

ODA VOLTERSVIK

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Oda Voltersvik - “(...) *an extraordinary Scandinavian artist!*” (Per Brevig, Musicians Club New York) - has performed at important venues internationally including Carnegie Hall & Scandinavia House (NYC), Wigmore Hall & St Martin in the Fields (London), the Norwegian Opera House and since 2014; artist in residence for a week at the Edvard Grieg museum in Bergen. As a solo and chamber musician she has held recitals for important concert societies and taken part in festivals internationally. Her CD releases “NEO”, “Firebird” and her piano duo recording “Khoreia” have received great reviews. Oda received the honourable Norwegian Arts Council`s work grant for younger and newly established artists for 2021- 2022. She is a 1st prize winner of the Bradshaw & Buono International competition (2017) and finalist in the Jaques Samuels competition (2016). For her solo and chamber music projects, she has been awarded grants from the Arts Council Norway, Fund for Performing Artists, Music Norway, Bergen City and Fegerstens foundation among others. Oda is a member of an active piano duo; the Volt&Potenza duo and has been project leader of several successful concert series for her Volt Ensemble among others. Oda holds a Master in Performance from the Royal College of Music London and an Artist Diploma from Trinity Laban Conservatoire (with distinction from the Intercollegiate Jury).

“(...) immediately displays her sensitive artistry in Scriabin’s Fantasia in B Minor, Op. 28, with expansive sweeps across her keyboard... Voltersvik shows a natural affinity for Prokofiev’s spiky music (...)” Holly Harris on CD “Neo”, Winnipegfreepress newsletter, May 2022

“(..) the audience was awestruck. I felt I could visualize Norway in her interpretation of the concerto. With each note, it was all there for me: waterfalls rushing down the mountains, peaceful green meadows and the running of trolls and supernatural forces. It was the pianist’s technical command and unique artistic gift that could bring all of this to life!” Lori Ann Reinhall, the Norwegian American «Oda Voltersvik performs Grieg with Panache», May 2022

“Hats off to Oda Voltersvik for such well-considered programme for her debut recording as a solo pianist (...) a most auspicious start to a recording career“ Martin Anderson, klassiskmusikk.com review on CD “Firebird”, 2019

“Pianist with great sensitivity and lovely tone (...) She has the touch to render the orchestral textures vividly and the technique to tackle the ferociously difficult piano writing with ease” Marios Papadopoulos, director of the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

RECORDINGS

Updated live recordings on webpage (click)

**Solo CD “NEO” released May 2022, Rubicon Classics:
Link to CD and booklet in Dropbox**

**Solo CD “Firebird” released 2019, KNS Classical:
Link to CD in Dropbox**

Also available on: [Spotify](#) [Itunes](#) [GooglePlay](#)

**“Khoreia”: Volt & Potenza duo CD, released April 2016, Velut Luna
Full CD: [Spotify](#), track “Electric prisms” on [Youtube](#)**

Live recordings Volt&Potenza Duo (playlist on youtube)

Volt Ensemble “MiM7- Music in movement 7”: Summary

Volt Classics opening concert: Beau Soir & Fantasy

EXAMPLE RECITAL PROGRAMME NOVEMBER 2023:

Edvard Grieg (1843 - 1905) (27.20´)

EG 106: Agitato

Nordic Folk Tunes & Dances Op.17:

No.12: Solfager and the snake king, No.21: The woman from Setesdal

Norwegian Folk tunes Op.66:

No.17: Lullaby, No.5: It was in my youth

Lyric pieces Op.43: IV. Little Bird & VI. To Spring

Lyric pieces Op.68: IV. Evening in the mountains

Lyric pieces Op.54: III. March of the dwarfs

Peasant Dances Op. 72: VII. Røtnamsknut. Halling

EG.110: Tempest Clouds

Jean Sibelius (1865 - 1957) (13´)

Kylikki, Op.41

I. Largamente - Allegro

II. Andantino

III. Commodo

Atli Heimir Sveinsson (1938 - 2019) (24´)

“Óður steinsins”/“The song of the stone”(1983):

1. Maestoso

4. Amoroso E Cantabile

5. Con Anima (Nocturno)

7. Flebile

8. Appassionato

9. Amoroso

10. Brillante

11. Quietto

12. Excessive Rubato

13. Rigoroso

14. Agitato

17. Irregular Legatissimo

24. Parlando Quasi Violoncello

The programme “Nordic Unrest” (link to poster) include piano works by Edvard Grieg, Jean Sibelius and Atli Heimir Sveinsson. In these pieces the composers aimed to capture either elements within the Nordic nature or reflect tales or characters originating from mythology and folklore. In addition, the programme include pieces reflecting an inner unrest from the characters described or the composers themselves.

