

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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Hanne Tofte Jespersen graduated from Institute for Musicology and Institute of Film/TV at University of Copenhagen as cand.mag / MA in music (1984), 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. Ensembles & soloists, festivals, districts, parishes, art museums and educational institutions have commissioned works from her. These include works for sinfonietta, chamber ensembles, solo pieces and works for solo voices/ choir and mixed instrumental ensembles; interactive works for choreographed voices and instrumental ensemble, incl. series of collaborate works in which she has set contemporary rural and urban landscapes to music based on walks in local areas.

"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 a background in both classical and world music. It was when she started composing for handed down scripts that she got hold of her unique way of expression. She draws inspiration from many years of absorption in mythology and mystery traditions, from poetry and other art forms as well as a broad spectrum of music traditions, incl. European instrumental and Nordic and British choir music, folk tones and vocal traditions from many different places. She is also influenced by years of work with West African music, dance & storytelling traditions and has created many projects and programmes dedicated to the development of children's sense of music and singing.

Her music has been performed in Denmark, Faroe Islands, Sweden, Iceland, England, Wales, Germany, Italy a.o.

CURRENT ARTISTIC COLLABORATIONS

Nordic String Quartet will 1st perform her new string quartet "Times of Unrest - Haydn-Tofte Jespersen-Britten" 4 Nov '20. This commission was initiated by BRAGE Chamber Music Society in collaboration with four other chamber music societies, to be premiered in Randers and with a series of scheduled performances in 2020/21 and audience development programmes. Sponsored by Augustinus Foundation, Danish Arts Foundation, William Demant Foundation and DKF/Koda Culture.

Violinist Kuno Kjærbye has commissioned her new "FANTASIA in view of J.S.Bach" for his concert project with Bach's six solo sonatas/ partiten alongside with three new works for solo violin. Hanne has composed hers for the context of Bach's C major Sonata and the E major Partita, inspired also by Helga Thoene's research of "hidden chorales" in Bach's solo sonatas. 1st performance is 1 Nov 2020 in the Engholm Church.

Nordic Music Days 2020 has selected her VIBRANDRING FO-100 project for the festival Sept '20 in the Faroe Islands.

The festival *TIDLØS / Timeless / Zeitlos* March 2021 in Copenhagen and Roskilde will feature her piece "Finding Consorts" which the German festival *Festival Lübecker Lauten Lust* commissioned and premiered in 2019. It is a 15 min. work for theorbo, zink (cornetto), baroque violin, viola da gamba, performed by a *broken consort* ensemble led by Andreas Arend (DE).

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 2018, recorded them subsequently to be released online in 2019 and on CD in 2020 (Micropascal).

Esbjerg Ensemble commissioned 'VIBRANDRING' - a collaborate work for professional sinfonietta ensemble and talented youth from Esbjerg & Varde Cultural Schools, created to a local area of Esbjerg town in 2018/19; premiered April 2019.

Kuno Kjærbye & Erik Hildebrandt-Nielsen commissioned two pieces for violin and organ with German 1.performances in Schleswig (DE) 2017. HTJ composed 'GOTTORFER TONGEWEBE' for the unique acoustics of the Gottorf castle chapel, and *Landesmuseum Schloss Gottorf* subsequently selected the piece for an audio station in their Luther exhibition.

Ensemble Storstrøm - 'HØREBILLEDER / AUDIO IMAGES', 30 min work on the garden of Fuglsang Manor (commission 2017).

AWARDS AND GRANTS

In *Linköping Studentsångares* Composition Award 2016, her 'GOING TO HEAVEN' for TTBBB a capella to a poem by Emily Dickinson reached the final and was 1st performed in Norrköping (SE), recorded 2017 and released online 2018.

'FARVESPILLET / THE PLAY OF COLOURS' (40 min, cl, bs, vl, perc & children audience's voices) won in *DR-Musikariet's* competition on interactive music tales for children and professional quartet and was 1st performed in DR Concert House 2013. In 2016/17 *Esbjerg Ensemble* performed it as school concerts; *Glostrup Music School* produced it in all 2.form classes 2017-19.

ARTISTS GRANTS include Danish Arts Foundation, Danish Composers Society (DKF), DJBFA, Nordic Culture Point.

ENSEMBLE LEADER

Music for the Mysteries which Hanne Tofte Jespersen formed in 2007 has toured DK, UK, Faroe Islands and Iceland and has recorded 2 CDs with her music, incl. 'The Testimony of Melangell' (65 min) for contralto solo, SATB soloists, violin, double bass, piano, percussion and integrated recital; manus: Mike Harris (Wales, 1989). This work achieved 13 performances 2011-14, incl. as total artwork in 2011 with installation by visual artist Alison Michell (UK/DK).

Artistic collaborations also include singers such as 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-Ingvart Mikkelsen (pipe organ); conductors such as Stefan Parkman (SE), Christina Hörnell (SE); 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 RECENT ARTISTIC PROJECTS

2018/19: composer at 'VIBRANDRING' commissioned by Esbjerg Ensemble.

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 the Museum of Contemporary Art Nov '16.

2014-17: *Hvis Landet Kunne Tale/If the Land Could Talk*, idea and 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 premiered during the Schubertiade Festival 2011.

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

SELECTED RELEASES

ONLINE

Gitta-Maria Sjöberg & Polina Fradkina: Works for soprano & piano by Musorgskij, Borg and Tofte Jespersen (Micropascal 2019)

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)

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. Storytale by Hanne Tofte Jespersen (2003).

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

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 senior secondary school teacher in music and film at Roskilde Amts Gymnasium.

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

HONORARY POSTS

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>