

MUSIC FOR THE MYSTERIES members:

AGNETHE CHRISTENSEN

- singer and kantele player. Grew up in Sweden and has her roots in both classical and in folk music.

After studying singing at Royal Danish Academy of Music, she studied "Early singing technique" with Andrea von Ramm in Basel and took further education as a singer in Paris and Rome. Ever since she has been heard on a large number of CD-productions, in oratorios and performances within early music, with Reinhard Goebel, Concerto Copenhagen, Frieder Bernius a.o.



Apart from concerts Agnethe Christensen gives master classes. She appears internationally in both baroque and modern opera, incl. in HOTEL PROFORMA's visual opera "Operation Orfeo" with music by Bo Holten and John Cage, and since 2001 with Benjamin Bagby in SEQUENTIA's music drama "The Rheingold curse" based on stories from the Icelandic Edda. In DK. Agnethe Christensen is member of the medieval duo ALBA with Poul Høxbro and in Gentle Songs & Slow Ayres with Helen Davies. She works with early Swedish folk music together with Lena Susanne Norin and Elizabeth Gaver in trio Ulv. Performed in Signum Axis (NO, 2008)

<http://agnethe.homepage.dk>

HANNE TOFTE JESPERSEN

- composer, singer, pianist, artistic leader.

Works across genres, has her background in both classical and rhythmic music. Initiator of Music for the Mysteries for whom she has composed "The Testimony of Melangell (2011 60 min); The Seven Natures" (2007, 11 min), Vision of Enoch (2007, 20 min).

Has originated and developed the group's concept for museum projects *Musicians in the Museum* (2008 with 4 museums of art- and culture / cultural history in DK and in England & Wales; in 2010 at The Faroese Art Museum.

Since '07 artistic collaboration with Welsh writer Mike Harris and since '09 with visual artist Alison Michell (UK/DK) aiming at the creation of "The Testimony of Melangell as a total art work, exploring the boarderlines between concert and ritual.

Has received composer's fee from The Danish Arts Foundation, grants from Djbf, artist's mobility grant from Nordic Cultural Point 2010 for visit to the Faroe Islands.

Has composed commissioned works for choir & mixed instrumental groups, incl. "Suite for poems by George Herbert" (1593-1633) - 20 min in 5 movements for 3 singers (Mezzosopr, A,T), mixed choir (SATB), violin, contrabass and organ, commissioned by Vor Frue-Vindinge Congregation Council for organ inauguration, first performed 30.5.2010.

Has written story and part of the music for "Insects Weather Forecast" (interactive childrens' concert taking place in the realm of insects, in particular honey bees, 95 performances in DK 2004-08 w/ trio). 8 of her compositions for childrens choir published by Dansk Sang 2008.

Co-leader & consultant of Danida funded cultural project Agoro (Ghana) 1993-2000, leader of Agoro Band (Ghana/DK) 1995-03, dramaturg, artistic leader, producer and musician in dance dramas and concerts with Ghanaian & Danish performing artists, incl. iWorld.dk, Unesco school tour "210 years after" (Transatlantic Slave Trade), Images of Africa 96, Agoro Festival 99.

Member of DJBFA, Toneart.

Education: Cand.mag in music and film (MA/BA) from Institute of Musicology and Institute of Film/TV, University of Copenhagen; Organist (PO) from The Church Music School of Zealand. Thorough studies in languages of symbols and Westerns mystery traditions for 30 years.