CONCERTO PROPOSALS

J. S. Bach (1685 - 1750): Piano concerto in F minor no. 5 in F minor, BWV1056 (10`)
Piano concerto in D minor no.1 in D minor, BWV1052 (22`)

W.A. Mozart (1756-1791) Piano Concerto in D minor K. 466

L.v. Beethoven (1770-1827): Piano Concerto no.4 in G major, Op.58

F. Chopin (1810-1849) Concerto in E minor, Op. 11 (40`)

E. Grieg (1843-1907) Piano Concerto in A minor, Op.16 (29.30`)

S. Prokofiev (1891- 1953): Piano Concerto No.1 in D-flat Major, Op.10 (15.15`)

D. Shostakovich (1906-1975) Piano Concerto No.2 in F Major Op.102 (18.12`)

S. Rachmaninov (1873-1943) Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini, Op.43 (22`)

Béla Bartók (1881-1945): Piano Concerto no.3, Sz. 119 (25`)

FROM REVIEWS & ARTICLES

May 2022, Holly Harris, Winnipegfreepress.com newsletter, online review on "NEO":
"(...) immediately displays her sensitive artistry in Scriabin's Fantasie in B Minor, Op. 28, with expansive sweeps across her keyboard."

"Voltersvik shows a natural affinity for the artist's (Prokofiev's) spiky music (...) performed with crisp attack fuelled by driving ostinato figures. She also demonstrates her ability to turn on a dime to instil more playfulness into several transitional sections that provide welcome sonic relief, with the Andante movement showing her more expressive side."

"Shostakovich's Piano Sonata No. 2 in B minor, Op. 61 further displays her technical prowess, first heard in its opening Allegretto. Its Largo central movement showcases her eloquent phrasing and carefully nuanced tonal palette before leading to its plaintive Moderato con moto."

May 2022, Lori Ann Reinhall, editor-in-chief, the Norwegian American «Oda Voltersvik performs Grieg with Panache»

Excerpts:

«For any Grieg aficionado, the concerto is the "pièce de résistance," and in Northport, Voltersvik proved that she was up to the task (...) from the moment we heard Voltersvik hit the opening keys of the cascading chords of the first movement of the concerto, the audience was awestruck. I felt I could hear and somehow visualize Norway in Voltersvik's interpretation. With each note, it was all there for me: waterfalls rushing down the mountains in the first movement, peaceful green meadows of the slower second movement, the running of trolls and supernatural forces in the third movement. It was the pianist's technical command and unique artistic gift that could bring all of this to life, while Hyman led the musicians in harmony with her skilled and sensitive

interpretation. There were many spellbinding moments to bring the audience to a standing ovation (..) Oda had brought her own ideas to the piece»

September 2022, Trond Erikson, at klassiskcd.blogspot.com on CD «Neo»:

"Oda Voltersvik is a skilled pianist who gives colour the musical landscape. The record "Neo" is a small dive into the Russian/Ukrainian musical sphere with Scriabin, Shostakovich, Gubaidulina and Prokofiev. Here we meet a wide spectrum of exciting music - written in the period 1900-1963 (...)"

"Dmitri Shostakovich is represented with his sonata op.61 from 1943 - and here we plunge straight into the horrors of war - musically speaking. The sonata one of my favourites and Oda Voltersvik makes an excellent presentation of this work."

Oda Voltersvik presents four great works. She is faithful to the composers' intentions and brings out both musical insight and a virtuosity that is excellent. The pianist has definitely made a good selection of music - both in terms of the timeline and a musical diversity within the relatively short period in which the music was written. This is a good recording served by a very good pianist."

January 2023, Ola Nordal in the Norwegian magazine *ballade.no*

Excerpts:

«Oda Voltersvik is one of Norway's many hard-working freelance pianists. She has been house pianist at Trolldhaugen, won a number of competitions and played at several prestigious venues. The big breakthrough may not have come yet, but Neo testifies that she is a musician we want to see more of in the future.

Neo is an independent artistic project in which she asks: what is Russian piano music after Tchaikovsky? And what does she find? Yes, a line from Aleksandr Scriabin, via Sergei Prokofiev and Dmitri Shostakovich to Sofia Gubaidulina.

