

HANNE TOFTE JESPERSEN

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Danish composer, born 1 May 1956.

Member of Danish Composers Society (DKF)

KODA. Danish Musicians Union (DMF)

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.

"An extraordinary composer of her very own right with 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.

CURRENT ARTISTIC COLLABORATIONS

Nordic String Quartet premiered her "STRING QUARTET No.1 UROLIGE TIDER- Haydn-Tofte Jespersen-Britten" in November 2020. She composed it into a context of Haydn's Opus 76,2 'Fifths' (1797) and Britten's String Quartet No.1 (1941) - that is, three quartets all created in 'urolige tider/ times of unrest'. Its premiere was broadcasted on DR (Danish national radio) and very well received and reviewed. Commissioned by five chamber music societies, with a series of performances and additional educational and audience development programmes.

Nordic Music Days selected her VIBRANDRING FO-100 project for the festival Sept. 2021 in the Faroe Islands. A collaborate project for singers and sinfonietta in which talented youth and professionals join forces.

Festival *TIDLØS / Timeless* 2021/22 in Copenhagen and Roskilde will produce her piece "Finding Consorts" which the German festival *Festival Lübecker Lauten Lust* commissioned and premiered in 2019. A 15 min. work for theorbo, zink (cornetto), baroque violin, viola da gamba, performed by a *broken consort* ensemble led by Andreas Arend (DE).

Violinist Kuno Kjærbye commissioned and premiered "FANTASIA in view of J.S.Bach" (2020) for his ongoing concert project with Bach's six solo sonatas/ partiten alongside with three new works for solo violin. Hanne Tofte Jespersen composed her piece 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.

ROOTS - INSPIRATIONS -WORKS

Hanne has her roots 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 classical instrumental music, Nordic and British choir music, folk tones and vocal traditions from many different cultures. She is also influenced by years of work with West African music, dance & storytelling traditions.

Ensembles & soloists, festivals, districts, parishes, museums and educational institutions have commissioned works from her, performed in Denmark, Faroe Islands, Sweden, Iceland, England, Wales, Germany, Italy a.o. 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.

OTHER RECENT ARTISTIC COLLABORATIONS

Gitta-Maria Sjöberg (SE/DK) & *Polina Fradkina* (RU) premiered 'PÅ GJENNOMREISE - Three songs for soprano and piano for poems by Marit Tusvik' in 2018, recorded them subsequently, released online in 2019.

Esbjerg Ensemble commissioned 'VIBRANDRING' - a collaborate work for professional sinfonietta ensemble and talented youth; premiered April 2019.

Landesmuseum Schloss Gottorf selected 'GOTTORFER TONGEWEBE' for an audio station after its German premiere in Schleswig (DE) 2017. HTJ composed this duo for violin and organ for the unique acoustics of the Gottorf castle chapel.

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

AWARDS & 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 premiered 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 commission in *DR-Musikariet*'s competition on interactive music tales for children & professional quartet, premiered in DR Concert House 2013.

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

ENSEMBLE LEADER & COMPOSER

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 Jens Rømer (bombarde) & Sven-Ingvar 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

2020/21: 'UROLIGE TIDER / TIMES OF UNREST', composer and author. www.uroligetider.dk

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

2017: composer at Ensemble Storstrøms outreach project 'THE GARDEN - three tales' with Fuglsang Art Museum, Museum Lolland-Falster and Kulturtjenesten. 'HØREBILLEDER / AUDIO IMAGES', 30 min work on the garden of Fuglsang Manor was commissioned and premiered Sept 2017.

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* premiered during the Schubertiade Festival.

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

SELECTED RELEASES

ONLINE

Gitta-Maria Sjöberg & Polina Fradkina: **PASSING THROUGH** - works 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, Anders Gerup and Hanne Tofte Jespersen. Storytale by Hanne Tofte Jespersen (2003).

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

APPOINTMENTS

2021-22: evaluator of artistic research project (KUV) at SDM (Danish National Academy of Music).

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.

2018-20 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/hannetoftejespersen>

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