL, EVA HOLM FOOSNÆS, IVAR BØKSLE, JAN ERIK USTERUD AND EDVARD GRIEG.

## **Kilden Vokalensemble**

**Marit Tøndel Bodsberg Weyde** – conductor

**Solveig Lie Refvik** – piano

## **Friends of Munch**

Wednesday, June 28th, 18.00 / Risør Church

Edvard Munch had many friends in various artistic circles, many of them composers and musicians. At this concert you will experience the music Munch himself listened to, music inspired by his art, and music written by his close friends. Fredrick Delius' and Edvard Munch's first meeting was documented by a drawing in the newspaper *Verdens Gang* (VG) after a concert in Kristiania (later called Oslo) October 10th, 1891. They became good friends, sent countless cards and letters, and Delius became a real 'friend of Norway'. Christian Sindig had a very good relationship with Munch, even though, according to Munch, he thought the colours in the Aula murals were a bit much the first time he saw them. Conversely, one who was wild about these colours was Richard Strauss. After a concert in the Aula he is supposed to have said, "Your paintings express exactly what I am trying to do in my compositions."

Gisle Kverndokk's work, *Three Pictures*, was written in 2013, inspired by three of Munch's paintings.

CHRISTIAN SINDING (1856 – 1941)

From *6 Stücke, no. 3, op. 32 (1896)*

*Frühlingsrauschen*

**Ole Christian Haagenrud** – piano

*Variation for violin and piano in G minor, op. 78 (1906)*

*Cantus doloris*

**Catharina Chen** – violin

**Ole Christian Haagenrud** – piano

GISLE KVERNDOKK (1967\*)

*Three Pictures (2013)*

*Rue Lafayette*

*Night in St. Cloud*

*At the roulette table in Monte Carlo*

**Karen Gomyo** – violin

**Tine Thing Helseth** – trumpet

**Gunnar Flagstad** – piano

FREDERICK DELIUS (1862 – 1934)

*From Two Pieces for Small Orchestra (1912)*

*On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring*

**Ole Christian Haagenrud** – piano

**Gunnar Flagstad** – piano

RICHARD STRAUSS (1864 – 1949)

*Till Eulenspiegels lustige Streiche, op. 28 (1894-95)*

*(arr. David M. Carp)*

**Tom Ottar Andreassen** – flute

**Marie Tetzlaff** – oboe

**Carlos Ferreira** – clarinet

**Martin Kuuskmann** – bassoon

**Radovan Vlatkovic** – horn

**Enrico Pace** – piano

## **Bjørnov does Bach**

Wednesday, June 28th, 20.30 / Risørhuset

A wild evening by the piano, with guest artists and musical digressions. About having Bach as a companion, in good times and bad.

From the first lesson to the last blood test.

And a little about his wife ...

**Ingrid Bjørnov** – singing, lyrics and piano

**Ole Petter Hansen Chylie** – drums

Thursday, June 29th

### **Home with May-Britt & Roger**

Thursday, June 29th, 11.00 / Viddefjellveien 1

May-Britt and Roger open the doors to their home on 'Shoppingsvingen', where bassoonist Martin Kuuskmann has created an exciting program!

### **Free Concert at Torvet**

Thursday, June 29th, 12.00

### **Tine Thing Helseth and friends**

Thursday, June 29th, 13.00 / Hollenderhagen

An outdoor concert in intimate Hollenderhagen, with a varied and lively program. With Mari Eriksmoen – soprano, Jarle Storløyken – guitar, Gunnar Flagstad – piano, Karen Gomyo – violin, & Tine Thing Helseth – trumpet.

### **Weill and Mendelssohn**

Thursday, June 29th, 15.00 / Risør Church

In this selection of five songs one can see the breadth of Weill's song production – from stylized habaneras, to American Broadway and French cabaret – but always with Weill's unmistakable melodies and ability to convey great emotions, undisguised and direct. In addition, star team Isata Kanneh-Mason, Karen Gomyo, and Julia Hagen offer Mendelssohn's infinitely beautiful *Piano Trio in C minor*.

FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809 – 1847)

*Piano trio in C minor, no. 2, op. 66 (1845)*

*Allegro energico e con fuoco*

*Andante espressivo*

*Scherzo. Molto Allegro quasi Presto*

*Finale. Allegro appassionato*

**Isata Kanneh-Mason** – piano

**Karen Gomyo** – violin

**Julia Hagen** – cello

KURT WEILL (1900 – 1950)

*Nanna`s Lied (1939)*

lyrics: Bertolt Brecht

*Youkali (1934)*

lyrics: Kurt Weill

*Alabama Song (1927)*

lyrics: Bertolt Brecht

*Es Regnet (1933)*

lyrics: Jean Cocteau

*I`m a stranger here myself (1943)*

lyrics: Ogden Nash & Kurt Weill

*Je ne t`aime pas (1934)*

lyrics: Maurice Magre

**Mari Eriksmoen** – soprano

**Gunnar Flagstad** – piano

Ensemble:

**Tom Ottar Andreassen** – flute

**Marie Tetzlaff** – oboe

**Carlos Ferreira** – clarinet

**Martin Kuuskmann** – bassoon

**Radovan Vlatkovic** – horn

**Sebastian Haukaas** – trumpet

**Jarle Storl kken** – guitar

**Frode Berg** – bass

## Schubertiad

Thursday, June 29th, 18.00 / Ris r Church

The concert program presents songs of Schubert, Beethoven, and Vaughan Williams, surrounded by and commented on by the five movements from Schubert`s *String Quintet in A-Major*, also known as *Die Forelle*, “The Trout”.

In the spirit of a «Schubertiad», i.e. a series of private musical evenings celebrating Schubert`s work, Alice Sara Ott performs with musical friends.

Schubert`s *Trout Quintet* is one of the most popular chamber music works of all time. The piece gets its name from the fourth movement, which is comprised of variations on one of Schubert`s own songs, “The Trout”. However, Schubert does not quote the passage where the fish is caught, and the piece is counted among the composer`s most light and lively.

Schubert builds bridges between folk music, salon music, and Romanticism, and this is reflected in the programming of the concert: between each movement comes songs by Beethoven and Vaughan Williams – in addition to Schubert`s own, sung by the baritone Benjamin Appl – already considered an authority on art song despite his young age.

FRANZ SCHUBERT (1797 – 1828)

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770 – 1827)

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872 – 1958)

SCHUBERT *Die Forelle, 1. mov, Allegro vivace*  
BEETHOVEN *Farewell, farewell thou noisy town*  
SCHUBERT *Die schöne Müllerin: Wohin?*  
SCHUBERT *Die Forelle, 2. mov, Andante*  
BEETHOVEN *The Pulse of an Irishman*  
SCHUBERT *Der Wanderer an den Mond*  
SCHUBERT *Die Forelle, 3. mov, Scherzo: presto*  
V.WILLIAMS *Searching for Lambs*  
SCHUBERT *Auf dem Strom*  
SCHUBERT *Die Forelle, 4. mov, Andantino - Allegretto*  
BEETHOVEN *Since Greybeards Inform Us That Youth Will Decay*  
SCHUBERT *Die Forelle, 5. mov, Allegro giusto*

**Alice Sara Ott** – piano

**Benjamin Appl** – baritone

**Thomas Reif** – violin

**Sào Soulez Lariviere** – viola

**Julia Hagen** – cello

**Frode Berg** – bass

20.30

**Marit Larsen**

Risørhuset (80min)

TBA

Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>

## **Benjamin Appl Up Close**

Friday, June 30th, 11.00 / Frelsesarmeen (Salvation Army)

The baritone Benjamin Appl is celebrated by both audiences and critics alike, and has been described by *The Financial Times* as "the most promising of today's up-and-coming song recitalists". Now he brings some of his favorite songs by Schubert, Kurtag, and Vaughan Williams to Frelsesarmeen, accompanied by the pianist Alice Sara Ott and violinist Thomas Reif. This promises to be a rare and beautiful, intimate concert.

