



# BAROKKSOLISTENE

DIRECTED BY BJARTE EIKE

“Innately theatrical, genre bending and suffused with great musicianship and string playing, this is a substantial and fine piece of work.”

– *The Strad*



photo credit: Theresa Pewal

# THE ALEHOUSE SESSIONS

*“It’s just old pop music”*

The Alehouse Sessions – curated and devised by Bjarte Eike – is an ever changing and evolving immersion into the music of the English 17th Century tavern. It gives audiences a window into this tumultuous period of world history through Purcell overtures, English sea shanties, and raucous Scandinavian and Canadian folk songs thrown in for good measure. In 17th century England, Oliver Cromwell moved to close all the theatres and concert venues- forcing the musicians, actors, and dancers off the stages and into any number of “alternative” venues. In 1630, there were more than 30,000 alehouses, 2,000 inns and 400 taverns in England and Wales. These were the new stages for the artists of the day.

This diversion from the traditional concert model is what is at the heart of the Sessions. Through these well-loved tunes, the story of the period is interwoven into the music making. These sessions have already been hailed as ‘irresistible’ [The Times of London], ‘superb’ [The Scotsman] and ‘fabulously unrestrained’ [The Guardian], and they have diverted away from the traditional concert model by ‘creating the effect of a late night jamming session’ [BBC Music Magazine].

Barokksolistene – Founded in Oslo and led by Norwegian violinist Bjarte Eike in 2005, Barokksolistene is now recognized as one of the world’s most dynamic and exciting groups working in the field of historically informed performance, fusing virtuoso musicianship with flawless ensemble playing. Constantly striving to reach out to new audiences, their passion to engage with folk and experimental music, improvisation, visual arts, dance and story-telling has led them to create unique concert experiences which play to sold-out audiences worldwide.

Barokksolistene records for the BIS and Rubicon labels and is supported by Arts Council Norway.



KULTURRÅDET  
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“...an unexpected and singularly entertaining evening.”  
– *Chicago Classical Review*



photo credit: Matthew Long