

## HANNE TOFTE JESPERSEN

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Composer, ensemble leader, born 1956.  
Member of Danish Composers Society, Danish Musicians Union,  
IAWM (International Alliance for Women in Music).



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Graduated from Institute for Musicology and Institute of Film/TV at University of Copenhagen as cand.mag with a MA in music (1984) and a BA in film/tv (1992) and as an organist from Zealand's School of Church Music (2004). She was co-initiator and consultant of Danida-sponsored Agoro Cultural Centre in Ghana 1993-99. As a singer, pianist and ensemble leader she has performed professionally since 1995 and received her first commission in 2004; artists grants include Danish Arts Foundation, Danish Composers Society (DKF), DJBFA, Nordic Culture Point; composer's fees include Danish Arts Foundation, DKF, ensembles, districts, parishes, arts & educational institutions.

*"An extraordinary composer of her very own right with a belief and knowledge in the human voice - and a sense of musical storytelling which is quite unique - using a broad network of musical roots condensed to her own musical style",* says Bent-Erik Rasmussen, secretary general to the Franz Schubert Society of Denmark.

Hanne has her roots in classical as well as world music. As a composer she is inspired by European instrumental tradition, Nordic and British choir music, folk tones and Ethnic vocal traditions, by her work with West African polyrhythmic roots music, traditional drumming, dancing & storytelling, and by many years of absorption in symbology, mythology and mystery traditions. It was when she started composing for handed down scripts that she got hold of her unique way of expression.

Her works include music for sinfonietta and chamber music ensembles, works for solo voices/choir and mixed instrumental instrumental ensembles and for choir a capella; interactive works for choreographed voices and instrumental ensemble, incl. collaborate works in which she has set contemporary landscapes - rural as well as urban - to music. Her music has been performed in Denmark, Faroe Islands, Sweden, Iceland, England, Wales, Germany, Italy, Ghana a.o. It also includes a series of projects focussing on interaction and audience development - incl. in museums and other locations.

### CURRENT ARTISTIC COLLABORATIONS

*Esbjerg Ensemble* commissioned 'VIBRANDRING' in which she as composer, the professional sinfonietta ensemble and talented youth from Esbjerg & Varde Cultural Schools have added vibrance to a local area of Esbjerg town in 2018/19 through a collaborate music and art work based on walking the area. First performances 5-6 April 2019.

For *Nordic String Quartett* she has a commission of a string 4tet, initiated by Brage Chamber Music Society in collaboration with other chamber music societies, to be 1st performed autumn 2020 in Randers.

*Festival Lübecker Lauten Lust 2019* - has commissioned a 15 min. piece for theorbo, zink (cornetto), baroque violin, viola da gamba project, bringing together 2 German, 2 Danish composers and *broken consort* ensemble led by Andreas Arend (DE).

*Copenhagen Chamber Performance* has invited her to be the composer in a new artistic team with singer Radmila Rajić, director Kenneth Kreutzmann, author Marit Tusvik - co-creating a new music drama.

*Kuno Kjærbye & Erik Hildebrandt-Nielsen* commissioned two pieces in 2017 for violin and organ with German 1. performances in Gottorfer Schlosskapelle (DE) april '17. HTJ composed 'Gottorfer Tongewebe' for and in the unique acoustics of the since 1600 unchanged castle chapel. The piece was subsequently selected by *Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte, Schloss Gottorf* for an audio station during their exhibition 'Luther's Norden'. An upcoming audience development project based on an idea of wandering concerts in Gottorf Castle is now being developed - for violinist Kuno Kjærbye & a recorder soloist in dialogue with Telemann's Phantasien for these instruments.

### OTHER RECENT WORKS AND ARTISTIC COLLABORATIONS

*Gitta-Maria Sjöberg & Polina Fradkina* 1st performed 'PÅ GJENNOMREISE - Three songs for soprano and piano for poems by Marit Tusvik' in January 2018, recorded them in May to be released on new CD and online in 2019.

*Ensemble Storstrøm* - 'Høre billeder / Audio Images', 30 min music work on the garden of Fuglsang Manor (commissioned work, 2017).

'Going to Heaven' for TTBBB a capella to a poem by Emily Dickinson reached the final in *Linköping Studentsångares* Composition Award 2016 and was 1st performed Oct '16 in Norrköping (SE). Recorded 2017, released May 2018.

'Farvespillet / The Play of Colours' (40 min, cl, bs, vl, perc & children audience's voices and movements, 2013) won *DR-Musikariet's* idea competition on new interactive music tales for children and professional 4tet; 1st performed in DR Concert House 2013. *Esbjerg Ensemble* has performed it as a series of school and family concerts in 2016/17. *Glostrup Music School* has produced it as primary school projects in all 2.form classes in Glostrup District in April-May 2019, following a similar successful project in Oct 2017.

Ensemble *Music for the Mysteries* which Hanne Tofte Jespersen formed in 2007 has recorded 2 CDs with her music, incl. 'Melangell' (65 min) for contralto solo, SATB soloists, violin, double bass, piano, percussion and integrated recital. Manus: Mike Harris (Wales, 1989). 13 performances 2011-14, incl as total artwork in 2011 produced by the Schubertiade in collaboration with Museum of Contemporary Art, with installation by visual artist Alison Michell (UK/DK).