## **Free Concert at Torvet**

Friday, June 30th, 11.00



## Romantic Risør

Friday, June 30th, 15.00 / Risør Church

The summer of 1885 brought the artists Harriet Backer and Kitty Kielland to Risør. Backer's brother was a priest in town, and the two women made good use of their visit: Backer – - who was also sister of the composer and pianist Agathe Backer Grøndahl – painted *Rødt hus* (Red House) in Bosvik, while Kielland's brushstrokes resulted in *Etter Solnedgang* (After Sunset) – a work cited as the introduction of Neo-Romanticism to Norway.

With the new age came as well the author Arne Garborg, also with a connection to Risør; he was a teacher in Søndeled. Perhaps he noticed the boat sailing out of the strait one late afternoon, carrying – according to the story – a sleeping Gustav Mahler below deck?

Risør leaves its mark and runs like a red thread through this concert: with selected piano pieces by Agathe Backer Grøndahl, *Haugtussa* by Grieg and Garborg, Mahler's *Piano Quartet in A minor* – in addition to sea-composer Benjamin Britten's *Variations on a Theme by Frank Bridge* – the stage is set for a concert in the spirit of neo-Romanticism.

AGATHE BACKER GRØNDAHL (1847 – 1907)

*Idyll, op. 24, no. 5 (1888)*

*Sommervise, op. 45, no. 3 (1897)*

*Ballade, op. 36, no. 5 (1895)*

*Godnat!, op. 66, no. 6 (1905)*

**Enrico Pace** – piano

EDVARD GRIEG (1843 – 1907)

*Haugtussa, op. 67 (1895)*

*Det syng* (The Enticement)

*Veslemøy*

*Blåbærli* (Blueberry Slope)

*Møte* (The Tryst)

*Elsk* (Love)

*Killingdans* (Kidlings' Dance)

*Vond Dag* (Hurtful Day)

*Ved Gjøtlebekken* (At the Brook)

Lyrics: Arne Garborg (1851 – 1924)

**Mari Eriksmoen** – soprano

**Gunnar Flagstad** – piano

GUSTAV MAHLER (1860 – 1911)  
*Piano Quartet in A minor (1876)*

*Nicht schnell*  
*Scherzo (fragment only)*

**Enrico Pace** – piano  
**Catharina Chen** – violin  
**Sào Soulez Lariviere** – viola  
**Julia Hagen** – cello

BENJAMIN BRITTEN (1913 – 1976)  
*Variations on a Theme by Frank Bridge, op. 10 (1937)*

*Introduction and Theme*  
*Adagio*  
*March*  
*Romance*  
*Aria Italiana*  
*Bourrée classique*  
*Wiener Walzer*  
*Moto perpetuo*  
*Funeral march*  
*Chant*  
*Fugue and Finale*

**Risør Festival Strings**  
Brage Sæbø – concert master

## **The Clarinet Quintet**

Friday, June 30th, 18.00 / Risør Church

In 1890, Brahms was about to give up composing, but when he heard the clarinetist Richard Mühlfeld, he was so captivated that he changed his mind. This new inspiration resulted in, among other things, *Clarinet Quintet in B minor*, a masterpiece which has been loved since its premiere. At the concert we will also hear Tine Thing Helseth and Mari Eriksmoen in *Chasing the Moon Down* by Carson Cooman, and Schumann's virtuoso and passionate duet for horn and piano.

ROBERT SCHUMANN (1810 – 1856)  
*Adagio og Allegro, op. 70 (1849)*

**Radovan Vlatkovic** – horn  
**Enrico Pace** – piano

CARSON COOMAN (1982\*)

*Chasing the Moon Down, for soprano, trumpet and piano, op. 848 (2009)*

*Winter*  
*Spring*  
*Summer*  
*Fall*

**Mari Eriksmoen** – soprano  
**Tine Thing Helseth** – trumpet  
**Gunnar Flagstad** – piano

JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833 – 1897)

*Clarinet Quintet in B minor, op. 115 (1891)*

*Allegro*  
*Adagio*  
*Andantino*  
*Con moto*

**Carlos Ferreira** – clarinet  
**Karen Gomyo** – violin  
**Catharina Chen** – violin  
**Sào Soulez Lariviere** – viola  
**Karel Bredenhorst** – cello

## **Cuartetto SolTango**

Friday, June 30th, 20.30/ Risørhuset

«The Tango's seventh heaven»

With the Norwegian bandoneonist Andreas Rokseth in the lead, ensemble Cuarteto SolTango has distinguished themselves on the international tango circuit. The uncommon instrumentation – cello, violin, piano, and bandoneon – bridges chamber music and Argentinian Tango. So far, three CD releases have received phenomenal reviews in classical music magazines, along with great recognition in the Tango world.

