

LEIF OVE ANDSNES SIBELIUS

SONY RELEASE September 2017



"Andsnes is on a mission to bring the best of them out of the shadows ... His advocacy is strong and pitched just right, and I've been won over willingly and rather unexpectedly, perhaps because like most people I tend to accept received ideas too unquestioningly. Sibelius was a giant and all the tracks here contribute to our knowledge of him .. Make your discoveries, and at first perhaps do not expect too much; the recital builds. The surfaces of the pieces may be apparently simple but they can turn into something surprising and characteristic thanks to **a sensibility that is interesting and rich ... in the context of this recital, arranged chronologically, Andsnes makes an ideal case for its unorthodoxy and private world.**"

[Editor's Choice, Gramophone](#) - November 2017

"Cultured and committed, knowing what to showcase and when to prune, careful to weight, balance and colour, pursuing beauty and tone, mindful of chamber pointing and quasi orchestral texturing, Leif Ove Andsnes has come up with **a milestone recording of poetic address** ... Here is no album of duty, no dusting off of faded Breitkopf or Hansen pages, but **a voyage of intimate personal belief and dedication ... The experience is revealing, rewarding, cathartic.**"

classicalsource.com - 3 November 2017

"... Predictably it has a magic of its own which Andsnes casts equally, with his pure-source sound and range of colours, over early, middle and late Sibelius ... **Pure atmospheric sound by Sony captures the necessary intimacy which is an Andsnes hallmark.**"

[BBC Music Magazine](#) - November 2017

"Leif Ove Andsnes' excellent all-Sibelius album is nothing short of revelatory ... Andsnes plays this music with a wonderful ear for its distinctive colors and character. He clearly loves this music and believes in it. His performances are, accordingly, **brimming with rhythmic energy and emotional clarity.**"

artfuse.org - 19 October 2017

"Addictive and vertiginous, Leif Ove Andsnes magnifies the piano of Sibelius ... There was little illusion about the interpretative margin of manouvere within the piano catalogue of Jean Sibelius. We were wrong. **Here, at last, is the artist who unexpectedly upsets all the clichés that have been sung for so long ... Get on board immediately for a meeting both exceptional as unexpected.**"

ResMusica - 9 October 2017

"The Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes has released his new CD "Sibelius", a finely crafted virtuoso ... Like the 1977 (recording by) the ever-searching and experimental Glenn Gould, Andsnes also plays the Sonatine op. 67 and the "Kyllikki" miniatures with great dedication to details, dynamics and atmosphere ... In pieces such as "The Shepherd", the Impromptu op. 5/6, "The Birch" or "Landscape" from the Five "Sketches", Leif Ove Andsnes illustrates them as individual musical poems, which nonetheless combine in an inner bond of both technique and expression ..."

Der Spiegel - 7 October 2017

"Leif Ove Andsnes takes us on a fascinating journey into the magical piano landscapes of Jean Sibelius, which gives the desire for further discoveries."

Bayerischer Rundfunk - 5 October 2017

"like crystals of ice in the sunlight ... Andsnes transports the listener with a wonderful landscape of colour ..."

NDR Kultur / Norddeutscher Rundfunk - 4 October 2017

"...with engaging naturalness he succeeds in proving: that the piano works of Sibelius have a special artistic strength."

Fono Forum - October 2017

"You almost want to keep this disc to yourself, as a closely guarded secret. Wrong, of course - **this wonderfully recorded collection deserves to sell in spades**. Spread the word."

TheArtsDesk.com - 30 September 2017

"It required an interpreter who loved the work unconditionally ... to render full justice and light to the pianistic corpus of John Sibelius (1865-1957), so often discredited in favor of his symphonic music. This is done by Leif Ove Andsnes, whose record, soberly titled Sibelius, awakens worlds too dormant. The shimmering depths of the lakes, mysterious forests and legendary loves of the Kalevala enliven this music ... **A magician of sound, a liberator of buried secrets ...**"

[Le Monde](http://LeMonde) - 30 September 2017

"What pleasure. What colour. What ambience ... ravishing."

[Marie Aude Roux, francecultur.fr](http://MarieAudeRoux.francecultur.fr) - 26 September 2017

"Sibelius is the musician of the landscapes who he is revived thanks to the interpretation of an excellent pianist"

[Emmanuel Dupuy, francecultur.fr](http://EmmanuelDupuy.francecultur.fr) - 26 September 2017

"On closer listening **you feel a door to Sibelius's mysterious world has been unlocked**. And the playing is beautiful."

