



TRIO CON BRIO COPENHAGEN

“Glowing reports hold true. The Trio con Brio Copenhagen clearly occupies a lofty perch in today’s musical scene.” - Washington Post.

Founded in Vienna in 1999 with the concept of pairs coming together, the two Korean sisters and Soo-Kyung and Jens (who are now married) have since then been exploring the piano trio repertoire with freshness and curiosity as well as with respect and reflection. In particular they have been gaining a reputation for the freshness of their approach to the core repertoire: “works by Beethoven, Schubert and Brahms are transformed in their hands into the alive-and-kicking music of today” –Esben Tange, editor at DR P2.

Trio con Brio Copenhagen is in great international demand and has an intensive worldwide touring schedule. Appearances this season and next include Washington DC, San Francisco, Seoul, Wigmore Hall (London), Auditorium du Louvre (Paris), Hamburg, Schwetzingen Festspiele, Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and the Trondheim Festival in Norway, among many other cities. In recent years, Trio con Brio Copenhagen has appeared in major concert halls in Europe, the USA and Asia, such as Tivoli Concert Hall, the Concertgebouw, Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Konzerthaus Berlin, the Seoul Arts Center, Bunka Kaikan Tokyo, and Teatro Olimpico Vicenza.

Trio has won many international competitions, including the ARD (Munich), Vittorio Gui (Florence) and Norway's Trondheim Competition. In January 2015 the trio were the first ensemble to receive one of Denmark's most prestigious music awards, the “P2 Artists Prize,” at a live televised concert where they performed Beethovens' Triple Concerto with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra. Other major awards received include the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson International Trio Award (USA) and the Allianz Prize in Germany’s Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Trio con Brio Copenhagen plays a central role in Scandinavia's vibrant contemporary music scene. Several of Denmark's most prominent

composers such as Per Nørgård and Bent Sørensen, as well as Swedish composer Sven David Sandström, have composed and dedicated works to the trio, and their CD "Phantasmagoria" of Danish contemporary music received rave reviews. The trio was greatly honored to be chosen by Per Nørgård as the dedicatee of a work that they premiered at a festival in Stockholm celebrating his 80th birthday in 2012. In January 2016 Trio con Brio Copenhagen gives the world premiere of Bent Sørensen's Triple Concerto with the Danish National Orchestra.

The trio's début CD was unanimously praised by critics. American Record Guide wrote: "One of the greatest performances of chamber music I've ever encountered . . .". Gramophone Magazine wrote: "the performances can compete with the best available . . . airtight ensemble . . . a superb, greatly gifted chamber group." Their just-released CD of trios by Tchaikovsky and Smetana was hailed by The Guardian (UK) as "sparkling and heartfelt . . . Trio con Brio Copenhagen scale [the Tchaikovsky's] heights with the verve their name suggests."

Trio con Brio Copenhagen is frequently featured as soloists in Beethoven's Triple Concerto with orchestras. In 2011 the trio premiered a new Triple Concerto by the renowned Swedish composer Sven-David Sandström with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra and Kristjan Järvi in Copenhagen's Koncerthuset. The following year, they were invited to perform the Triple Concerto with the Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra for Sandström's 70th birthday concert in the Stockholm Konserthus.

The trio's sound benefits from the superb instruments all three play: Soo-Jin plays a violin built by Andrea Guarneri from the 17th century, Soo-Kyung plays a Grancino cello, and Jens is Denmark's first Steinway Artist. Both string players are endorsed by Jagar Strings and Thomastik-Infeld, Vienna. The trio was coached by the Alban Berg Quartet, Frans Helmerson, Mihaela Martin and Harald Schoneweg at the Cologne University of Music and received excellent musical guidance by Ferenc Rados in Budapest.

The trio members are the founders and artistic directors of the Copenhagen Chamber Music Festival, which was launched with great success in 2011.

