

# Michael Woolfe Sandelson

## *Pianist and Composer*

### *Biography*

Michael Sandelson was born in London. He is both a Steinway Artist and a freelance composer and arranger living in Stavanger. After studying piano, harmony and composition at the Purcell School of Music, he went on to York University in 1986 to obtain his Bachelor of Arts in Music. Whilst there he studied composition and Film Music and played in a variety of ensembles, before going to Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York in 1989, where he continued his study of Film Music, together with Jazz Piano, Conducting and Big Band Arranging. In November 2001 he was awarded a Post-Graduate Diploma in Music Education for the Institute of Education at London University.

Whilst living in London, he obtained a Diploma in Piano-Teaching from the London College of Music, studied composition with Paul Barker, and was also commissioned to arrange some Big-Band pieces for the city of Geneva's annual review in 1990. From an early age he studied piano with Professor Jeremy Brown of the Junior Academy of the Royal Academy of Music.

He moved to Norway in May 1998, and in September 1999 was commissioned to compose and play for the Norwegian Film Institute in Oslo as a silent-film pianist. In 2001 he was commissioned to compose and perform music for the Kapittel Literature Festival and played with Stavanger Symphony Orchestra.

In October 2002 he signed a publishing contract with Cantando Music for two works for a Cappella choir entitled "Madrigal of a Cold" and "Stuff the Turkey", a series of twelve 2-part piano Inventions, a Tango, and a Brass Quartet entitled "Dancing Lunatics Make Holes in the Ceiling". His other works included several pieces for Big Band, a children's suite for piano plus various seldom written-for solo instruments and a work for two pianos, four hands for the ensemble "Piano 40".

He is a Member of both the Incorporated Society of Musicians and the British Academy of Composers and Songwriters, and his works are registered with TONO, the Norwegian Performing Rights Society.

Since moving to Stavanger, he has had several public concerts, and currently teaches both privately and in music-schools, where he is also employed as an accompanist.