

# Anmeldere om albumet *Norwegian Saxophone*

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*The Norwegian saxophonist Ola Asdahl Rokkones (born in 1983) appears as the master builder of these recordings, perfectly successful on the technical level and exciting in more than one respect with regard to aesthetics. Active both in the classical and jazz fields, he defends with skill three scores in first world engraving. Its rigorous and flexible playing, its warm and lascivious timbres, its controlled and catchy rhythms are perfectly combined with the fine sound qualities of the Saint-Petersburg Northern Sinfonia Orchestra*

**Jean-Luc Caron, Les Clefs ResMusica (FR)**

*Saxophonist Ola Asdahl Rokkones clearly has the chops to bring off these works, but beyond that, he plays with a suavity that falls most graciously upon the ear, and an instinctive feel for the art of making music that makes him one of today's leading exponents of the saxophone. His performances of these three works will go a long way towards making them known in the saxophone community. Conductor Fabio Mastrangelo and his St. Petersburg Northern Sinfonia keep everything well paced and sensitively rendered, making this a disc simply not to be missed by aficionados of fine saxophone playing.*

**David DeBoor Canfield, Fanfare Magazine (US)**

*Ola Asdahl Rokkones has succeeded in producing an astonishing and noteworthy reference of contemporary concerts for saxophone and orchestra from Norway.*

**Hans-Dieter Grünefeld, SONIC (DE)**

*This disc presents three Norwegian works for alto saxophone and orchestra, all dedicated to the soloist, Ola Asdahl Rokkones, who also had a hand in each of the commissions. None is described as a concerto, and although the Aagaard-Nilsen and Habbestad works are each in three movements, the title would seem inappropriate for music so unconcerned with virtuosic display. Perhaps that reflects an element of Rokkones's own personality, a musical perspective that looks beyond the superficial to explore more subtle and complex layers in the music. [...] This album brings a new perspective to the classical saxophone, with delicate, warm and often subtly complex sounds. It also offers an intriguing portrait of soloist Ola Asdahl Rokkones, who is clearly intent on taking the instrument in a new and intriguing direction.*

**Gavin Dixon, Classical CD Reviews (UK)**

*«Norwegian Saxophone» er en utgivelse som kan bli stående som en milepæl i norsk samtidsmusikk.[...] Samla sett gir de tre verkene et svært godt utgangspunkt for å presentere saksofonen som soloinstrument i en klassisk sammenheng. Og Ola Rokkones spiller godt. Presist og fintfølede gir han verka et personlig preg med sine tolkninger.*

**Helge Matland, iTromsø (NO)**

*Ola Asdahl Rokkones' enthusiasm for his instrument—which more than one composer has dismissed as a hybrid or monster—is infectious. It can be read in his booklet note to this disc, can be seen in the fact that a good number of eminent composers have written works for him, and—most of all—can be heard in his lyrical, fluent and virtuosic playing.[...] Rokkones' playing is a model for any aspiring saxophonist to emulate.*

**Guy Rickards, Klassisk Musikkmagasin (NO/UK)**

*With this highly ambitious, more than 70-minute long orchestral program, he presents himself to the music world in a new way: As a solo virtuoso with world premiere recordings of three contemporary composers, not yet well-known outside their home country, still all of them truly a discovery. [...] All in all a more than impressive album, written over almost two decades, which will serve as a reference and, hopefully, as a far-reaching inspiration for many saxophonists, orchestras and concert programs.*

**Ingo J. Biermann, Nordische-Musik (DE)**

*Fabio Mastrangelo, at the head of St. Petersburg Northern Sinfonia, offers a moving and subtle version of this triptych dedicated to Ola Asdahl Rokkones. The Norwegian saxophonist makes a substantial and sensual journey with great elegance through the Norwegian literature. The refinement and exquisiteness of the Russian orchestra of St. Petersburg blends with the warm interpretation of saxophonist Asdahl Rokkones.*

**Nuria Serra, Sonograma Magazine (ES)**

*Here, as in the concertos of Kjell Habbestads and Thorstein Aagaard-Nilsens Ola Asdahl Rokkones stands out as a top-class musician. With ease he combines the standards of classical saxophone with his jazz skills. He convinces equally with giggling articulations, electrifying multiphonics and a very elegant belcanto playing. The St. Petersburg Northern Sinfonia under the direction of Fabio Mastrangelo assists the soloist at eye level.*

**Willi Vogl, Rohrblatt (DE)**