More information is available on Trio con Brio Copenhagen's website:

www.trioconbrio.dk

Soo-Jin Hong won the Grand Prix in the Seoul Young Artists Music Competition and 2nd prize in the International Violin Competition in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

She has performed as a soloist with the Moscow Symphony Orchestra (Grand Hall of the Moscow Conservatory), the Russian Philharmonic Orchestra, KBS (Korean Broadcasting System) Orchestra, and the Copenhagen Philharmonic Orchestra. In September 2008 Soo-Jin performed as soloist in the violin concerto by Tchaikovsky with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra where she received rave reviews, including one in the major Danish newspaper, "Politiken", which headlined the review: "With Tchaikovsky's beloved violin concerto in her hands, Soo-Jin Hong kept the audience spellbound with her fabulous technique, sound and musicality." In 2012 Soo-Jin will perform as soloist in Bach's Double Concerto with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra in Copenhagen.

Soo-Jin was born in Seoul in 1977 and started to play violin at the age of 5. She moved to Vienna in 1991 to study with Dora Schwarzberg and after 8 years she moved to Cologne to continue her studies with the Alban Berg Quartett and Mihaela Martin. At present she lives in Copenhagen, and performs numerous solo and trio concerts in Europe, Asia and the USA. Soo-Jin plays a violin built by Andrea Guarneri from the 17th century.

Soo-Kyung Hong has won many top prizes in international competitions, including 1st Prize in the International Johannes Brahms Competition in Austria, the Casals Prize in the International Rostropovich Cello Competition in Paris, 2nd Prize in the International Cello Competition in Liezen, Austria, and 2nd Prize in the Prix Mercure Competition in Vienna. Soo-Kyung has appeared in the Pablo Casals Festival in Prades, the Festival d'Ile de France in Paris, the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festival in Germany, the Schubert- and Mozart-Saal in Konzerthaus Vienna, and the Seoul Arts Center and KBS Concert Hall in Korea. She has performed as soloist with the Munich

Chamber Orchestra, the Vienna Jeunesse Orchestra, the Royal Danish Orchestra, Russian Philharmonic Orchestra, Copenhagen Philharmonic Orchestra, Korean Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra, and the Janacek Chamber Orchestra. In November 2008, she was the soloist in Elgar's Cello Concerto with the Aalborg Symphony Orchestra in Denmark.

Soo-Kyung was born in Seoul in 1977 and studied with Angelica May in the Vienna Musikhochschule, and with Frans Helmerson and the Alban Berg Quartett in the Cologne Musikhochschule. She has participated in master classes with Mstislav Rostropovich, Janos Starker, Ralph Kirschbaum, and Steven Isserlis, among others.

Soo-Kyung plays a Giovanni Grancino cello from 1672.

Jens Elvekjaer has established himself as one of the leading Scandinavian pianists. Denmark's first and only Steinway Artist, he has performed as soloist with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra, the Leipzig Chamber Orchestra, the Aarhus Symphony Orchestra, and the Aalborg Symphony Orchestra. In 2012 he will be soloist with the Copenhagen Philharmonic, the Danish National Symphony and the Tivoli Symphony Orchestra.

Jens made his U.S. recital debut on Washington D.C.'s distinguished Dumbarton Oaks series in 2009, and returned to D.C. to play a solo recital at the National Gallery later that year. His numerous solo appearances in Europe and Asia include the Vienna Festwochen, Amsterdam's Beurs van Berlage, the Giresta Piano Festival in Uppsala, Sweden; the Royal Library in Copenhagen, the Usedom Music Festival in Germany, the Roskilde Schubertiade the Scandinavian Piano Festival of Danish Radio, and Tokyo's Musashino Hall. He has been invited to such prestigious festivals such as the Pablo Casals Festival in Prades, France; the Bergen Festival, Norway; the Umeå Festival, Sweden; and the Kuhmo and Korsholm Chamber Music Festivals in Finland.

Jens was born in Copenhagen and studied with K. H. Kämmerling in Salzburg, Leonid Brumberg in Vienna, Ferenc Radosc in Budapest, and the Alban Berg Quartett in Cologne. His debut solo CD of works by Ravel, Debussy, and Franck was nominated for two Danish Music Awards. His

latest release is a CD of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 and Triple Concerto (with Trio con Brio Copenhagen).

