

Ann-Sofi Söderqvist

Composer, arranger, teacher and musician (trumpet, flugelhorn and piano)

In January 2011 **ASJO (Ann-Sofi Söderqvist Jazz Orchestra)** played its first concert at jazzclub Fasching in Stockholm. Since then the band has released two CD:s – “Point of View” and “The Story of Us” – which both has received critical acclaim (see www.annsosisoderqvist.com or www.pitchbluerecords.com - REVIEWS). ASJO has also played at Stockholm Jazz Fest, Umeå Jazz Festival, Huddinge Jazz Festival, Solliden, Skansen, jazz club Nefertiti, and other clubs. The band has also made several radio programs and participated in Swedish Television show Go'kväll.

Since 2006 Ann-Sofi is teaching composition, music arranging and ensemble leadership skills at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm.

Since 2009, Ann-Sofi Söderqvist is also the Artistic Director of the international composition competition for big band music – **Jazzverk**.

The medal for the Advancement of the Art of Composition was bequeathed to Ann-Sofi Söderqvist for highly important achievements in Swedish music by the Royal Music Academy 2012. Jury motivation:

“As a composer and arranger she shows a deep knowledge, an elegant craftsmanship and investigate approach in her close and creative relationship with the performing musicians. With balanced tonal language, she widens the scope and premise for both traditional and untraditional constellations.”

Ann-Sofi is also winner of the Swedish Radio Award Jazzkatten in the category Composer of the Year 2011, and received the Jan Johansson Award in 2010. The jury motivation:

“Through many years she has developed an emotional efficiency that expresses itself in the width and diversity of the orchestra, as well as in particulars and details. She has enriched jazz with new sounds at the same time as she lets the singular details shine. Both as a soloist and composer, her language is unique and profoundly humane. She seeks the tangible experience, and gives it the swinging power of jazz, at the same time as an inner world is present. With the big band, as well as with the small group, she is, as she has written herself, a seeker. Maybe it is by this serious quest, she resembles the pianist Jan Johansson most of all.”

In January 2011, the piece "Trumpet stories", written by Ann-Sofi for The Swedish Wind Ensemble, was performed for the first time at the Concert Hall of Stockholm. Conductor: Håkan Hardenberger.

In spring 2011 the CD “What is life” with the award winning choir Voces Nordicae was released. The title track for choir a capella was commissioned by the choir and written by Ann-Sofi (lyrics: Malin Hülphers).

The great emotional extent and intensity that characterizes the music of the Swedish composer and musician Ann-Sofi Söderqvist has been met with sympathy from both audiences and critics. In September 2009 the CD *Grains* was released, where Norrbotten BB plays the compositions of Ann-Sofi. The CD, a live recording from Kulturens Hus in Luleå, has received critical acclaim.

Curiosity and an enquiring spirit has all the time driven Ann-Sofi to seek new paths for herself and her music. This aim resulted in her starting a big band in 2002 – Composer's Big Fun – concentrating on original music of somewhat experimental nature, together with Jan Levander and Joakim Milder. In 2006 the band made a CD - *Composer's Big Fun*.

For a long time Ann-Sofi has been known to the public as a jazz trumpet player and flugelhornist. With her emotional, lyrical and expressive playing, she has, as well as being the leader of several groups participated with many other orchestras, such as:

Änglaspel, Hot Salsa, Stora Stygga, Bernt Rosengren BB, Gugge Hedrenius BBB, Norrbotten BB, Bohuslän BB, Sandviken BB, Blue House Jazz Orchestra, April Light Orchestra, Bitches Brew, Blue Cluster, Marie Bergman Quintet, Jan Wallgren Quintet etc.

Composing is now Ann-Sofi's priority, and has resulted in several pieces for big band, symphonic orchestras, choir, theatre (8 plays at Stadsteatern in Stockholm) and smaller ensembles. A number of orchestras have played her compositions and arrangements:

Composer's Big Fun, Bohuslän BB, Norrbotten BB, Frankfurt HR, Orchestre National de Lorraine, Sandviken BB, Blue House Jazz Orchestra, Gothenburg Chamber Choir, Voces Nordicae, Östgöta Symphonic Wind Orchestra, Gothenburg Symphonic Wind Orchestra, the Symphony Orchestra of the Royal College of Music in Stockholm, April Light Orchestra, Bitches Brew etc.

Ann-Sofi has also written arrangements for various ensemble forms and different artists, such as:

Marie Bergman, Elisabeth Kontomanou, Lisa Nilsson, Ivan Lins, Rigmor Gustafsson, Victoria Tolstoy, Nils Landgren, Clarisse Muvemba, Mimmi and Karin Hammar among others.

For more information:

www.annsosisoderqvist.com

www.asjo.nu

www.pitchbluerecords.com