

Trodheim Voices is a vocal ensemble with singers that all have roots to the creative improvisation environment in Trondheim. Through many projects since 2001, they have made a solid statement as developers within vocal music and improvised music.

Who?

Trondheim Voices started when a group of vocalists gathered for a Christmas Concert, initiated by MNJ (Mid-Norway Centre of Jazz) in 2001. Inspired by the diversity of the singers and the way they could cooperate, the idea of a vocal ensemble was brought out, and gradually became a more permanent project at MNJ. In 2004 Trondheim Voices developed from being a big gathering of solo singers with a wide range of repertoire, to being a more confined, profiled vocal ensemble with a repertoire especially designed for the group. Today the members are:

- Tone Åse
- Heidi Skjerve
- Ingrid Lode
- Siri Gjære
- Mia Marlen Berg
- Sissel Vera Pettersen
- Live Maria Roggen
- Anita Kaasbøll
- Torunn Sævik
- Silje Karlsen

Trondheim Voices is now a department of high priority at MNJ (Midnorsk Jazzsenter). Artistic leader is Sissel Vera Pettersen (from august 2015).

Why Trondheim?

At the Jazz Conservatory in Trondheim, new vocalists are educated every year.

<http://www.ntnu.no/jazzlinja>. This conservatory has developed strong, independent singers. Many of these musicians have settled in Trondheim, where they work as professional musicians. Trondheim as a town is also a creative concert arena. A lot of what's going on in the Northern European Jazz scene happens here.

Sounds like:

Trondheim Voices consist of a group of soloists that all have experience with, and have specialized in many different types of improvisation. They have different starting points when it comes to improvising, both in collaboration with different musicians and as soloists. Each singer's individuality and her tone combined with the others, are in focus. The difference between the voices and the tonality this creates, is an important aspect. This gives the special

quality to the groups collective tone. This combined with the way they improvise, gives opportunities to explore new types of tones and sounds.

In difference to other vocal groups from popular music, Trondheim Voices explore the unexpected, where they often do things that cannot be classified as traditional singing. Not because they don't like traditional singing, but because they see endless possibilities when they use the voice to break traditional beliefs of what singing can be.

Trondheim Voices are searching for what happens in the moments when they let go of control, while singing together. New music is also created through collaboration with composers, directors and conceptual artists that know, and dare, to use an ensemble that can be bent and stretched in many different directions. Beauty is not a defined measurement in this ensemble- beauty can arise at the strangest places. Where something started out as being both ugly and strange can suddenly be the gateway to a new understanding of what's beautiful. Through the use of room, space, time, body, movement and new technology, the ensemble has gradually changed the framework for how a vocal ensemble can produce music and art.

Trondheim Voices have worked with:

Composers:

- Eldbjørg Raknes
- Live Maria Roggen
- Elin Rosseland
- Ståle Storløkken
- Terje Bjørklund
- Mats Gustafsson
- Marilyn Mazur
- Jon Balke
- Christian Wallumrød
- Siri Gjære

Script /concept:

Circa Theater, Anne Marit Sæther and Gilles Berger

Wild at Art, Ann- Cathrin Hertling

Technology/concept

Asle Karstad/Maccasolve/Arnvid Karstad

Others:

Bobby McFerrin (Olavsfestdagene 2008)

Ole Hamre (Opening of St. Olavs Hospital 2010)

Anne Karin Furunes (Exposition opening Kimen kulturhus 2015)

Festivals/Events:

Olavsfestdagene, Trondheim (2006,2008,2011,2015) Trondheim Chamber music Festival (2004,2015) Molde International Jazz festival (2003,2009,2011,2014) Oslo Church Music Festival (2009) Trondheim Calling (2011), Steinkjefestivalen (2011) NIME,Oslo (2011) Jazzfest, Trondheim (2010) Jazzfest Ung, Trondheim (2012)Vossajazz (2013)EJN (2013)Palatia Jazzfestival(2013),Kimen Kulturhus (2015) Jazz Ahead, Bremen (2015) Whitebox, Munchen (2015)