www.musicforthemysteries.org/hannetoftejespersen.php



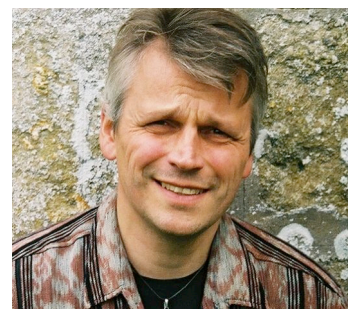
ANDERS HVIDBERG-HANSEN

- percussionist, composer. Has his roots in world music.
Main instruments: African trad.drums & percussion, drum set.
Autodidact apart from studies in Ghana with master drummer Okyerema Pra focussing on Ghanaian polyrhythms , talking drums and the integration of drum based music & dance.
Music for the Mysteries performs pt two of his compositions: "The Swords" and "La Morte non é niente. In DK he also performs w.Insektudsigten, Sylvester Agbedoglo's Roots, Talking Drums, Effie & Eliten a.o. and performs with several groups in Rome; he is composer and performer in own ensemble Oro Liquido. Is also producer w. own recording studio. www.oroliquido.dk



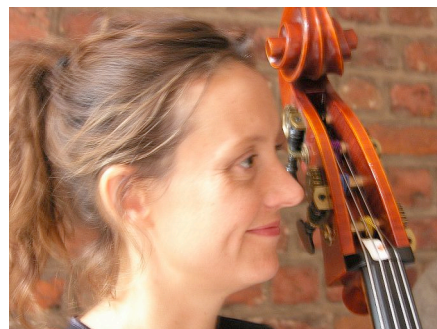
KUNO KJÆRBYE

- violinist, composer. Educated soloist from Royal Danish Academy of Music, debut in 1985. Most versatile chamber musician, appears in duo with the pianist Kirsten Beyer-Karlshøj, with Kent Carter (F/US) in KKB-trio; w/ Letmark Quartet (DK/Latvia) who has commissioned and first performed many compositions in visual concerts in DK and the Baltic Countries. Composer of music for Henrik Ibsen's drama "Fruen fra Havet/ La Dama del Mar" in Mexican-Norwegian co-production in Mexico City 2006. In 2008/09 music for visual concert commissioned by the Vikingships Museum about the Sea Stallion's journey from DK over the North Sea to Dublin; released on dvd Dec 10. www.kunokjaerbye.dk



IDA BACH JENSEN

- contrabassist, composer. Educated with Francois Rabbath at the Nadia Boulanger Conservatory in Paris 1995-2000, freelance musician. Has composed for films, dancing, theater - incl. for film about the Swedish poet Gunnar Ekeløf. Appears with Majbritte Ulrikkeholm, Martin Hall, Lisbeth Diers, Aud Wilken, Birgit Løkke a.o. Often collaborates with visual artists, e.g. Chiaki (visuals).



<http://idabachjensen.dk>

in THE TESTIMONY OF MELANGELL

when performed in version for ensemble and solo4tet,
Ensemble Music for the Mysteries also includes the 3 singers
Bente Vist, Christian Berg and Teit Kanstrup:

BENTE VIST

- Norwegian soprano resident in Denmark.
Educated from Julliard School of Music and The Royal Danish Academy of Music in Cph. Apart from her many engagements as soprano soloists in oratorios, her career has in the later years been within interpretations of contemporary music where a number of composers have composed pieces especially for her. Has been member of Ars Nova, and currently performs with Paul Hillier's group *Theatre of the Voices*.

<http://www.bentevist.dk>





CHRISTIAN BERG

- tenor educated from The Royal Academy of Music in Copenhagen as a singer, pianist and conductor. Has performed main characters in several musicals. 1.tenor and arranger in vocal group Vocaloca who won 1.prize at Århus Vocal Festival 2009. Conductor and pianist at various theatre performances.

www.myspace.com/chrberg

TEIT KANSTRUP

bass baritone educated from Royal Danish Academy of Music and from Royal Academy Opera in London where he among other roles has performed the main character in The Marriage of Figaro conducted by Sir Colin Davis.

Many solo parts in oratorios and roles with various opera companies, incl. in Puccini's La Boheme with Operaen i Midten, and in 2011 as Dandini in Rossini's Cinderella with Opera on Location.

www.myspace.com/teitkanstrup

