

Christian Wallumrød Ensemble:

Eivind Lønning - trumpet
Espen Reinertsen - saxophone
Tove Törngren Brun - cello
Per Oddvar Johansen - drums
Christian Wallumrød - piano

New album *Many*, out now on Hubro Music:

<https://christianwallumrod.bandcamp.com/album/many-2>

The Christian Wallumrød Ensemble (CWE) was established in 2001, beginning with the recording of *Sofienberg Variations*, released on the German label ECM Records in 2003. This earliest iteration of the ensemble comprised fiddler Nils Økland, trumpeter Arve Henriksen, drummer Per Oddvar Johansen alongside Wallumrød on piano. The quartet toured Europe and the Nordic countries and eventually made another album with producer Manfred Eicher and ECM (*A Year From Easter*, 2005).

During the period between 2005 and 2011, CWE gradually changed personnel and for many years consisted of Tanja Orning on cello, Swiss baroque harp player Giovanna Pessi and violinist Gjermund Larsen. Trumpeter Eivind Lønning replaced Henriksen in 2008, and with this extended lineup the ensemble toured extensively and continued the collaboration with ECM, making the records *The Zoo Is Far* (2007) and *Fabula Suite Lugano* (2009), the latter placing Wallumrød on the shortlist for the Nordic Music Prize.

A new album was released in 2013 (*Outstairs*, ECM Records) with the introduction of two new members of the group: saxophonist Espen Reinertsen and Swedish cellist Tove Törngren Brun. The current lineup has worked together as a quintet since 2014, and released 2 albums on Norwegian label Hubro Music (*Kurzsam and Fulger* (2016) and the recent *Many* (2020)). *Outstairs* was awarded the Norwegian Grammy Spellemannsprisen in 2014.

Throughout this almost 20-year period CWE has worked solely with Wallumrød's compositions. However, the members of the ensemble have always contributed to the music through their personal sound, improvisations, and experience performing and composing various kinds of music. All 7 CWE albums have been well received among critics and audiences, and the ensemble has toured and played festivals across Norway and Scandinavia, Europe, USA, Canada, and Japan.