## Night Concert

Friday, June 30th, 23.00 / Risør Church

It is a special experience to listen to music when the summer night descends on Risør Church. The mood colours the senses; perceptions are etched more intensely. Just for this reason, many have told of having some of their strongest festival experiences at the night concerts at Risør Church.

At this concert, Alice Sara Ott has invited a dream team to perform one of the most beautiful and intense works from the chamber music literature: Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*.

OLIVIER MESSIAEN (1908 – 1992)

*Quartet for the End of Time (1940)*

Liturgie de cristal (*Crystal liturgy*)

Vocalise, pour l'Ange qui annonce la fin du temps (*Vocalise, for the Angel who announces the end of time*)

Abîme des oiseaux (*Abyss of birds*)

Intermède (*Interlude*)

Louange à l'Éternité de Jésus (*Praise to the eternity of Jesus*)

Danse de la fureur, pour les sept trompettes (*Dance of fury, for the seven trumpets*)

Fouillis d'arcs-en-ciel, pour l'Ange qui annonce la fin du temps (*Tangle of rainbows, for the Angel who announces the end of time*)

Louange à l'Immortalité de Jésus (*Praise to the immortality of Jesus*)

**Carlos Ferreira** – clarinet

**Karen Gomyo** – violin

**Julia Hagen** – cello

**Alice Sara Ott** – piano

## Saturday, July 1st

### The Anniversary Carousel

Saturday, July 1st, 11.00 / Downtown Risør

Now you can experience an anniversary version of the carousel! With one ticket you can hear three different programs with our festival musicians. We promise musical entertainment of the highest calibre, in a form that suits everyone. There will be humour, thoughtfulness, zest for life and longing – with a look at Risør's musical history.

The carousel consists of three small concerts of just under 20 minutes each, which are played in parallel at different locations. The audience moves from concert to concert, and your ticket shows where you start. Everyone gets to hear everything. In the built-in breaks, follow the audience guide and move to the next concert venue, while the musicians remain in place and play the same concert for the next group.

We are planning for the concerts to take place at Baptistkirken (Baptist Church), Frelsesarmeen (Salvation Army), and Risør Church.

## Free Concert at Torvet

Saturday, July 1st, 13.00

## Family Concert with *Plutselig Barneteater*

Saturday, July 1st, 14.00 / Hollenderhagen

Plutselig Barneteater (Suddenly Children's Theater) is an improvised fairy tale show for the whole family! Three amusing actors and a great pianist improvise fantastic theater shows with the audience's help. The audience give suggestions and input and affect what happens onstage. Often the starting point is a well-known story or fairy tale, however the plots branch off onto new paths during the show! This fun collaboration creates new, wonderful stories. Wellknown and beloved film- and fairytale characters pop up in the most unexpected and surprising situations. What if Reveenka married Luke Skywalker? Who is the best rapper among the three little pigs, or the seven dwarves? And what if Spiderman took a vacation just as the troll under the bridge decided to travel into town to eat the royal family?

Plutselig Barneteater happens in the moment, together with the audience! Each show is totally unique; no show is like another.

Also check out Plutselig Barneteater's improvised radio play podcast!

