Norwegian Academy of Music
31 March - 4 April
Playing together

We wish you a warm welcome to Norway at the time where «King winter» is loosening his grip and the light of spring is emerging. Given the possibility to shed light on the noblest of arts; the art of making chamber music, we all look forward to indulging in the wonderful world of playing together, to the attentive listening, awareness and vigilance that real chamber music requires.

We wish for the musicians to share intense and challenging musical moments with each other and the listeners, and even more, we look forward to moments of joy and playfulness. The playground is yours.

Hilde Ringlund - Deputy Principal

Finding meaning behind the music

During this year’s gathering in Oslo, we wish to approach music and its meaning from several different angles: As a language rich in symbols, as natural sounds, as an art of rhetoric, and as choreographed dance.

It is fascinating to contemplate how closely woven the art forms of music and dance were in the seventeen and eighteen hundreds. Lead by our dance instructor Elizabeth Svarstad and accompanied by our professor of fortepiano Liv Glaser, ECMA participants may experience the liberating qualities of Rococo dance.

Are Sandbakken - Artistic director Oslo session

Opening Concert

Thursday 31 March 7:30 pm
Lindemansalen

Alexander Zemlinsky (1871-1942):
String Quartet No 2, Op. 15
1. Sehr mässig – Heftig und leidenschaftlig
2. Moderato – Andante mosso – Allegretto – Adagio
3. Schnell
4. Andante – Mit energischer Entschlossenheit – Allegro molto
   – Langsam – Andante

Hanson Quartet

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827):
String Quartet No 8 in e minor, Op. 59, No 2
1. Allegro
2. Molto adagio
3. Allegretto – Maggiore (Thème russe)
4. Finale: Presto

Quatuor Akilone
Concert
Saturday 2 April 6:00 pm
Levinsalen

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809):
String Quartet in D major, Op. 76 No 5, Hob. III, No 79
1. Allegretto – Allegro
2. Largo: Cantabile e mesto
3. Menuetto: Allegro
4. Finale: Presto

Equalis Quartet

Bela Bartok (1881-1945):
String Quartet No 2, Op. 17, (SZ 67)
1. Moderato
2. Allegro molto capriccioso
3. Lento

Tchalik Quartet

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Johannes Brahms (1833-1897):
Piano Trio No 3 in c minor, Op. 101
1. Allegro energico
2. Presto non assai
3. Andante grazioso
4. Allegro molto

Trio Arte
A chamber group from the Norwegian Academy of Music

Final Concert
Monday 4 April 7:30 pm
Levinsalen

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827):
String Quartet No 11 in f minor, Op. 95
1. Allegro con brio
2. Allegretto ma non troppo
3. Allegro assai vivace ma serioso
4. Larghetto – Allegretto agitato

Orbis Quartet

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975):
String Quartet No 7 in f sharp minor, Op. 108
1. Allegro
2. Lento
3. Allegro

Parlando Quartet
A chamber group from the Norwegian Academy of Music

György Ligeti (1923-2006):
6 Bagatelles
1. Allegro con spirito
2. Rubato. Lento
3. Allegro grazioso
4. Presto ruvido
5. Adagio. Mesto
6. Molto vivace. Capriccioso

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975):
2 Pieces for String Quartet
1. Elegie
2. Polka

Sonus Saxophonequartet
Lectures

Friday 1 April 3:00pm
Levinsalen

Lecture: Is there Meaning in Music?
Morten Carlsen

Saturday 2 April 3:00pm
Levinsalen

Workshop: Classical Rococo Dances
Lecture and dance class for the ECMA ensembles
Elizabeth Svarstad and Liv Glaser (hammer piano)

Sunday 3 April 3:00pm
Levinsalen

Lecture: Metre and Musical meaning
Lasse Thoresen (composer)

Monday 4 April 3:00pm
Levinsalen

Lecture: Rhetoric in music and the musical discourse
Johannes Meissl

Masterclasses

Experience the Masters at Work

Masterclasses with the ECMA ensembles are held every day (Thursday - Monday) from about 9:30am till the afternoon.

Johannes Meissl, Patrick Jüdt, og Are Sandbakken, Wolfgang Plagge og Morten Carlsen will be giving masterclasses.

Details and schedule are available at the Academy.

Open to the public.
Are Sandbakken studied with Leif Jørgensen in Oslo and Sándor Vegh in Salzburg. For several years he played principal viola with Camerata Academica Salzburg and The Norwegian Chamber Orchestra. From 1995 to 2002 he was principal viola of the Oslo Philharmonic under Mariss Jansons. He performed as soloist with this orchestra on numerous occasions, as well as with other Nordic orchestras. Since 2003 he has been professor of chamber music at the Norwegian Academy of Music.