It is rather rare that Gubaidulina is framed together with these guys, since she is often treated either together with other Eastern European composers from her generation (for example Alfred Schnittke or Arvo Pärt) or other female composers. Voltersvik should therefore be congratulated for having seen a connection that I had previously overlooked.

Because it is Gubaidulina's Chaconne (1962) that is my favorite on the album. This is an intricate work, where the baroque chaconne and fugue meet a modernist tonal language and a suppressed spirituality (the work was written at the height of Soviet atheism). In Voltersvik's hands, Chaconne becomes a sacred, pompous and magnificent work.»

February 2019, Martin Anderson, Review on CD "Firebird" at klassiskmusikk.com:

Excerpts:

"Hats off to Oda Voltersvik for such well-considered programme for her debut recording as a solo pianist: both familiar and unfamiliar names, and unfamiliar music from the familiar names, too - a pity that better-known musicians don't manifest the same degree of imagination in their choice of repertoire. If Voltersvik's selection was also intended to show off her technique, too, it has firmly ticked that box, too: she maintains clarity in the busiest of passages, and also knows how to project the warmth of the bass line without losing its focus - a sign that her feet are as intelligent as her fingers."

“Guido Agosti’s transcription of three dances from The Firebird(...) I wouldn’t be surprised to learn that she uses this piece to bring the house down at her concerts - it’s a cliché to say that all Russian music evokes bells at some point, but Voltersvik really makes the rafters ring in the final Firebird dance.”

«A most auspicious start to a recording career that promises much for the future - and already delivers generously here.»

Review by Des Hutchinson, musicweb-international.com, May 2017

“I felt cosseted and highly entertained in their hands, not only with playing of the surest unison and harmony, but with the palpable joy and fun of their music-making(...) is as close as you’d wish to believe that one mind is controlling four hands. And again, there is an infectious brio and joie de vivre. (...) I would hope and expect to see perhaps a Wigmore Hall engagement in this duo’s future outings, they deserve every success.”

A review of the duo CD by the Italian magazine “Corriere Musicale” (October 14th 2016)

“Giulio Potenza and Oda Voltersvik have a great amalgam, the sound is always defined and mellow, and playing styles are well differentiated between the various periods. The finals are always very light, and the interpretative choices never predictable. There is a nice pearly touch and perfect phrasing of trills that feature in Bach.”

Powderham Castle Series, George Pratt, after recital 10th of June 2016

“She presented the Variations with superb aplomb and a dazzling technique in the more virtuosic movements (...) Oda and Giulio were not only superb technically, as an ensemble, and in their perceptive approach to the music, but most notably in communicating their refreshingly youthful and infectious enthusiasm.”

Glenn Erik Haugland on `Bergens Tidende` (Bergen main newspaper) commenting my performance of Prokofiev 2nd piano Sonata (Bergen, February 2009):

“Oda Voltersvik played Prokofiev with energetic waves as well as treating mechanical figures with interesting sounds in contrast to sudden outbursting accents.”

Finn Totland, Bergen Chamber Music Society, commenting performance at the «Grieg in Bergen Festival», July 2013:

“Don’t miss the eminent and virtuosic performance by the young Ensemble in Korskirken. When they performed the Edvard Grieg’s cello sonata it was truly a revelation of the young and modern Grieg delivered to an audience probably not being aware of how modern Grieg really is- as were understood by Ravel and Debussy.”

Torsdag 15. Februar 2018, Grimstad Adresse Tidende, Dag G. Aasland: “Ildfull klaverkonsert” Grimstad Musikkens Venner:

“(...) I fra en sal mer enn fylt av begeistring lettet hun igjen litt seinere (...) Flygelet og pianisten besto med glans, og vi får bare håpe at Oda Voltersvik igjen kan slå seg ned i denne byen for en liten stund og rive oss ut av døsen.”

Grimstad Adressetidende, Espen Sørensen (Grimstad newspaper on concert 24th of March 2019).

“Brahms piano quartet in c minor offers everything you can wish for; stormfull heights, deep emotional moments and demanding instrumental passages. The Volt Ensemble mastered this fully.”