Observer - 24 September 2017

"The elegance of Andsnes' playing, the delicacy of his touch and its subtle inflections, **give nobility to these unknown pages**. A gentle plunge into the intimate work of one of the great symphonists of the last century."

[France Inter](http://FranceInter) - 23 September 2017

"The Norwegian pianist's love for this relatively neglected area of Sibelius's output **shines through in every bar of this collection** - the gentle charm and intimacy of much of the music here took me quite by surprise, and the famous Valste Triste comes up as afresh as paint when heard in the context of the rest of the album. Easy listening in the best possible sense of the term."

[Presto Classical](http://PrestoClassical) - September 2017

"Andsnes is the guardian of this repertoire with elegance and a light touch."

gobuz.com - September 2017

"Let's start with the new album by the Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes, who recorded several piano works by composer Sibelius. Indeed, famous for his orchestral music, the Finnish composer and violinist Emeritus Jean Sibelius wrote more than 150 pieces for piano, which remained in the shadow but were marked with his romantic imprint. The pianist Leif Ove Andsnes defends today this unknown facet of the work of this composer with emotion and passion"

[CD of the week, Musiq'3, RTBF](#) - 18 September 2017

"... very stylishly highlighting the seldom performed piano music of Sibelius"

[Dagens Nyheter](#) - 18 September 2017

"Sibelius' piano music is unusual piano music is Sibelius ... Leif Ove Andsnes speaks of hidden jewels that are not often played, and the project drives a personal commitment to the music. It's a simpler music than you usually hear from the great pianists, and not so pianistic either, but absolutely worth the listen."

[Svenska Dagbladet](#) - 16 September 2017

"In Andsnes' sensitive playing, all the lyrical qualities of the instrument are evident - in the mystical sound language typical of Sibelius. This music must be heard!"

[Crescendo Magazine](#) - 13 September 2017

"Very moving ... from a pianist that we adore and revere ... A major discovery ..."

[En Pistes, Radio France](#) - 11 September 2017

"It would be quite easy to attend piano recitals for years and never hear a note of Sibelius. Leif Ove Andsnes, a Norwegian making an adventurous raid into Sibelius's native Finland, wants to change that. It is not surprising that his playing is immaculately detailed and sympathetic. More important, in the context of Sibelius's variable output for the piano, is that he has chosen his programme judiciously. Almost all the items are short impromptus, bagatelles, and descriptive mood pieces, some elegantly recalling Chopin, all of them highly enjoyable."

[Financial Times](#) - 8 September 2017

"When listening to the miniatures, one sometimes arrives at Chopin, Brahms, Edvard Grieg, or at some of Sibelius's typical melodies from his symphonies, which Andsnes learned to love especially through his work with Paavo Berglund. **That this recording has been a heartfelt concern to him is just as unmistakable. A real discovery** for the beginning of autumn."

[Radio Klassik Stephansdom](#) - 9 September 2017

"Wonderful piano music, subtle, deeply felt and incredibly excitingly performed."

[Der Kurier](#) - 6 September 2017

"... It's when you stop listening for "replacement" symphonies that you discover that Sibelius's piano repertoire offers one jewel after another and Leif Ove Andsnes's selection of miniatures, composed between 1890 and 1929, represents some of the finest ... Almost all the works here are exquisitely lyrical and instantly set the mood, and Andsnes' expert control over the piano colours expands the poetic effect of these shy keyboard studies ... written for home enjoyment, and this beautifully performed recording gives just that."

[Klassisk Musikk](#) - 5 September 2017

"PIANISTIC GEMS ... an hour of delightfully melancholic music which, from Bagatelles to Sonatina, shows with forceful contrasts the evocative power of the melodist Sibelius, and also his taste for orchestral colours ... **Andsnes brings depth and delicacy, which only reinforces the poetry of the ensemble. A beautiful rediscovery.**"

[Le Figaro](#) - 5 September 2017

REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS
LEIF OVE ANDSNES - SIBELIUS



"How could such beauties have escaped us? What didn't we know about Sibelius's piano works ... Negligible compared to his orchestral corpus, really? No doubt we had not met the magician who would know how to convey it and magnify it ... **Leif Ove Andsnes**, who already released the album "Horizons" containing a Sibelius Study, has harnessed a small selection from the one hundred and fifty pieces for piano that punctuate the entire creative life of the Finnish composer ... **a triumph of serenity, naturalness and charm**".

Diapason - September 2017