Dansk biografi:

"Glødende rapporter taler sandt. Trio con Brio Copenhagen har en høj profil på nutidens musikscene" - Washington Post

Dannet i 1999 efter konceptet at par mødes, har de to koreanske søstre sammen med pianisten Jens Elvekjær (som siden er blevet gift med Soo-Kyung) udforsket klavertrioepertoiret med såvel friskhed og nysgerrighed som respekt og eftertanke. De er især blevet rost for deres tilgang til kernerepertoiret: "Værker af Beethoven, Schubert og Brahms bliver i deres hænder omdannet til levende musik i vor tid" - Esben Tange, DR P2
Trio con Brio er meget efterspurgt internationalt og har en tæt, verdensomspændende turnékalender. Koncerter i denne og kommende sæson omfatter Washington DC, San Francisco, Seoul, Wigmore Hall, London, Auditorium du Louvre, Paris, Hamburg, Schwetzingen Festspiele, Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Trondheim Kammermusikfestival, Norge, samt utallige danske festivaler. I de senere år har Trio con Brio Copenhagen givet koncerter i store prestigefulde koncertsale verden over som Concertgebouw, Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, Kozerthaus Berlin, Seoul Arts Center, Bunka Kaikan Tokyo, Teatro Olimpico Vicenza og Tivolis Koncertsal.

Trioen har vundet mange internationale konkurrencer, bl.a. ARD, München, Vittorio Gui, Firenze og Kammermusikkonkurrencen i Trondheim. I 2015 modtog trio P2's Kunstnerpris, som det første ensemble nogensinde, ved en koncert i Koncerthuset, hvor de spillede Beethovens Tripelkoncert med DR Symfoniorkestret. Andre store priser omfatter Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson International Trio Award og Allianz Prize ved festspillene i Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Trio con Brio Copenhagen spiller en central rolle på Skandinaviens nutidige

musikscene. Adskillige af Danmarks mest fremtrædende komponister som Per Nørgård og Bent Sørensen, samt den svenske komponist Sven David Sandström, har komponeret og dedikeret værker til trioen, og deres CD "Phantasmagoria" med danske nutidige værker, er blevet modtaget med blændende anmeldelser. Trioen blev meget beæret over at Per Nørgård i 2012 dedikerede et værk til dem i anledning af komponistens 80-års fødselsdag. Værket blev uropført ved en festival i Stockholm Konserthus. I januar 2016 uropfører trioens Bent Sørensens Trippelkoncert med DR Symfoniorkestret.

Trioens debut-cd modtog lutter rosede ord af anmelderne. American Record Guide skrev: "En af de største fremførelser af kammermusik som jeg har oplevet". Gramophone: "Opførelserne kan konkurrere med de absolut bedste...et lufttæt ensemble...et super, meget talentfuldt ensemble". Den nyligt udgivne cd med trioer af Tchaikovsky og Smetana blev rost af The Guardian som "glitrende og inderlig...Trio con Brio Copenhagen når Tchaikovskys højder, med det liv som navnet på trioens tilsiger".

Trio con Brio Copenhagen optræder jævnligt som solister i Beethovens Trippelkoncert, og i indeværende sæson opfører de værket med Malmö Symfoniorkester.

Trioens exceptionelle klang nyder godt af de fine instrumenter, de spiller på: Soo-Jin spiller på en Guarneri violin, Soo-Kyung på en Grancino cello og Jens Elvekjær er Danmarks første Steinway Artist. Begge strygere bliver støttet af Jargar Strings og Thomastik-Infeld, Wien.

Trioens har modtaget coaching og undervisning af Alban Berg Quartet, Frans Helmerson, Mihaela Martin og Harald Schoneweg ved Köln Universitet og har modtaget fremragende musikalsk inspiration fra Ferenc Rados i Budapest.

Trioens medlemmer er kunstneriske ledere af den succesfulde Copenhagen Chamber Music Festival, som løb af stablen første gang i 2011.