Torunn Øvsthus, Kabuso, August 2017 on MiM5 - Volt Ensemble:

“Konserten vart motteken med stor entusiasme frå både publikum og arrangørstad og gav oss alle ei framifrå musikalsk oppleving”

Philip Perry, King`s Lynn News, recital “Masters from the East”, Volt&Potenza duo:

“With energy and panache the two pianists captured well the new and characterful spirit which this diverse group of composers injected into the embers of German romanticism, taking what was an already complex harmonic idiom and reinvigorating it, with an originality and echoes of their eastern homelands.”

REFERENCES

Marla Fogderud, President of the Grieg Society of the Dakotas

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Letter of support Dec. 2022:

“In March of 2022 Oda was a guest of the Edvard Grieg of the Dakotas for three concerts (...), all of which were met with the highest possible enthusiasm. Oda Hjertine’s expertly chosen repertoire was presented in such a way that audiences of all ages were drawn into her technical and artistic skills. Dr. Kenneth Boulton, Dean of the School of Fine Arts at Northern State University, (and a fine pianist in his own right) had this to say following her concert at Jewett Hall:

“I found Oda to be a captivating artist and impressive scholar. She has secured an impressive international position as a promoter of solo and collaborative Norwegian piano music. Oda’s humble temperament belies a dynamic technique and passionate approach to her art.”

(...) She has proven herself to be a worthy ambassador of both the music she performs and the country she represents.”

Marios Papadopoulos, music director MBE of the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra:

Email: marios@oxfordphil.com

website: www.oxfordphil.com

“A pianist with great sensitivity and lovely tone” - Recommendation letter 2015

“She has the touch to render the orchestral textures vividly and the technique to tackle the ferociously difficult piano writing with ease” - Rec. letter 2017

Pianist and Professor Gabriele Baldocci, Trinity Laban Conservatory, London

Email: gabrielebaldocci@gabrielebaldocci.com

website: www.gabrielebaldocci.com

“A musician with a wonderful control of the instrument and innate sense of the music.”
Recommendation letter 2015

”Giulio and Oda are two outstanding pianists with a very engaging approach to the instrument. The combination of their different personalities makes their piano duo very special as both characters emerge during their live performances making them unique and memorable. Their debut album reflects the multitude of styles that this Duo is able to tackle with a deep understanding of the text and an engaging rendition of it.”

Recommendation letter Jan 2017

"Volt Ensemble will surely engage a wide range of audiences combining excellent technical skills with a beautiful musical sense" Recommendation 2017

Pianist & Professor Håvard Gimse, Norwegian Academy of Music
h.gimse@gmail.com, website: www.nordicartistsmanagement.com

"Her collaboration with the equally gifted Italian pianist Giulio Potenza makes a very interesting piano duo,- their performances are at a very high level, and I will hereby like to recommend any of their concerts or other artistic initiatives. If their positive development continues, there is a potential of making a highly interesting career as a piano duo ("Volt & Potenza"), in addition to their individual piano careers."
Recommendation letter Oslo, 14/12 2016

Niel Immelman, Piano Professor, Royal College of Music
Website: www.rcm.ac.uk/keyboard/professors, email: niel@immelman.co.uk

"She is an excellent pianist and musician" (teacher during the Master in Performance Degree 2012-2014) - Recommendation letter London, August 2017

President Per Brevig, Musician`s Club of New York, Letter Nov. 6, 2019 (see letter at www.odavoltersvik.com/media)

"Your October 20th performance on the Musicians Club of New York's concert series was a great success by all measures. We were fortunate, indeed, to have a player of your caliber on our series. In addition to your wonderful playing, our audience enjoyed your talking about the music and your own career. In addition, the Edvard Grieg Society of New York has once again brought an extraordinary Scandinavian artist (from Grieg's home town this time!) to the attention of our audience members, playing not only Grieg, but Sibelius, Chopin, Scriabin and Ginestera - all with superb artistry. Thank you from all of us for your artistry and your professionalism. We hope you will keep us informed of your future endeavors and hope you will return to New York many times in the years ahead."

Beryl Foster, chairman of The Grieg Society of Great Britain, recital Nov.3rd. 2019, London:

"(...) It was a great pleasure to hear Oda Voltersvik. Her wide-ranging and expertly performed programme was much admired."

Masterclass 2014 during Oxford International Piano Festival, Menahem Pressler, Chopin Ballade no 2 in F minor, Op.38:

"Either there is a very good pianist or a very good musician, you show you are both here."

