I stemt jord - Vilde Sandve Alnæs

With her endless curiosity for sounds, timbre, and resistance between body and instrument, Vilde Sandve Alnæs has released her first solo album of music for violin, *I stemt jord*. Alnæs has been an active improviser, creator, composer, and violinist in the field of contemporary music for 15 years.

In her solo work, she explores and challenges the technical, sonorous, and musical possibilities of an acoustic violin: multi-layered textures, virtuosic color sensitivity, and birdsong are delicately intertwined.

She explores the limitations of the violin, as well as the limits of her own technique**.** What happens when you lose physical control of the instrument, when you let go of the things you've spent years learning to control?

The music reverberates between fluffy and fragile, bright and playful, while remaining resistant, vulnerable, and insisting.

The album was produced by Anja Lauvdal, a versatile musician and composer. With her involvement, the process of recording and editing became both exploratory and inspiring. The album was recorded at Anja and Christian Winther's beautiful *To Furuer studio* at Nesodden, close to the Oslo fjord. The peaceful surroundings, as well as Anja's joyful and relaxed presence, allowed for the confidence to follow the music wherever it wanted to go.

Alnæs' main collaboration the last 15 years has been with Inga Margrete Aas in the duo Vilde&Inga. They have released three albums on the labels ECM and Sofa. Vilde&Inga also commissions new works and engages in interdisciplinary collaborations, besides playing their own music and improvisations. Alnæs also plays in the contemporary music ensemble Aksiom, together with musicians with backgrounds in classical music, jazz, and contemporary music. She is a founding member of the classical orchestra Ensemble Allegria. She also works with musicians such as Sidsel Endresen, Christian Wallumrød, and Jan Martin Gismervik.

I stemt jord

by Vilde Sandve Alnæs

I stemt jord
I vegg og i ved
Witnesses of human behavior
Eviggrønn
Holders of time
Oliven
Vente og ikke se
Movements from within a tree
De går med sjela i hånda
I en tid hvor vi ikke finnes
Ta meg inn i blikket ditt

No music is made in a vacuum. It is created in time and space, and what defines this time and space influences what we create. **I stemt jord** consists of my own instrumental music for solo violin, and the album was created between 2023 and 2026. A time when we witnessed many crises around the world and extreme violence against children. During these years I also became a mother of two.

Some of the titles are inspired by the Palestinian people and their land. I taught music at the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music in Palestine in 2013, and it was a life-changing experience for me. It made a huge impact on me to see up close the extreme injustice and violation of international law, and to meet Palestinian people, who, under oppression, still manage to be the most lovable and hospitable people I've ever met. In a way, they give me hope.

I am inspired by people who continue to tell the truth and speak up when they see injustice. For me, resistance today also means continuing to create, to tell your own truth through music and art

while actually listening to each other and trying to understand. It means to continue doing what is important, even if you do it "**walking with my soul in my hand every day[1]**".

While editing the album and coming up with the track titles, it suddenly became clear to me how much the state of the world and becoming a mother had affected me in the creative process. Not directly while improvising and composing the music, just by living and creating in this time.

Being pregnant and becoming a mother has been a vulnerable and transformative period in my life. I had to accept my body's new boundaries. More sensitive than usual, I didn't have the capacity to take in what was happening in the world around me or to actually do anything about it. When I couldn't engage, or find an outlet for all my anger and sorrow, I started to feel numb.

Then, these small humans entered the world, and they changed everything in my life. I experienced just how much you can love your little one, but the sorrow and anger didn't get any less intense.

When I finally had the capacity to create on my own again, something in me changed. The energy shifted from numbness to action. It *can* feel hopeless and useless to spend your time alone creating music or art in a world where so much feels broken. Still, "hope is what you do[2]", as Marthe Valle and Hanne Lossius write.

When I play the violin I often dive into the physical resistance that arises between the body and the instrument. When you keep resisting and insisting, something happens. We have to dare to speak up against the oppressor, for all our children. When we don't manage to protect the smallest and most vulnerable among us — who are we then? How will the world be in 20 years if we choose, every day, to just **wait and not see?[3] / Vente og ikke se.**

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[1] As an ambulance worker in Gaza said on the Norwegian news (Dagsrevyen spring 2025). Also inspired by the Palestinian photo journalist Fatma Hassona (1999-2025) in the film *Put your soul on your hand and walk.*
[2] *Håp er det du gjør - Historier fra Palestina og de greske flyktningleirene* - book by Hanne Lossius and Marthe Valle.
[3] Norwegian title: *"Vente og ikke se"*- taken from the short story collection *Vente og ikke se* by Tor Ulven

Eviggrønn, refers to the olive trees, always green. They are a symbol of resistance and hope. The trees have been **witnesses of human behavior**[4], some of them for thousands of years. They are **holders of time**[5]. Olive trees in Palestine are violently ripped up by settlers illegally occupying the land. Thousands of years of living organisms gone — just like that.

There will be **a time when we don't exist**[6] / **I en tid hvor vi ikke finnes.**

We are here *now*. Can we tune the earth together?

Ta meg inn i blikket ditt.[7] / **Take me into your gaze.**

Listen! Create.

[4] Inspired by an instagram post by Jannik Abel, when in Palestine
[5] Inspired by an instagram post by Jannik Abel, when in Palestine
[6] Norwegian title: *I en tid hvor vi ikke finnes.*
[7] Quoted from the poetry collection *En uendelig holdbarhet* by Torunn Borge