In 1991 Sandbakken was among the founding members of the Oslo String Quartet, which today is regarded as one of the most outstanding and innovative string quartets in northern Europe. The quartet performs regularly at leading European festivals and their recordings of Scandinavian repertoire (Grieg, Sibelius, Stenhammar and contemporary works) for the labels Naxos and CPO have received outstanding reviews in the international press. The quartet’s recordings of the Nielsen string quartets were Editors Choice in Gramophone magazine in 1999.

Oslo String Quartet is especially dedicated to alternative concert forms. Their children’s concerts, where Are Sandbakken has also performed as a singer and actor, have become very popular. In 2006 the quartet celebrated its 15th anniversary with performances of the complete Beethoven string quartets in a series entitled The Beethoven Code. Are Sandbakken plays a viola by Mattio Goffriller of 1729, on loan from Dextra Musica.
Johannes Meissl

Johannes Meissl is professor for string chamber music and vice director of the Joseph Haydn Institut for Chamber Music at Vienna’s University of Music and Performing Arts. Artistic director of isa (International Summer Academy Prague-Vienna-Budapest), he also gives masterclasses at numerous renowned schools and summer academies such as CNSM Paris, Guildhall School of Music and Drama London, Tokyo Geidai and Casals Festival Prades, to name a few.

Born in Austria, J. Meissl studied at A. Bruckner-Conservatory Linz (violin and composition) and at the Academy of Music in Vienna with W. Schneiderhan and G. Hetzel and got strong artistic impulses by Hatto Beyerle. He graduated with distinction and special award. In 1982 he joined the Artis Quartet. As a member of this ensemble he took the opportunity for further studies with the LaSalle Quartet in the USA. After several prizes at international competitions the quartet became a regular at the world’s most important music centres and festivals from New York to Tokyo. Numerous prizes for more than 30 recordings (such as Grand Prix du Disque, Diapason d’Or; Deutscher Schallplattenpreis Echo etc.), and the «Artis series» at the Gesellschaft d. Musilfreunde in Vienna, now running its 19th season, also prove the international position of the quartet.

Beside the quartet work J. Meissl appears in recitals and as a soloist and at numerous chamber music festivals.

J. Meissl is co-initiator of numerous international projects in the field of chamber music and shares with Hatto Beyerle the function of artistic director of ECMA.

Having done regular coaching with several orchestras and youth orchestras for many years he has recently successfully taken up conducting.

Morten Carlsen

Morten Carlsen teaches viola and related subjects (also violin) at the Norwegian Academy of Music, which he has been doing since 1989. He is a regular visiting teacher at the University of Music in Vienna, where he studied, and the Paris Conservatoire.

His career as performer involved orchestral positions, top-level chamber music and solo performances and recordings. Carlsen is fascinated also by the more philosophic aspects of teaching and performing and has written smaller articles, and lectured on subjects such as instrumental practice, performer history and talent education.

A collection of his advanced exercises for violin/viola, Vademecum, has been published. He contributes to the anthology Philosophy of Music Education challenged: Heideggerian Inspirations, Springer 2014 with an article called «Practice as Self-Exploration».

Morten Carlsen has a soloist diploma from the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst, Vienna

Professional experience:
- Similar position in the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra 1988-94.
- Engagements as principal viola in the orchestra of the Norwegian Opera and the Norwegian Broadcasting (KORK).

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Wolfgang Plagge
Piano/Composer

Wolfgang Plagge showed an early interest in classical music, playing the piano and composing from the age of four. At the age of ten he won an international talent competition on British television. He completed his studies at the Hochschule für Musik in Hamburg.

Wolfgang Plagge is active as a performer all over the world and is a sought-after chamber musician. He has performed as soloist with numerous orchestras and collaborated with many prominent musicians.

His first compositions were published when he was 12. Since then he has developed into a mature, original and versatile creative artist with a considerable body of work behind him. His work includes liturgical music, symphonies, chamber music, music for solo piano, and several works for woodwind and brass chamber music ensembles.

He has long had a love of the ancient music of Northern Europe, and many of his works have grown out of his researches into early medieval Norwegian music.

Ever since his student days, the phenomenon of time has been an important component of his music: observations on and studies of the course of time, manipulation of the sense of time and the use of time as a formal element are essential factors in his creative process.

Wolfgang Plagge’s music is performed by musicians, ensembles and orchestras all over the world, and his reputation as a composer is steadily growing.

