

Christian Wallumrød (1971)

acoustic and electronic keyboards / composer

Christian Wallumrød has worked as a musician and composer since 1992, and he is considered one of the most prominent musicians of the younger Norwegian generation.

He made his debut on ECM Records with the album "No Birch" (issued in 1996) to considerable critical acclaim. The album "Sofienberg Variations" with a new ensemble (Christian Wallumrød Ensemble: with Nils Økland, Arve Henriksen and Per Oddvar Johansen) was released on ECM in 2003. Wallumrød's third album "A Year From Easter", with the same ensemble, was released in spring 2005 on the German record label. An extended version of his acoustic ensemble (sextet with long time partners Henriksen and Johansen in addition to Gjermund Larsen on violins, Tanja Orning on cello and Giovanna Pessi on baroque harp) played Wallumrød's compositions on the album "The Zoo Is Far" (ECM, 2007). In 2008 the trumpeter Eivind Lønning replaced Arve Henriksen in the sextet version of CWE, and the ensemble recorded and released the album "Fabula Suite Lugano" in 2009. The record was nominated for the Nordic Musicprice 2010. Since 2002 the Christian Wallumrød Ensemble has regularly toured and played festivals in Norway, Scandinavia, Europe and the US.

In addition to composing and performing with his ensemble, Wallumrød is also part of the quartet Dans Les Arbres, with fellow Norwegians Ivar Grydeland (guitars / banjo) and Ingar Zach (percussion / grand cassa) and French clarinet player Xavier Charles. The group was formed in 2006 and works solely with acoustic and improvised music. The first Dans Les Arbres album was released on ECM Records in spring 2008.

Wallumrød has had long term collaborations with a.o. singer Sidsel Endresen (w/ Merriwinkle and w/ Jan Bang) and drummer Audun Kleive (with his Generator X), resulting in various recordings (Jazzland Records). He has also recorded several albums on Norwegian labels, a.o. with the trio Close Erase.

Wallumrød has generally focused on small and fixed ensembles, both as a performer and a composer. Over the years he has also done several solo performances and participated in various ad hoc constellations within the field of improvised music. Since the beginning of the 90's he has toured, played festivals and made broadcasting recordings in Norway and Scandinavia, Finland, Germany, UK, Ireland, France, Switzerland, Austria, Czeck Rep., Hungary, Estonia, Slovenia, Italy, China, Canada and the US.

At the Ultima Festival for Contemporary Music 2000 (Oslo) he participated as an improvising soloist on Fender Rhodes (el-piano) on Eivind Buene's (N) „Objects of Desire" with Oslo Sinfonietta, conducted by Christian Eggen.

For more information please see also: www.christianwallumrod.com

