

Ellinor & Leonor

With respective fiddle and 5-string cello Ellinor & Leonor are carrying on with the music that brought them together. The duo revives forgotten folk melodies from the 19th century, sparkling folk dance tunes and also feeds the tradition with their own new compositions. The essence of traditional fiddle “spelmansmusik” is always in focus, revealing the dancing and melodic heart of each tune with sensibility and style.

Since their first encounter in 2009 at the Academy of Music and Drama in Gothenburg, Ellinor and Leonor have found each other in their common interests. On one side, they are eager to explore and bear musical traditions and its styles, looking for old sources and bringing to life forgotten treasures. On the other side, the combination of a fiddle and a 5-string cello allows for tight traditional “2 fiddle style” playing but also for finding new ways two string instruments can play folk tunes together.



Ellinor Fritz, fiddle | Leonor Palazzo, 5-string cello

“Palazzo comes from Belgium but plays Swedish folk music like few others and adds a lot to the tunes she touches with her bow. She accompanies Fritz’s impeccable melody playing in a vivid and imaginative way – for instance in Blind Mattisleken – and groovy, like a French waltz accompaniment, in Spegelvändavalsen.”

Sunniva Brynnel, Lira Magazine nr 3/2014.

“You made a fantastic concert! You played softly, lyrically, rhythmically and with diversity. The arrangements were incredibly well balanced, the connection tight and you handled your instruments with assurance. One of the greatest musical experiences of my life!”

M. Olsson, audience member at Skarastämman 2015

“Ellinor Fritz is a young but passionate fiddler from Dalarna. Here with the cellist Leonor Palazzo she plays some tunes from Dalarna, and a few of her own but most of it is traditional. Fiddle and cello, different, audacious harmonies, elegant and bold at the same time. Classy!”

Spelmannen nr 2/2014

Ellinor hails from Hedemora in the traditional music heartland of Dalarna, Sweden and grew up learning fiddle both formally and in the houses of young and older generation local fiddlers. This musical heritage forms the core of Ellinor & Leonor's repertoire. The dancing character and stylized approach of Ellinor's playing were highlighted by the jury when she was awarded title of "Riksspelman" (Musician of the Realm) in 2011. Having completed studies at the Music Conservatory in Falun, the Academy for Music and Drama Gothenburg and the Royal College of Music Stockholm, Ellinor is now active as a freelance musician and teacher. Her repertoire has broadened to include world music, pop and classical but she retains a core interest in folk music and dance including its beneficial and therapeutic roles in society. She is involved in queerpolska workshops – folk dance classes with a gender equality perspective – and brings the polska dance to wheelchair dancing.

Leonor grew up in Brussels, Belgium, and started playing the cello when she was 3 years old. Playing melodies since her young age, she later on got fascinated by the Swedish folk tunes and it was only natural for her to continue developing her style in that direction while playing Swedish folk music. The 5-string cello she plays on allows her to play the tunes as if she had a fiddle in her hands, fulfilling the possibilities to go deeper into the folk tradition, while exploring arrangements and harmonies, as a regular cello would. Being a dancer and discovering the Swedish folk music from that point was another great help as to how to play polskas since they always are dance tunes in essence. It made a really clear path for building her style and has realized a greater freedom both musically and scenically. As a member of "Ensemble Bradamante" for 8 years, her familiarity with the main components of baroque music such as improvisation, ornaments and ensemble playing have acted as a perfect foil to Ellinor's violin. With Masters degree in classical cello at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels and further education in world music at the Academy of Music and Drama in Gothenburg behind her, Leonor is active as a freelance musician, performing concerts and shows in many European countries as well as Korea and the USA.



"Mormors trädgård" by Ellinor & Leonor

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Produced by Ellinor & Leonor © 2014

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Press pictures: <http://bit.ly/1pbpHJq>

Ellinor & Leonor have performed in churches, heritage centres, concert halls and even Stockholm's Royal Palace. They have featured on the line-up for Linköpings Folkmusikfestival, Munthes Hildasholm in Leksand, Folkmusikkaféet in Gothenburg, and also Bingsjöstämman and Delsbostämman, which are respective the biggest and the oldest folk musician gatherings in Sweden. Furthermore they have toured in Switzerland, France and twice in the USA. They released their first album "Mormors trädgård" in April 2014 featuring tunes from Ellinor's home region, Dalarna, alongside original material.

Ellinor & Leonor are appreciated for both their concerts and dance performances. They offer music workshops for fiddlers and ensemble playing as well as dance workshops introducing the Swedish dances like polska, slängpolska, schottis and more.

Ellinor Fritz, fiddle | Leonor Palazzo, 5-string cello