Artistic collaborations also include the singers Agnethe Christensen, Bente Vist, Jakob Skjoldborg, Teit Kanstrup; soloists such as Karen Humle (vl), Anette Slaatto (vla), Caroline Tarras-Wahlberg (vc), Ida Bach Jensen (db), Jeppe Mørch Sørensen (db), Katrine Øigaard (db), Anna Klett (cl), Anrijs Ivanovskis (bs), Gertie Johnsson (rec), Thorbjørn Gram (hn), Katrine Suwalski (sax), Mikkel Andersen (g), David Hildebrandt (perc), Anders Hvidberg-Hansen (perc), duo Kuno Kjærbye (vl) & Mikkel Andersen (g); duo Jens Rømer (bombarde) & Sven-Ingvar Mikkelsen (pipe organ); conductors such as Stefan Parkman (SE), Christina Hörnell (SE); scenographer Eva S. Holten, actors María Ellingsen (ISL), Lauralee Nicole (Wales), visual artist Alison Michell (UK/DK), choreographer Sara Ekman (SE), authors such as Mike Harris (Wales), Marit Tusvik (NO).

## SELECTED ARTISTIC PROJECTS

2018/19: composer at 'VIBRANDRING' commissioned by Esbjerg Ensemble - with composers fee from The Danish Arts Foundation and Vadehavspuljen.

2017: composer at Ensemble Storstrøms new outreach project 'THE GARDEN - three tales' with Fuglsang Art Museum, Museum Lolland-Falster and Kulturtjenesten, premiere sept 2017. Ongoing programme.

2016: co-initiator of OPEN MUSIC WORK-PLACES and composer at ÅBNE MUSIK-VÆRK-STEDER#2 at Museum of Contemporary Art Nov '16.

2014-17: *Hvis Landet Kunne Tale/If the Land Could Talk*, idea and composer at music & art project for 48 kindergartens with interactive music works for choreographed childrens voices and professional trios, based on children's spontaneous singing during joint walks. Published online <http://www.hvislandetkunnetale.dk>. Commissioned by Roskilde District.

2014: Concert project *Melangell - Honey Angel* during Skálholt Summer Concerts' 40 year anniversary, ICELAND, w/Music for the Mysteries, conductor Stefan Parkman, actor María Ellingsen, South Iceland Chamber Choir.

2012: Collaboration with choreographer Sara Ekman (SE) and scenographer Eva Holten (SE/DK) on *Melangell* as choreographed concert. - CD-project with the *Melangell* work in collaboration with Meridian Records (UK).

2011: *Melangells Vidnesbyrd/ The Testimony of Melangell* as total artwork.

2010: Music for the Mysteries' tour at the Faroe Islands with museum project and choir collaboration.

2008: *Musicians in the Museum* - Music for the Mysteries and four art museums in cultural region Mid- & West Zealand. UK-tour.

## SELECTED RELEASES

### CD'S

**Ensemble Music for the Mysteries: *The Testimony of Melangell*** - MERIDIAN RECORDS 2012 (CDE 84617)  
music: Hanne Tofte Jespersen, text: Mike Harris.

**Ensemble Music for the Mysteries: *The Seven Natures*** - TUTL 2009 (FKT 043)  
music by Hanne Tofte Jespersen and Anders Hvidberg-Hansen.

***Hosianna - 7 songs for childrens Choir*** Dansk Sang 2008 (B-CD-876)

***Insektudsigten***, own label / distribution Gateway 2006

music by: Anders Hvidberg-Hansen, perc, guitar, voc; Anders Gerup, soprano sax, cl, fl, keyboard, voc, and Hanne Tofte Jespersen, voc, pno, storyteller. Tale by Hanne Tofte Jespersen (2003).

Singer and pianist at: **Agoro Band: *Edwuma Edwuma*** (Cope Records Copecd 013, 2001)

### ONLINE:

***HVIS LANDET KUNNE TALE /IF THE LAND COULD TALK*** - 8 works of 25 min, music & texts by Hanne Tofte Jespersen 2014-17.  
<http://www.hvislandetkunnetale.dk/musikken/>

Represented at: Linköbing Student Singers' **Composition Award 2016** (Spotify 2018)

### UPCOMING CD/ONLINE:

Gitta-Maria Sjöberg & Polina Fradkina: Works for soprano & piano by Musorgskij, Borg and Tofte Jespersen (Micropascal 2018)

## APPOINTMENTS

2001-14 organist and choir leader at Ny Vor Frue Kirke.

1993-99 co-leader, intercultural consultant at Agoro Project Ghana (Danida supported).

1989-95 secondary school teacher in music and film at Roskilde Amts Gymnasium.

1985-88 researcher at University of Copenhagen, Institute for Musicology.

## HONORARY POSTS, GRANTS

Vice chairman of DMF-Roskilde (Danish Musicians Union's Roskilde Branch), Chairman of Koncertkapellet.

From 2018 member of the Danish Arts Foundations Supervisory board, appointed by Danish Composers Society.

## MEDIA

**AUDIO:** <http://www.musicformysteries.org/audio.php>

**VIDEO:** <https://vimeo.com/user40996258>

**LIST OF WORKS:** <http://www.musicformysteries.org/compositions.php>