Patrick Jüdt
Viola

Professor Patrick Jüdt studied in Hannover University of Music and Drama as well as in Basel Academy of Music, with Professor Hatto Beyerle.

He is a member of Collegium Novum Zürich.

He is active on an international scale as a soloist and chamber musician and engaged in the area of contemporary music. Since 2006 he is closely cooperation with Ensemble Modern Frankfurt.

Patrick Jüdt is professor of the viola, chamber music and contemporary music in Bern University of Arts.
Equalis Quartet

Remigiusz Gaczynski – Violine
Mátyás András – Violine
Daria Ujejska – Bratsche
Dorottya Standi – Cello

The polish-hungarian quartet was established in the beginning of 2014 in Graz. The name «Equalis» (equal) symbolises the equality of the musicians nationality and gender, furthermore the importance of each instrument. They study in Graz at the Kunstuniversität in the class of Stephan Goerner and Julian Arp. They worked on masterclasses and workshops with Judit Szabó, Eberhard Feltz, Rudolf Leopold, Chia Chou, Hatto Beyerle and with the Artis Quartett. In the last years the members awarded in number of international competitions, in February 2015 they achieved semifinal on international competition «Schubert und die Musik der Moderne» in Graz. Since 2015 May they praticipate on the masterclasses of ECMA as Aspirants. Their repertoire include Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, Dvorak, Szymanowski, Schnyder, Kurtág and others.
Thanks to its noteworthy and exceptional stage presence, Quatuor Hanson won the 3rd Prize and Audience Prize at the 11th International Competition for String Quartet in Lyon in April 2015. The quartet was also awarded a scholarship (Bourse de l’Académie des Beaux Arts) at the 2014 edition of the European music ensemble competition run by FNAPEC. Since 2015, the four musicians have been in residence at the Fondation Singer-Polignac. Having now graduated from the Conservatoire Supérieur de Paris, this French string quartet receives regular coaching from Hatto Beyerle, Johannes Meissl, and the Ebène Quartet.

Quatuor Hanson’s members invest a great deal of effort into researching and understanding the musical language. And thanks to their perfect knowledge of the musical repertoire that historically underpins the string quartet genre, especially that of Joseph Haydn, Quatuor Hanson have come to strongly identify with a type of discourse where intelligence and a touch of humour flavour the delicacy and the sensitivity of its interpretation.

The ensemble has performed in most large halls in France, including the Auditorium de la Maison de la Radio in Paris, the Opéra de Lyon, Salle Cortot, and Cité de la Musique, and is regularly invited to play throughout Europe (Germany, Norway, England, Austria, Italy, Switzerland).

Founded in March 2014, the four young musicians of the ORBIS Quartett began working with their first mentor, Professor Friedemann Weigle of the Artemis Quartett. Weigle took them under his wing and showed them the fundamental techniques to develop a professional quartet. Within a few months, in September 2014, the ensemble presented themselves at the Johannes Brahms international competition in Pörtschach (Austria), winning second prize in the category of Chamber Music.

Since October 2014, the quartet has been studying for a Master’s degree with professor Rainer Schmidt (Hagen Quartett) at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. And, from May 2015, the four are aspiring members of the European Chamber Music Academy (ECMA) in Vienna, which was founded by Hatto Beyerle (Alban Berg Quartett).

In September 2015 the ensemble won first prize and also the special prize of the city of Kraków at the international Beethoven chamber music competition in Poland in the category of String Quartet.

ORBIS love to learn pieces by heart, to the extent they often play without looking at the score. This frees the musicians to project the music outwards and enthuse people of all ages and social classes about classical music - including those who would otherwise not come across such music. The quartet wants to play not only in concert halls but also in bars, clubs, in the street and even in public transport stations. Not limited to purely classical music, they include arrangements from jazz and pop to free improvisations in their repertoire.

What does «ORBIS» mean? Referring to the world-embracing dimension of music and in commemoration of Prof. Friedemann Weigle the latin-style name «ORBIS Quartett» was created.
Quatuor Akilone 

Emeline Concé – Violin I  
Elise De-Bendelac – Violin II  
Louise Desjardins – Viola  
Lucie Mercat – Cello

Quatuor Akilone blossomed out of the meeting of four musicians whose personalities are both eclectic and sparkling. It was founded in 2011 at the CNSM of Paris. Inspired from the Italian word «aquilone» (the kite), its name recalls a bridge between sky and earth, a shared pleasure, and a beautiful imaginary and colorful flight. It symbolizes also a desire to create a connection between the different arts and artists.

