

# MELANGELL Honey Angel

SKÁLHOLT Summer Concerts 12 & 13 July 2014 3 pm  
HARPA 9 July 2014 5 pm

**Music:** Hanne Tofte Jespersen

**Manuscript:** Mike Harris; **translation:** Þórarinn Eldjárn

**Choreography:** Sara Ekman



[www.musicforthemysteries.org](http://www.musicforthemysteries.org)

Sponsors of Iceland tour:

Stiftelsen Clara Lachmanns Fond  
Fondet for Dansk-Islandsk Samarbejde,  
Djbf, Solistforeningen af 1921,  
Danish Musicians Union, Dmf Roskilde.

Collaboration partners:

Skálholt Summer Concerts  
Harpa, Nordic House

**With Melangell, the Danish composer Hanne Tofte Jespersen has set a most special story with Celtic as well as early Christian roots to 1 hour music. Her Scandinavian group Music for the Mysteries performs it in Iceland with María Ellingsen in the role of storyteller.**

**Music for the Mysteries** has gained great reputation since 2008 for performances in Denmark, England, Wales and the Faroe Islands.

Reviewers have termed their concerts 'mystery music in modern version'.

Melangell (the name means honey angel) lived around 500 AD. According to legend she was an Irish princess fleeing an arranged marriage to a pagan chieftain in the Isle of Man. The author Mike Harris (UK,Wales) wrote an adaptation of her story in 1989.

We follow the honey angel on her wandering journey.

She settles in a remote valley and lives as a hermit and mystic who can speak with the animals and the spirits of the place. After a dramatic hunting scene, the local noble man declares the valley protected and cedes it to Melangell. Later ages made her saint, associating the hare as her sacred animal. The protection has remained, and tourists and pilgrims still seek her sacred valley in Northern Wales.

*Melangell - Honey Angel* is performed choreographed with the ensemble's four singers, four musicians and with María Ellingsen doing the integrated storytelling in Icelandic.

The Swedish conductor Stefan Parkman is in charge of an exciting project including choir singers from South Iceland Chamber Choir in the piece when performed in Skálholt.

*"Original and visionary music"*

The Daily Paper

*"VERY thrilling! The music holds both medieval, renaissance, folkore and the modern - and at no point does it turn commonplace."*

organist Sven-Ingvart Mikkelsen, Frederiksborg Castle Church

Featuring:

**María Ellingsen**, storyteller

**Ensemble Music for the Mysteries:**

*Agnethe Christensen*, contralto & kantele - sings Melangell

*Teit Kanstrup*, bassbaritone - sings Prince of Brochwell

*Bente Vist*, soprano soloist

*Jakob Skjoldborg*, tenor soloist

*Kuno Kjærbye*, violin

*Jepp Mørch Sørensen*, double bass

*Anders Hvidberg-Hansen*, percussion

*Hanne Tofte Jespersen*, piano, vocal

**Stefan Parkman**, choir conducting

**Choir of singers from South Iceland Chamber Choir a.o.**

choir rehearsal: *Hilmar Örn Agnarsson*

The Melangell music is released on CD: *The Testimony of Melangell* at Meridian Records (UK 2012).

Listen: [http://www.meridian-records.co.uk/mp3player/617\\_Melangell/sampleEmbedCode.html](http://www.meridian-records.co.uk/mp3player/617_Melangell/sampleEmbedCode.html)