

Biography :

Ten years have passed since Sølve Sigerland participated as Norwegian representative in the Nordic Soloist Biennale with Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Andrew Litton.

His performance of Szymanowski's first violin concerto brought Sigerland to the first rank of Nordic soloists and made it clear that he "is ready for any concert engagements" as the Stockholm newspaper "Dagens Nyheter"s Hans Wolf expressed it. During the ten years after this triumph Sølve Sigerland has strengthened his position as an unique violin talent. However most of his time he has spent with the Piano trio he is a founding member of; Grieg Trio, today known as one of the leading Piano trios with a number of recordings : Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Brahms, Dvorak and Schostakovich on EMI, Virgin Classics and SIMAX. Grieg Trio has performed in the most distinguished halls in the western world: Wigmore Hall in London, Carnegie Hall (Weill Hall) in New York, Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Schauspielhaus in Berlin, Chatelet in Paris, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and Sale Verdi in Milan.

Regular invitations to prestigious chamber music festivals and a number of music awards (Norwegian Music Critics Prize, Shell Euro Prize, The Grieg Prize, Parkhouse Award (London) and first prize in the Colmar International Chamber Music Competition) has also been given to the Grieg Trio.

But as an excellent chamber musician Sigerland has not limited himself to express himself only through the piano trio medium. The distinguished "Diapason d'Or" was awarded him (as primarius) and his quartet colleagues Atle Sponberg (2 violin), Lars Anders Tomter (viola) and Truls Mørk (cello) for their recording of Grieg's g-minor quartet on Virgin Classics.

A musician of Sigerlands special kind, which one recognizes as an intense will of expression in every phrase with a strong personal sound quality, will probably succeed under any circumstances. It is anyway honourable that the pedagogues taking care of his violinistic progress has been aware of evolving the individuality in his playing. At the Norwegian Academy of Music it was Ørnulf Boye Hansen who was his mentor. Later master classes involved fruitful coaching by Ana Chumchenco and Lorand Fenyves. But Sølve Sigerland has first and foremost had the development and progress of Grieg Trio in mind. It was therefore natural that the trio went together to Budapest to study with the late Andras Mihaly, regarded by many as among Europe's main musical personalities and chamber music "coach" par excellence. This was also a chance for Sigerland to gain experience from Ferenc Halasz's violin class.

The activities of the Grieg Trio will also in the future be a large part of Sølve Sigerland's musical life, but his solo engagements with among others Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra and Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra has given opportunities to experience his interpretations against an orchestral background. Not least through Prizes at competitions like Tibor Varga International Violin Competition has Sigerland proved to be a soloist of considerable importance.

The final evidence of Sølve Sigerland's eminent instrumental mastership came in 2003 with a recording of Bjarne Brustad's works for solo-violin for SIMAX Classics. The recording has received international acclaim and "The Strad"s Martin Anderson wrote of "an important discovery" and found Sigerland to be "a first rate apostle for these forgotten gems, combining a strong sense of line with an awareness of the possibilities for colour" Norwegian press was equally impressed but it is the German newspaper "Süddeutsche Zeitung" that sums up what Sølve Sigerland gives us : "again and again outbursts of emotion" and concludes "a wonderful musician!"

By August Albertsen