Masterclass 2013 during Oxford International Piano Festival, Russel Hirshfield, Prokofiev Concerto no. 1:

"With your performance I really understand why this concerto has to be performed"

March 2017, Sigurd Sandmo, director composers homes Grieg Museum:

"Oda Voltersvik is one of Norway's promising young pianists. She is a professional artist, and it is always a pleasure to work with her."

March 2017, Simon Kirkbride, director Edvard Grieg Kor (EGK):

"Her performances are always original, and bring unique colour and interpretation to her chosen works. EGK would like to recommend her, not only as an artist of the highest level, but also as a trusted and generous colleague."

DETAILED BIOGRAPHY

Oda has performed at venues internationally including Carnegie Weill Recital Hall and Scandinavia House in New York, "Palermo Classica" International Festival, the 1st International Folk Music Festival in Beijing, Hammerklavier Series in Barcelona, Leipzig Town Hall, the Nordic Museum in Seattle (WA, US), the Concordia Piano Festival (MN, US) and the Fringe Edinburgh Festival. Venues in London include Wigmore Hall, St Martin in the Fields, St James' s Piccadilly, Regent Hall, Blackheath Halls, 1901 Arts Club and Charlton House. Concert societies in UK include Powderham Castle 'New Generation Artist Series', the Oban Music Society (Scotland), Fitzwilliam Museum (Cambridge) and Jacqueline du Pré Concert Hall (Oxford).

Her concert engagements in Norway include a solo recital at the Norwegian Opera House (Den Norske Opera og Ballett) in 2020, annual lunchtime concerts for a week at Edvard Grieg's museum in Bergen (2014- 2022) in addition to solo recitals, the Grieg Hall, Oslo University Aula, Stavanger Cathedral, Flekkefjord SPIRA, Lofoten International Chamber Music Festival (outside season), SKUR 2 (Stavanger), Kabuso Concert Hall and concerts at the Grieg in Bergen International Festival with solo and chamber music recitals (since 2010). In addition, she has performed for numerous music societies including Grimstad Music Society and Music at Sandefjord Church (MISK).

She has performed concertos with the Sinfonietta of Athens, the Northport Symphony Orchestra (NY) and the Norwegian-Polish Youth Orchestra. Upcoming performances include the Aberdeen Sinfonietta, Scotland and the Aberdeen Civic/University Symphony Orchestra, South Dakota.

Her solo CD "Firebird" has been released in January 2019 with a great review at klassiskmusikk.com. In April 2016, her debut CD "Khoreia" was released in collaboration with the Italian pianist Giulio Potenza (Volt&Potenza Duo) for the label Velut Luna and received excellent reviews (musicweb-international.com). Her CD "Neo" has been released on the Rubicon Classics label in 2022, with great reviews.

She is a 1st prize winner of the Buono&Bradshaw competition, May 2017. In 2016, Oda was a finalist in the Jaques Samuels Intercollegiate Competition in London, 2016. In 2021- 2022, Oda is a recipient of the honorable work grant for younger and newly established artists in Norway.

Oda is artistic director of "Volt Classics", a concert series held in Bergen where she managed the first season for autumn 2021.

Oda has been the project leader of the Volt Ensemble since 2015, a group of Scandinavian musicians with postgraduate degrees from outstanding universities abroad (Julliard School, Manhattan School of Music, Royal College of Music London). For many of her projects (recordings, solo tours, chamber music tours, concert series) she has been awarded funding by the Norwegian Arts Council, Music Norway, Fund for Norwegian

performing artists, the Bergen Municipality and Fegerstens foundation for Norwegian Artists among others.

She holds a Master in Performance from the Royal College of Music, London (Prof. Niel Immelman & Prof. Andrew Ball) and an Artist Diploma from Trinity Laban Conservatoire for Music and Dance, London (Prof. Gabriele Baldocchi) with distinction from the Intercollegiate Jury. Oda has participated in the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra`s Piano Festival and Summer Academy (2006 - 2014), where she has played for renown musicians such as Menahem Pressler, Marios Papadopoulos, Gary Graffmann and Vladimir Krainev. From 2005 to 2008, Oda was selected for the `Young Musicians Talent Programme` at the Grieg Academy, University of Bergen. From 2009 to 2016, she has taken part in the Jiri Hlinka Grand Piano Academy (Bergen).

Important upcoming events in 2023 include a third solo recital tour in the US and concerts at the “Duettissimo” International Piano Duo Festival in Krakow (Volt&Potenza duo) and Paul Constantinescu Festival (Paul Constantinescu triple concerto and a duo recital).