



**Olga Konkova** was born in Moscow in 1969. She started her music education in her hometown and later at Berklee in Boston. She moved to Oslo in 1994. Her first CD release is "The Flow" from 1997 on Curling Legs. Then she had three releases in a row on the English Candid label: "Her Point Of View" 1991, "Northern Crossing" 2001, "Some Things From Home" 2001. Together with Per Mathisen she released "Unbound" in 2006 on the Alessa label. In 2009 she released a CD with solo piano improvisations with music inspired by Joni Mitchell on The Swedish Caprice label.

Here are some thoughts by Olga herself about the music on her new CD – My Voice: This record is my first attempt to write music for voice and piano. The inspiration comes from my life-long love for the music of Franz Schubert and Gustav Mahler - "Die schöne Müllerin", "Winterreise" (F. Schubert) and "Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen", "Kindertotenlieder" (Gustav Mahler).

Anna Akhmatova is "one of the most acclaimed female writers in the Russian canon", "the strong and clear leading female voice in Russian poetry" (citations from Wikipedia). Her short lyric poems helped me find the essence of this recording.

I have been a freelance jazz musician for the past 16 years, constantly learning and discovering about the art of jazz and improvisation. I feel that in making this recording I returned to my roots, using my more than modest knowledge of classical music. I hope and believe it has helped me achieve a balance between my classical and jazz backgrounds and what my music stands for - lyricism, honesty of expression, and a high, professional level of performance. This can also be said of the outstanding musicians who participated in this recording.

All the songs were written in Norway, where I live - the country that inspires me with its incredible nature and fantastic musicians. Composing this music was an on/off process that took approximately one year to complete.

I do not see myself as a poet. The few lines I wrote are only meant to contribute to the right moods of the songs and are of secondary importance, complimentary to the music. Wenche Losnegård is "my voice" on the record. Her voice and personality were additional inspirations when writing the music for this recording.

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