

Facts about **Himmeldiamanten**
(*"The Diamond of Heaven"*)

The choir Sola Fide (Latin for *faith alone*) consists of 36 dedicated singers from Bergen, Norway. We are proud to present our new CD with traditional and modern music about the treasure of Christmas: **Himmeldiamanten**.



Conductor: Janicke Damm Rusti

is a constant source of inspiration to us and she is our own musical diamond. No one gives life to music quite the way she does, and we are utterly proud of what we achieve together. Our audience as well as music critics and judges from contests have commented on the unique contact between Mrs. Rusti and the choir members.

Producer: Asbjørn Devik

is head of department for piano and singing at Bergen Kulturskole.

Percussionist: Terje Isungset

is one of Europe's most accomplished and innovative percussionists. With more than two decades of experience in jazz and Scandinavian music he does not limit himself within traditional boundaries. Crafting his own instruments from Norwegian natural elements such as arctic birch, granite, slate, sheep bells and even ice, he is highly recommended. He has been a central performer on 40 CD recordings.

Pianist: Tove Kragset

has been working as a freelance musician for seven years and has during this period recorded a CD, and performed in several concerts with Norwegian celebrities such as Princess Märtha Louise.

Pianist: Rolf James Stewart

is one of Sola Fide's tenors, but also a gifted pianist.

Studio: NrK Produksjon in Bergen by **Ruth Følstad** and **Haakon Gunby**.

More information:

<http://www.solafide.no/Himmeldiamanten>



About Sola Fide

We are a 36-member choir for mixed voices under the direction of Janicke Damm Rusti.

We perform numerous concerts throughout the year. In December there are the Christmas concerts, which always are fully booked. In spring there are seminars and concerts, usually in Bergen, and in addition we offer entertainment to patients in local institutions. In autumn we have our annual tour around western parts of Norway. Furthermore we are often asked to contribute to cultural events in Bergen, and we are also doing private performances. Sola Fide has visited Austria, the Czech Republic, France, England, Ireland and Italy.

In 2002 we recorded our first CD, called **Mixtum Compositum**. The title refers to all the different styles and genres we present both on concerts and on the CD. **Mixtum Compositum** received pleasant reviews in the newspapers.

Our audience has repeatedly asked for a Sola Fide Christmas CD, so last February we made the recordings in the NrK studio (Norwegian National Broadcasting). The result is **Himmeldiamanten**.

Sola Fide's guest book at www.solafide.no is frequently used by our audience. The following message was posted in January 2005:

Carl Fritsche, New Jersey, USA

"This week I was blessed with the opportunity to listen to selections from your Christmas concert. I wanted to thank you for making the recordings available to me and to tell you how very much I enjoyed listening to them. Your performance of my song was wonderful. Your soloists both have beautiful voices and your pianist did a terrific job of making something special out of my rather simple piano part. The Pie Jesu and Angels Carol were wonderful. I am familiar with both pieces and have sung the Angels Carol. The Himlen I Min Famn I have never heard before and it was breathtakingly beautiful, both the song and the performance. My compliments to the choir, accompanists, and especially the director for a moving and joyous concert and thank you again for honoring me with the performance from my cantata."



1. prize and golden diploma in Italy, Oct. 2005

Competitions:

"Syng for Oss", Bergen 2004, 2.prize pop, 2.prize mixed choir.

"International Choir Competition", Sligo, Ireland 2002, 3.prize folkloristic mixed choir, 3.prize sacred mixed choir, 1.prize sacred female choir.

"In Canto sul Garda", Riva del Garda, Italy 2005, 1.prize folkloristic mixed choir, 1.prize sacred female choir and 5.prize sacred mixed choir. In all these we achieved golden diplomas. Because we won the 1.prize and also a golden diploma, we were invited to perform before two thousand participants in the grand finale in the church Chiesa di San Guiseppe.



Grand finale in Chiesa di San Guiseppe, Oct. 2005

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