

Press release

First collaboration between renowned Norwegian pianist and Concerto Copenhagen

On 24 August, Concerto Copenhagen – Scandinavia's leading Baroque orchestra and one of the most innovative ones worldwide – will meet the world-renowned Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes for a concert in Tivoli Concert Hall, Copenhagen.

Edvard Grieg's piano concerto represents for many people the ultimate, quintessential Norwegian music. Understandably enough, as the inspiration of Norwegian folk music is clearly discernible throughout the piece. Notwithstanding, Grieg did not compose the piano concerto surrounded by Norway's mountains. The young man composed his first masterpiece in the summer of 1868 at Mothsgården, Søllerød, in the outskirts of Copenhagen. And in April of the following year – 150 years ago – the concerto had its premiere also in Denmark, in the Casino concert hall near Saint Anne's Square. It was a raging success, and amongst those who stood to applaud was the pre-eminent figure of Danish musical life – Niels W. Gade.

These circumstances and the historical facts surrounding the creation of this – one of the world's most well-known piano concertos – have kindled the interest of Concerto Copenhagen. The soloist is the renowned Norwegian pianist Leif One Andsnes, who will for the first time play the Grieg concerto with an orchestra grounded in historical performance practice, as is Concerto Copenhagen. The conductor is the orchestra's artistic director Lars Ulrik Mortensen. Leif Ove Andsnes will play on a restored Blüthner piano from 1867, especially selected by Andsnes for this project and brought to Denmark from Holland.

For the season 19/20 Concerto Copenhagen is looking forward to many exciting concert programs and famous music partners. "The Brandenburg Concertos" and "The Four Seasons After Vivaldi" will be performed around in Denmark and Europe. But first of all, the new "The Four Seasons After Vivaldi" with works of Antonio Vivaldi, Ottorino Respighi and the Danish Composer Karl Aage Rasmussen will be published on Danish record label Dacapo on 6 September. In the end of September Handel's "Brockes Passion" – recorded in January in the Garrison Church in Copenhagen – will be released on cpo.

Concerto Copenhagen and Lars Ulrik Mortensen

Founded in 1991, Concerto Copenhagen is Scandinavia's leading Baroque orchestra and one of the most innovative ones worldwide. Signature features of CoCo are its unusual program combinations of rarely-performed Scandinavian repertoire and known masterpieces from the baroque era. In 1999, the renowned harpsichordist, Lars Ulrik Mortensen, took over the artistic direction and this collaboration developed into a musical expedition of the Nordic realm that wows audiences and critics worldwide. Concerto Copenhagen celebrated its 25 years of existence in 2016. International reviews confirm the expertise and standing of CoCo as a world-class orchestra. – <https://coco.dk/en>

Next concerts

Grieg, Andsnes and Concerto Copenhagen

Program:

F. Berwald: Overture to Estrella de Soria (1862)

E. Grieg: Piano Concerto in A minor (1868), soloist Leif Ove Andsnes

N. W. Gade: Symphony No. 1 (1842)

Leif Ove Andsnes, piano

Concerto Copenhagen

Lars Ulrik Mortensen, musical direction

Sat, 24 August 2019 Tivoli Concert Hall, Copenhagen

Bach: The Brandenburg Concertos

Concerto Copenhagen

Lars Ulrik Mortensen, musical direction

Sat, 28 September 2019 The Black Diamond, Copenhagen, Denmark

Sun, 29 September 2019 Essen Philharmonie, Essen, Germany

Wed, 2 October 2019 Malmö Live Concert Hall, Malmö, Sweden

The Four Seasons After Vivaldi

Works of Antonio Vivaldi, Ottorino Respighi and Karl Aage Rasmussen

Concerto Copenhagen

Magnus Fryklund and Lars Ulrik Mortensen, musical direction

Fri, 6 September 2019, Album release on cpo

Sat, 21 September 2019 Our Lady of Saint Peter's Church, Gent, Belgium

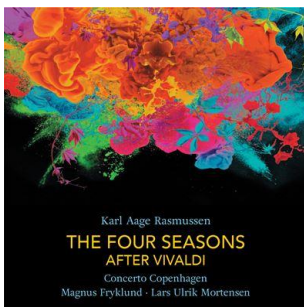
Fri, 18 October 2019 Zuiderstrandtheater, The Hague, The Netherlands

Sat, 19 October 2019 Bozar, Brussels, Belgium

Fri, 1 November 2019 The Black Diamond, Copenhagen, Denmark

Sat, 2 November 2019, The Stockholm Concert Hall, Stockholm, Sweden

Album releases



The Four Seasons After Vivaldi

Release date: 6 September 2019

Label: Dacapo

Composers: Antonio Vivaldi, Ottorino Respighi and Karl Aage Rasmussen

Musical direction: Magnus Fryklund and Lars Ulrik Mortensen



Georg Friedrich Handel: Brockes Passion

Release date: ultimo September 2019

Label: cpo

Musical direction: Lars Ulrik Mortensen