The quartet is regularly invited in several festivals. Next to those programming, it is through the universe of live shows that is designed their projects. Coming from that is the show Aventures Surréalistes, created in April 2014, uniting the theater and the graphic arts around the quartet, who evolves alone on stage with the narrator.

They are lucky to be able to take advices from well-known musicians, such as Hatto Beyerle, Johannes Meissl, Miguel Da Silva or the Ebène and Debussy Quartets. The Akilone quartet is member of the European Chamber Music Academy since 2013.

The Sonus Saxophonequartet re-freshes classical music with youthful energy, the courage to blaze new trails, virtuosity and great joy of playing. Their repertoire includes innovative arrangements of works by Bach, Grieg, Gershwin up to original, contemporary compositions. The four young musicians live and study together in Vienna at the University of Music and performing Arts and Kunst Privatuniversität. They get additional artistic impulses from working with Marialena Fernandezes and Leonhard Paul.

As an ensemble they have been awarded with 1st prizes in international chamber music competitions in France, Austria and Slovenia (e.g International Chamber Music Competition Illzach, International Chamber Music Competition Sirel, Windisch Kammermusik Preis, Musica Juventutis)

As part of their concert activities they played in renowned concert halls like Musikverein Wien, Konzerthaus Wien, Volkstheater Wien, Brucknerhaus Linz and Philharmonija Ljubljana.

Their recordings got broadcasted on the Austrian national radio Ö1, Klassikradio Germany and the Slovenian national radio. In 2015 they got nominated for the European Chamber Music Academy (ECMA).
The Tchalik Quartet gave its first concert in 2013. It is made up of brothers and sisters Gabriel, Louise, Sarah and Marc. Steeped in music from the cradle in a family where music holds an important place, they played together from an early age. Since 2013, they play in France and in Russia, for instance in Rouen’s Musée des Beaux-Arts, in Saint-Petersburg’s White Hall of the Polytechnic Institut or during the Festival «Classic in Kuskovo» in Moscow. In 2015, the Quartet was selected to the prestigious McGill String Quartet Academy (MISQA) in Montreal and the Académie de Musique de chambre de Villecroze.

In 2016, the Tchalik Quartet will take part in several masterclasses including those of ProQuartet and ECMA, and is invited by Günter Pichler at the Siena Accademia Chigiana. Besides, the Quartet will play at the Festival Rencontres Musicales de Seine-et-Marne and at the Steirisches Kammermusik Festival.

The Tchalik Quartet receives the invaluable teaching and support of such musicians as Yovan Markovitch, Vladimir Bukač, Johannes Meissl, Jan Talich and Macha Yanouchevsky. In 2013, the Quartet took part in the Chamber Music for Europe programme with Guy Danel, Vaclav Remes and Josef Kušon, and in the Pablo Casals Festival Academy. In 2014, the Quartet received a scholarship to participate at the Franco-Czech Academy in Telč and at the International Summer Academy (ISA) in Austria.

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The Tchalik Quartet plays also Quintet concerts with Danià Tchalik, who then joins his brothers and sisters.

From 2016, the Quartet will be supported by the Safran Foundation.
ECMA has a vision: The «ECMA-spirit», with its approach to music and music-making, ought to become a «matter of course» for musicians and audiences alike. By constantly re-evaluating the treasures of our cultural heritage and developing new creative potentials in interpretation based on research into the philosophy and musical language of the 17th and 18th centuries, ECMA seeks to contribute to a society and future that are worth living in.

ECMA was founded in 2004 at the initiative of Hatto Beyerle. It is an association of European music universities, conservatoires and festivals in the field of chamber music that, together, provide ongoing training for chamber music ensembles. Within this program, the partner institutions host regular sessions (lasting one week each; seven or more weeks per year). Renowned tutors work intensively with the ensembles, imparting to them new impulses for their artistic work. The young musicians will receive additional impulses from lectures and focused workshops on topics including cultural history, historically informed performance, and philosophy. In addition to helping participants explore the importance and impact of cultural knowledge such as rhetoric and Greek verse in order to gain a more profound understanding of European music, ECMA also collaborates with academic partners on research projects in various fields. And of course, ECMA also works to develop new networks by bringing together people from different backgrounds and cultures.

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The Norwegian Academy of Music, based in Oslo, offers the highest level of education for performers and composers, pedagogues and music therapists and is an artistic and creative centre providing research within various fields of music.

We offers high quality courses at all levels - undergraduate and postgraduate courses, Ph.D and artistic research.

We have 600 students and a permanent staff of 130 teachers, both academic and artistic, and a number of auxiliary part-time teachers.

The Academy is Oslo’s biggest concert producer presenting approximately 400 concerts a year.
nmh.no
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