

“A full-blooded rendition...from steampunk violin-cello duo, Mari & Håkon Samuelsen” The Independent

The groundbreaking violin and cello sibling duo, **Mari and Håkon Samuelsen**, have enjoyed a remarkable rise on the international concert stage through their characteristic mixture of artistry and enterprise. Their concerts combine breathtaking musical finesse and virtuosity with imaginative and innovative approaches to presentation.

For more than 25 years this brother and sister phenomenon have performed together, connecting with audiences and musicians around the world. In spring 2016, they released their debut album, *Pas de Deux*, on Mercury Classics (Universal), the centrepiece of which was a new work written for them by the Oscar-winning composer, the late James Horner. It went directly to no. 1 in the Norwegian pop charts, the first classical album to do so in more than 20 years.

Mari & Håkon have appeared as soloists at some of the world's most prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall, New York; Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Paris; Konzerthaus, Berlin; Smetana Hall, Prague; Concertgebouw, Amsterdam; Kremlin Hall, Moscow and the Victoria Hall, Geneva, most recently making their debuts in recital at the Barbican, London and the KKL, Luzern. Future highlights include their debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, at the Hollywood Bowl; a close collaboration with Kristjan Järvi, and the MDR Symphony Orchestra, Leipzig where they will be artists-in-residence in the 2016/17 season, as well as concerts in Dresden, Munich, Amsterdam and a performance of Philip Glass's double concerto in the presence of the composer, as part of his 80th birthday celebrations. They will also give the world premiere of a major new double concerto written for them.

For the past two years, the Samuelsens have been artistic directors of the Yellow Lounge in Norway. Bringing the Berlin-born club night to Oslo, and collaborating with partners such as the pre-eminent video artist, Philip Geist, they have brought the image of classical music bang up-to-date.

Mari plays a G. B. Guadagnini violin (Turin 1773) and Håkon performs on a Francesco Ruggieri cello (Cremona 1687). Both instruments are generously on loan from the Anders Sveeas Charitable Foundation, Norway.