## Three Giants

Saturday, July 1st, 15.00 / Risør Church

On January 1st, 1888, Edvard Grieg, Johannes Brahms, and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky met at the home of Anna Brodsky and her husband in Leipzig. Tchaikovsky wrote in his diary that evening. He describes Brahms as a very short man with a likeable appearance, a simple way of being, with down-to-earth humor, and without vanity. He described the meeting with Grieg as very special and deep, one that later developed into a genuine friendship, based on the love of two musical cultures, even if they didn't know each other's music so well. Anna Brodsky wrote an

account of everything that happened that evening, of Tchaikovsky's modesty, of Grieg and his wife Nina's warmth, and of Brahms – who wouldn't give up a jar of strawberry jam. What an evening it must have been!

JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833 – 1897)

*Horn trio in E flat major, op. 40 (1865)*

*Andante*

*Scherzo. Allegro*

*Adagio mesto*

*Finale. Allegro con brio*

**Radovan Vlatkovic** – horn  
**Thomas Reif** – violin  
**Enrico Pace** – piano

EDVARD GRIEG (1843 – 1907)  
From *Stemninger, no. 1-3, op. 73, (1905)*

*Resignasjon*  
*Scherzo – Impromptu*  
*Nattlig ritt*

**Enrico Pace** – piano

PJOTR TSJAIKOVSKIJ (1840 – 1893)  
*Souvenir de Florence, op. 70 (1890)*

*Allegro con spirito*  
*Adagio cantabile e con moto*  
*Allegretto moderato*  
*Allegro con brio e vivace*

Risør Festival Strings  
Catharina Chen – concert master

## **Celebration Concert on Stangholmen – Risør 300 years**

Saturday, July 1st, 18.30 / Stangholmen

Ingrid Bjørnov puts on her celebration glasses and gives her slant on things, splashes of music, and beautiful commentary on this, that, and the other. Her partners in crime are, among others, Karen Gomyo, Tine Thing Helseth, Alice Sara Ott, Mari Eriksmoen, Gunnar Flagstad, Jarle Storløyken, Erik Jøklung, Aksel Jensen, and Radovan Vlatkovic.

Join us for a celebration on Stangholmen! We can promise that it will be spectacular and full of feeling on Norway's most beautiful stage by the sea.

The ticket includes boat transport to Stangholmen. The boats go starting at 16.30 from Dampskipsbrygga and 17.00 from *Øisangs* ferry building.

Sunday, July 2nd

## **Mendelssohn, Grime and Dvorák**

Sunday, July 2nd, 12.00 / Risør Church

FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809 – 1847)

*Sinfonia no. 10 in B minor (1823)*

*Adagio – Allegro*

### **Risør Festival Strings**

Johanne Haugland – concert master

HELEN GRIME (1981\*)

*Three Whistler Miniatures (2011)*

*The Little Note in Yellow and Gold (Tranquillo)*

*Lapis Lazuli (Presto)*

*The Violet Note (Lontano, molto flessibile)*

### **Mithras Trio**

ANTONIN DVORÁK (1841 – 1904)

*Piano trio no. 4, op. 90, 'Dumky' (1890-91)*

*Lento maestoso – Allegro vivace*

*Poco adagio – Vivace non troppo*

*Andante – Vivace non troppo*

*Andante moderato – Allegretto scherzando*

*Allegro – Meno mosso*

*Lento maestoso – Vivace*

### **Mithras Trio**

## **Closing Concert**

Sunday, July 2nd, 15.00 / Risør Church

WYNTON MARSALIS (1961\*)

*Meeelaan, for bassoon and string quartet (1999)*

*Blues*

*Tango*

*Bebop*

**Martin Kuuskmann** – bassoon

**Catharina Chen** – violin

**RFS** – violin

**RFS** – viola

**Karel Bredenhorst** – cello

CÉSAR FRANCK (1822 – 1890)

*Sonata in A major for Violin and Piano, RWV 8 (1886)*

*Allegretto ben moderato*

*Allegro*

*Recitativo-Fantasia. Ben moderato – Molto lento*

*Allegretto poco mosso*

**Karen Gomyo** – violin

**Enrico Pace** – piano

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770 – 1827)

*Piano Concerto no. 3 in C minor, op. 37 (1800)*

*Allegro con brio*

*Largo*

*Rondo. Allegro – Presto*

**Alice Sara Ott** – piano

**Risør Festival Strings**

Thomas Reif – concert master