

**Pianist Sandra Mogensen** has performed widely in concert throughout Canada, the United States, and Europe. Sandra has received much praise for her concerts as solo pianist and for her work as a recitalist committed to the art song repertoire. Recent performances include the Grieg Piano Concerto with the Stratford Civic Orchestra, a solo recital at the Glenn Gould Studio and a lecture-recital at the Grieg Festival in Winter Park, Florida. Several recitals are scheduled in northern Europe during the summer of 2010, including the Edvard Grieg Museum in Bergen, Norway, and recitals in her mother's homeland of Latvia.

Sandra's first CD was Schubert's *Winterreise* with bass, Paul Sketris in 2000. This was followed by Sandra's first solo CD which was released in 2007 (*SANDRA MOGENSEN Piano Music of Edvard Grieg*) on the Chestnut Hall Music label, and continues to receive enthusiastic response and praise. This has now been followed by the release in November 2009 of a second volume (*SANDRA MOGENSEN Piano Music of Edvard Grieg: Volume Two*) of this collection, also on the Chestnut Hall Music label. <http://tinyurl.com/y5hd9nj>

Well-known as a Grieg specialist, Sandra's performances engage the audience through innovative programming ideas, a range of varied repertoire, and deeply felt expressiveness. Her recital programs and her recordings carry the listener on a journey through contrasting musical styles and/or characters, while maintaining a satisfying unity and flow throughout. In addition to performing as solo pianist, Sandra is equally at home collaborating with singers in recital, and is known for her deep sensitivity to the soloist's every breath and nuance.

Sandra Mogensen did her early musical studies with her mother, Edite Mogensen, in Sarnia, Ontario. Sandra's further training as a pianist has taken her to the University of Western Ontario, the Mozarteum in Salzburg, the Royal Danish Conservatory of Music in Copenhagen, and to Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ where she received the Master's of Music in Vocal Coaching and Accompanying.

Sandra Mogensen holds the position of Faculty Pianist at the annual National Music Camp at Lake Couchiching. A versatile musician, Sandra has extensive experience with chamber music, musical theatre and choral repertoire, as well as music in liturgy. Devoted to her role as educator, Sandra enjoys her work as a piano teacher to intermediate and advanced students. Well-versed in several languages, Ms. Mogensen is well known for her language and diction coaching. Ms. Mogensen has had an extensive teaching career and is active as an RCM examiner, adjudicator and workshop clinician across Canada. For more information, please see <http://www.sandramogensen.com/>.

### **Testimonials received by email regarding concert performances**

You are AMAZING. I was mesmerized by your passionate playing. I am so happy that the first concert M. (who is now 4) ever attended was this concert. Thank you for a wonderful afternoon.

Congratulations Sandra! It was a wonderful concert last night and your performance was exhilarating. The audience burst into spontaneous applause after the first movement – couldn't help themselves. And your standing ovation was genuine, sustained and well-deserved.

Your performance of the Grieg Piano Concerto was incredible! I was so moved by how much you entered into the music itself and presented it so sensitively.

You're such a fine pianist! I certainly enjoyed your beautiful playing and the program tonight. The Latvian pieces were wonderfully exotic in that indeed Rachmaninoff could be heard as you had suggested, but also something of the brilliance of Satie. (does that sound plausible to you?) And, I can never hear enough Grieg! Thank you for such a lovely evening.

Wow! What a wonderful performance Sunday night! Truly memorable! We were totally engrossed from beginning to end.

Outstanding concert last Sunday; bravo!

I want to say to you how exquisite your playing was tonight! You can play any of the musical periods and each with such depth and soul.

We particularly enjoyed your complete lack of pretention. You were just there to play for us and to share your talent with us, without all the fluff that frequently attends such events.

## Comments on 1<sup>st</sup> CD (SANDRA MOGENSEN: Piano Music of Edvard Grieg)

- "I have thoroughly enjoyed listening to your first CD; it really is superb." (Beryl Foster, author of "The Songs of Edvard Grieg")
- "Grieg often writes about artists who either do or do not "realize his intentions" in the way they perform his music. You clearly do, and I feel sure that the master himself would be pleased with your playing of his works." - (Wm Halverson, translator/compiler of Grieg's writing)
- "That is the deftest feather-lightest touch I've ever heard for the Grieg."(Jurgen Gothe, CBC Radio Two)
- "...one of my tops favourite discs, period. "
- "A satisfying disc, worth repeated listening." (wholenote magazine)
- "wonderful, expressive, very deeply felt, in one word gorgeous"
- " Incredibly warm, strong, delicate, finessed playing"
- "it brings instant calm to our house!"
- "beautiful, sensitive, brave, intelligent and so perfect it made me cry."
- "your music wove a delicate, boldly moving tapestry through our home...beautiful work...I can hear your soulful heart in every note..."
- "Such a joy (Edvard would be proud). From the very first chord, it was beautiful!"
- "it's like being in a live performance!"
- "such a variety of colours and textures and terrific sonority. Wonderful"
- " truly exquisite... like a soul tonic... so masterful and reminiscent of Horowitz!"
- "Stunning, stunning"
- "Great music one doesn't hear very often, played with depth, poetry, character..."
- "wonderful beyond words, which is the task of art"
- "A beautiful repertoire, played with great care and insight by a remarkable pianist"
- "So on Wed. I was having a total melt down trying to get to work on time, panicking 'cause I'd broken out in hives, and totally stressed about a bunch of things, when I remembered I had your CD in the car. Ahh, pure bliss. Thank you so much for the beautiful music that completely transformed my day and turned everything better. "
- "I listened to your beautiful CD all the way through last night and it is marvellous. Your playing is powerful and sensitive. In short, YOU ROCK."
- "I really enjoyed listening to the Nocturne. You totally won me over... I want you to teach me your secret for trill technique... I was so disappointed when the track ended... can't wait to hear the whole thing."

### YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/mogempianist>