



Title: **Rachmaninoff / Shostakovich
Cello Sonatas**

Artist: **Audun Sandvik – cello
Sveinung Bjelland – piano**

Catalogue no.: **LWC1131**

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Sound engineer: **Thomas Wolden**

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SINGING SONATAS

Cellist Audun Sandvik and pianist Sveinung Bjelland debut as a duo on the LAWO Classics label with a collection of cello sonatas from our neighbors to the east.

We know that our seafaring ancestors cultivated a strong tradition of singing. And Russian singing, especially in a religious context, is a renowned hallmark of the country's rich culture. Both composers featured on this album were partial to the human voice. Many regard the cello as one of the instruments best able to reproduce the human voice, and it is tempting to presume that both Rachmaninoff and Shostakovich were motivated by the cello's matchless range of expression when each wrote his powerful sonata — and, mind you, with the piano as wholly equal partner. Each was considered one of the most outstanding piano virtuosos of his generation and knew his instrument through and through.

We hope that the Russian sonatas — in Norwegian renderings — can show that the human spirit transcends cultural and national boundaries. All that remains is to listen. Perhaps we may perceive the sounds of our ancestors singing together. In music — humanity's home — we all share the same mother tongue.

Audun Sandvik from Bergen is principal cello in the Norwegian Radio Orchestra and the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra. He is artistic director for Gloppen Music Festival and recently was appointed Professor of Cello at the Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø.

The award-winning pianist **Sveinung Bjelland** is Professor at the Norwegian Academy of Music and the University of Agder. Bjelland can look back on an extensive career as soloist, on international concert stages as well as on numerous recordings.

The two performers are both in frequent demand internationally as soloists and chamber musicians. They have performed as a duo for many years, and this is their first CD release together.

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF (1873–1943)

Cello Sonata, Op. 19

- 1) I. Lento /// 13:56
- 2) II. Allegro scherzando /// 07:02
- 3) III. Andante /// 05:50
- 4) IV. Allegro mosso /// 10:43

DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH (1906–1975)

Cello Sonata, Op. 40

- 5) I. Allegro non troppo /// 12:58
- 6) II. Allegro /// 03:19
- 7) III. Largo /// 08:57
- 8) IV. Allegro /// 04:26