

Trio Mediæval, Vocal Trio

Biography

Anna Maria Friman
Linn Andrea Fuglseth
Jorunn Lovise Husan

The brilliant Scandinavian singers of Trio Mediæval have created a fascinating and unique world of sound, which they give life to with unerring virtuosity. Founded in 1997 in Oslo, Trio Mediæval's specialised repertoire features ballads and songs from the Norwegian Middle Ages, polyphonic music arranged by the three singers themselves from medieval England, France and Italy, as well as contemporary works written specifically for the ensemble. More recently the trio have been working to create new kinds of aural experiences with musicians and ensembles from the jazz and world music scenes, including Rolf Lislevand, Nils Økland, Sinikka Langeland, Arve Henriksen and the Mats Eilertsen Trio.

After performing at Wigmore Hall and MDR Musiksommer last season, the trio will travel to AMUZ Festival in Belgium and to the United States of America for two tours this season.

Trio Mediæval broke out with their debut release on ECM Records in 2002: their album *Words of the Angel* immediately reached Billboard's Top Ten list and was Stereophile's "Recording of the Month". Two further releases followed in 2007, including the Grammy-nominated *Folk Songs*, featuring Norwegian ballads and songs. 2011's *A Worcester Ladymass* was also released to much acclaim, including being selected as one of the best new releases by the German Record Critics' Award. *Aquilonis*, released in 2014, was named one of the best recordings of the year by the New York Times.

At the beginning of 2017 the vocal ensemble's eighth recording with ECM was released. *RIMUR* is a collaborative project with jazz trumpeter Arve Henriksen and immediately drew comparisons to Jan Garbarek's and the Hilliard Ensemble's renowned Officium project. The recording reached the top five of the UK classical charts and received enthusiastic press: the German radio station SWR2 stating that "the two genres do not see eye-to-eye, but rather ear-to-ear: *Rímur* is a masterpiece of mutual empathy." In 2016/17 the trio appeared on the GrauSchumacher Piano Duo's CD "Concerti II" in John Adams' *Grand Pianola Music*. In April 2020, NXN Recordings / Naxos Norway released *Memorabilia*, a collaboration with the Mats Eilertsen Trio. Trio Mediæval's latest CD, *Solacium*, a collection of hymns and lullabies, is their first release with the Norwegian label 2L.

Trio Mediæval has performed throughout Europe in prestigious venues such as the Oslo Concert Hall, Bozar Brussels, De Doelen Rotterdam, Muziekgebouw aan't IJ Amsterdam and the Wiener Konzerthaus, as well as at renowned festivals, among them the Bergen Festival, Cheltenham Music Festival, Snape Proms/Aldeburgh Music, SWR RheinVokal Festival, Schwetzingen SWR Festival, Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Niedersächsische Musiktage, the Dresden Music Festival and the Adelaide Festival. The ensemble is a regular guest at London's Wigmore Hall, and several engagements have also taken them beyond Europe, including performances at the Hong Kong Arts Festival, Adelaide Festival, Macao International Music Festival, and Carnegie Hall.

The trio collaborates with a multitude of contemporary composers including Gavin Bryars, Ivan Moody, Oleh Harkavyy and Andrew Smith. As a result of their collaboration with Michael Gordon, Julia Wolfe, David Lang and with the musikFabrik Cologne, the trio premiered *Shelter*, their biggest multimedia contemporary music project to date. Julia Wolfe then created a new work for the singers, *Steel Hammer*, which they premiered with the *Bang on a Can All-Stars* at Carnegie Hall.

2022/2023 Season

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