

Biography

As one of the leading Scandinavian pianists, the award-winning pianist and composer *Niklas Sivelöv* has taken his career to new international heights with an extensive catalogue of recordings for such labels as BIS, Caprice, Dacapo, Naxos, Toccata Classics and AMC Classical, some of which have been awarded the Diapason d'or, CHOK and the Penguin Rosette. His concert career spans four continents, including venues such as the Leipzig Gewandhaus, the Barbican, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Tivoli Copenhagen and the Atheneum in Bucharest.

He has won critical acclaim and enchanted audiences for his artistic temperament, impeccable technique and spellbinding stage presence.

His wide-ranging concert repertoire covers Bach to Skryabin, Scandinavian composers and beyond, and includes approximately 50 piano concerti including six of his own. As a composer of note, his catalogue of works includes six Symphonies, 24 Preludes for piano and several chamber music pieces.

Niklas Sivelöv is also a notable improviser, with several successful recordings and collaborations: the CD *Improvisational 1* was a sensational success at *The Independent Music Awards*, where he was the first Scandinavian to win the prize for the best classical album and was given the People's Choice Award.

The leading orchestras with which *Niklas Sivelöv* has performed include the Stockholm Philharmonic, Zürich Tonhalle, Suisse Romande (Geneva) and Prague Radio Symphony under the baton of many distinguished conductors, among them Alan Gilbert, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Kristjan Järvi, Sakari Oramo, Mario Venzago, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Grzegorz Nowak, Janos Fürst and Leif Segerstam. The instrumentalists with whom he has performed include the Swedish clarinetist Martin Fröst, cellist Leonid Gorokhov, flautist Patrick Gallois and violinist Zakhar Bron.

Niklas Sivelöv grew up in Skellefteå in northern Sweden, where he began playing the organ as a six-year-old; his first compositions followed soon after. He played by ear until he was 14, when he began traditional piano instruction and learned to read music. He studied with, among others, Gabriel Amiras and Maria Curcio Diamond, students of the famed Heinrich Neuhaus and Artur Schnabel.

He lives in Malmö and is professor at the Royal Danish Music Academy in Copenhagen. His book on the art of piano-playing, distilled from a lifetime of performance and study, was published in 2018. He was recently knighted by the Queen of Denmark as Knight of the Order of Dannebrog.