

VERTAVO QUARTET

Øyvør Volle violin Berit Cardas violin
 Henninge Landaas viola Bjørg Værnes Lewis cello

"In the Grieg Quartet too, the musicians' singing quality and their rhythmic temperament were fascinating. Virtuositically balanced between structural insight and passion, the Vertavo Quartet is a premier address for chamber music."
 Hannover Allgemeine Zeitung

A national treasure of their native Norway, the Vertavo Quartet justly deserves the recognition it claims today. These four friends have performed together since their formation in Oslo in 1984. In June 2005, the Quartet were honoured with the Grieg-Prize 2005; a prize bestowed on an artist of high international standing and of which former recipients include Leif Ove Andsnes, Truls Mørk and the Grieg Trio. In 2009/10 season they celebrate their 25th anniversary.

Their affinity for contemporary music has led them to give commanding performances of works by Ligeti, Adès, Widmann and works by contemporary Nordic composers such as Nørgård, Edlund and Asheim. Collaboration plays an integral role in the Vertavo Quartet's concert life, enriched not least as Artistic Directors of the Elverum Summer Music Festival in Norway where, as elsewhere, they have formed partnerships with Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Paul Lewis, Leif Ove Andsnes, Håkan Hardenberger, Martin Fröst, Sabine Meyer and Isabelle van Keulen.

In 2009/10 the quartet celebrates its' 25th anniversary with a special weekend of concerts hosted in Oslo's impressive Opera House. They perform in Italy, Germany, Holland including Bergamo, Hamburg and give two concerts on a return visit to Amsterdam's Concertgebouw. They return to Manchester to the Royal Northern College of Music's chamber music festival before appearing in Halifax and Darlington chamber music series. Popular favourites in the UK they make a welcome to return to London's Wigmore Hall as also to Japan touring to five major cities including Osaka, Nagoya, Nagasaki and Tokyo.

Over recent seasons the Vertavo Quartet have made their debuts in such prestigious venues as Vienna's Musikverein and New York's Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall. In the USA they have toured both the East and West Coasts.

The Quartet's discography includes Nielsen, Schumann, Brahms, Grieg, Debussy, "Les Vendredis" (Russian vignettes of the turn of the 20th century), all for SIMAX Classics, as well as the Mozart and Brahms clarinet quintets with Martin Fröst for BIS Records. Their Debussy and Grieg quartets received the Diapason d'Or and was highly praised by Gramophone magazine: *"Captivating performances which get right to the heart of these intensely emotional works - Not to be missed."* Their recording of the complete Bartók Quartets, released in November 2001 was recognised by the BBC Music Magazine as its "Recording of the Month" in May 2002.

Their most recent SIMAX release is of works by Niels Asheim all written for the Quartet, to be followed by their first recording of Beethoven's late quartets.