

# Niklas Sivelöv

## Newsmail December 2011

from *Seven Days US*- regarding Niklas Tour in 2011

*"Sweden seems to be suddenly hot here: Think of best-selling novelist Stieg Larsson or pop singer Robyn. But the increasingly acclaimed Swedish classical pianist Niklas Sivelöv is not just riding a wave. A well-known soloist and composer in his own country, Sivelöv often performs unusual, on-the-spot Improvisations on the compositions of his mid-18th-century compatriot Carl Bellman. "Shockingly beautiful" is how University of Vermont Lane Series director Natalie Neuert describes the improvisations..."*

### 2011 has an exciting and very productive year for Niklas Sivelöv - both as pianist, composer and conductor.

- He played recitals in **Beijing, Washington (Kennedy Center), Vermont, Kent, Copenhagen (Tivoli), Malmoe, Katowice and Zielona Gora in Poland** as well as other Festivals in Sweden, Poland and Denmark.
- He also played concerts together with **Leonid Gorokhov** cello and **Szymon Krzeszowiec**, violin.
- The **highlights** being his recitals at the **House of Sweden in Washington** and the **Liszt recital at Tivoli DK**.
- Niklas played with orchestras such as **The Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra/John Axelrod (Prokofiev nr.1)**, **The Festival Orchestra of Princess Daisys Festival in Poland/Marcowich (Bach F-minor)** and the **Copenhagen Philharmonic Orchestra**.
- With the Copenhagen Phil he also made his debut as conductor, conducting and playing 2 concertos by Bach and Mozart from the piano. See a video from the rehearsal: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmHL24U\\_wOM&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmHL24U_wOM&feature=related)



## Upcoming concerts 2012 jan-april

- Das Wohltemperierte Klavier by Bach in Roskilde DK the 29<sup>th</sup> of February.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Concerto by MacMillan with the Composer as conductor with The Swedish Chamber Orchestra in Örebro
- Recitals in Falkenberg and Landskrona with Bach, Beethoven, Liszt and Bartok.
- Concerto nr 3 by Bartok with the Sønderborg Symphony Orchestra in DK

## New recordings

- “Fratres” together with the violinist **Szymon Krzeszowiec** in Poland for label *Dux*. Music by Stravinsky, Reger, Dallapiccola, Schnittkete and Pärt. Released in October 2011.

- **WTC by Bach** book I and II.

This grand work will be released in February 2012 on *Arerecords* in a box with 4 CD:s.

- **Stenhammar Concertos nr. 1 and 2** on *Naxos*. Together with Mario Venzago and The Malmoe Symphonic Orchestra

4 out of 5 stars in *The Guardian UK*

“These wonderful recordings of Stenhammar’s piano concertos make a superb introduction to his music...

..it’s hard not to be swept away by the Naxos disc, and the performance of the First Concerto is the finest I know” *Tim Ashley*

Released in November 2011.

- “**Journey**” with Lelo Nika, accordion on *Arerecords*

Release in April 2012

- **Improvisations over Gregorian Chant and Renaissance music for solo piano.**

Release in May 2012

## Upcoming recordings

- **English Suites and Partitas** (selection) by J.S Bach on HLV records in February 2012
- **Inventions and Sinfonias** by Bach on Arecords in October 2012. *Paul Myers* will be producing, he did also the CD with the same repertory with *Glenn Gould*.

## New works

- Album for the Youth-10 pieces for piano
- Preludes Naturelles-pieces for piano
- 24 Preludios e Figuras for piano
- Introduction and Allegro for oboe and piano-new version
- Introduction and Allegro version for clarinet and piano

## Reviews

### Sparklingly Clear Steinway

Fredericia Dagblad, 28 January 2011

Rarely does one hear piano works presented so sparklingly clear as with Swedish Niklas Sivelöv placed solidly by the wonderful Steinway grand piano in Tøjhuset.

The Steinway thrived superbly under Sivelöv's command. Never have I heard the piano sound so splendid and deeply appealing as last night. Sivelöv is of course represented in Steinway's Hall of Fame in Hamburg together with pianists like Rubinstein, Horowitz, Glenn Gould and Barenboim. Sivelöv's playing is generous. He offers strength and visions in his playing. He interprets formidably and is sure to have his audience with him at all times. The music stands fresh and new in the room as though it is created here and now for listener and artist at the same time. Of the material Francis Poulenc's og Ginastera's pieces are made of, Niklas Sivelöv created musical haute couture, which made the listener draw erect and prick up one's ears. His interpretations are a must. Commanding in expression and imperative in content.

High class.

Lars Zachariassen

### ***Pianistic Abundance***

Ystad Allehanda, 26 September 2011

Certainly Sivelöv is an intelligent artist. but the way he makes music is intelligent use of emotions more than of science. Here is no cold or mechanic exactness. Here is music to be expressed and a man who is completely absorbed in the execution. Schumann's second piano sonata is a journey in hopelessness and darkness of the soul. Sivelöv's emphatic interpretation of this emotional as well as technical mountain climb seemed to be a creation of the moment. Schumann's angst flowed from Sivelöv's hands.

## ***Catching***

Politiken, 28 March 2011

..."And although the young Prokofiev's piano test piece has intense passages with a simple melancholy, the phrases balanced on the border of ironic comments on the romantic piano concertos of the past. Niklas Sivelöv knew all about the complexity in the music and therefore his interpretation of the 15 minute long piece was both impressive and captivating. He changed between - with absurd tempo - lyric melody, extreme culminations and small quaint motifs reminiscent of honky-tonk with the greatest ease. Sivelöv is a special personality with a large musical heart, and when he embraces the music with all he has got, wild things happen.

Actually, Sivelöv's catching playing made it difficult to concentrate on the role of the orchestra, but the passages I heard were very musical and supple.

Henrik Friis

## ***Virtuoso***

Information, 25 March 2011

Prokofiev aimed to display both his own virtuoso pianistic abilities and a superiority to the traditional classical concerto. The crazy, the beautiful, the magnificent and the humour makes the concerto an impressive piece of apprentice's work. Niklas Sivelöv released the piano part with virtuosity and attention to the detail.

Camille Marie Dahlgren

## ***4 of 5 start in the Guardian for the new Stenhammar CD***

These wonderful recordings of Stenhammar's piano concertos make a superb introduction to his music, too much of which is unfamiliar outside his native Sweden. The Second Concerto (1908) is a masterpiece; the First (1894) isn't quite. Both try to negotiate between the perceived polarities of Liszt's and Wagner's experimental chromaticism on the one hand and Brahms's tempered romanticism on the other. While Stenhammar's colossal First Concerto expands on Brahms's symphonic technique, the tense, if extraordinarily beautiful Second uses Lisztian cyclic structures to constrain its complex material within a single musical span. Stenhammar specialist Niklas Sivelöv plays them in a no-holds-barred, high Romantic way, while the Malmö Symphony under Mario Venzago is tremendous. Some might prefer the harder edge and comparative detachment of Seta Tanyel with the Helsingborg Symphony and Andrew Manze on Hyperion. But it's hard not to be swept away by the Naxos disc, and the performance of the First Concerto is the finest I know.

The Guardian-Tim Ashley

