

CV HANNE TOFTE JESPERSEN

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Composer, ensemble leader, born 1956.
Member of Danish Composers Society, Danish Musicians Union, IAWM.

VIDEO: <https://vimeo.com>

LIST OF WORKS at <http://www.musicforthemysteries.org>

She 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 has performed professionally since 1995 and received her first commission in 2004. It was when she started composing for handed down scripts that she got hold of her unique way of expression.

She has composed works for solo voices and mixed/female/male/children's choir, a capella as well as with mixed instrumental groups, instrumental works. Recent artistic collaborations include Ensemble Storstrøm and Esbjerg Ensemble, many Nordic singers and solo/chamber instrumentalists, conductors such as Stefan Parkman and Christina Hörnell, visual artist Alison Michell (UK/DK), choreographer Sara Ekman (SE), actors María Ellingsen (ISL) and Lauralee Nicole (UK). Her music has been performed in Denmark, Sweden, Germany, UK, Italy, Iceland, the Faroe Islands and Ghana. Hanne was co-initiator and consultant of the Danida-sponsored Agoro Cultural Centre in Ghana 1993-99. She has received artists grants from the Danish Arts Foundation and Nordic Culture Point, and composer's fees from Danish Arts Foundation, ensembles, districts, parishes, arts and educational institutions a.o.

COMPOSER, PERFORMING ARTIST

Hanne has a background 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 several years of stay in Ghana and her work there with West African polyrhythmic roots music, traditional drumming, dancing & storytelling, and by many years of absorption in symbology, mythology and mystery traditions.

"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.

2017-commissions include 3 songs for Swedish soprano Gitta-Maria Sjöberg and Russian pianist Polina Fradkina to poems by Norwegian author Marit Tusvik (prem. Jan '18); 30 min work for Ensemble Storstrøm for fl, cl, bs, vl, vla, vcl, p, harp for their new outreach project (prem. Sept '17); 2 works for violin and organ commissioned and premiered in Denmark and in Germany during Gottorfer Musik im Lutherjahr by duo Kuno Kjærbye and Erik Hildebrandt-Nielsen in April '17.

Her latest work for choir *Going to Heaven* (for TTBBB, to a poem by Emily Dickinson) reached the final in Linköping Student Singers Composition Award 2016 and was 1st performed by the choir in Norrköping (SE) in Oct '16.

Hanne formed her acclaimed ensemble Music for the Mysteries in 2007 who has recorded 2 CD's with her music. In 2011 the Schubertiade Festival produced Music for the Mysteries' first performances of her *Melangell* work in collaboration with the Museum of Modern Art. In this she has set the tale of the Celtic / early Christian mystic and female saint Melangell (Welsh for 'Honey Angel') from around 500 AD in Mike Harris' adaptation (1989) to 1 h music.



The *Melangell* music was performed in version for contralto & SATB soloists and choir, vl, db, p, perc, recital, during Skálholt Summer Concerts' 40 anniversary, in a collaboration between this festival, Music for the Mysteries, South Iceland Chamber Choir and actor María Ellingsen (IS) conducted by Stefan Parkman (SE).

CD *The Testimony of Melangell* at [Meridian Records](http://www.meridianrecords.co.uk), UK 2012
audio: <http://www.musicforthemysteries.org/audio.php>

In 2016-17 Esbjerg Ensemble has taken on a series of performances of *The Play of Colours*. This 40 min work for cl, bs, vl, perc, storyteller, won DR-Musikariet's and Danish Composers Society's competition on new interactive music tales for children and was first performed in DR-Concert House in 2013.

Her innovative collaborate project *If The Land Could Talk* has involved 1200 children, visual artist and professional instrumental trios during eight projects in 2014-17. In these 4-5 year old children have elicited music from their local areas together with Hanne. Commissioned and sponsored by Roskilde District, Danish Arts Foundation, Danish Musicians Union.

Other commissioned works include *Waltz of the Alfagot* (2015, 5 min) for bs, vcl, marimba; *Suite for poems by George Herbert* (2010, 20 min) for SAT soloists, mixed choir, violin, double bass and organ, commissioned for organ inauguration in DK and also performed in the Faroe Islands during the Sumartónar festival.

SELECTED ARTISTIC PROJECTS

- 2017: Collaboration with Ensemble Storstrøm on 30 min commissioned work '3 Tales' for the ensemble's outreach project with Fuglsang Art Museum and Museum Lolland-Falster.
- 2016: Composer at *Åbne Musik-Værk-Steder#2 / Open Music-Work-Places#2* at Museum of Contemporary Art.
- 2014-17: *Hvis Landet Kunne Tale / If the Land Could Speak*, collaborate music and art project in Roskilde District.
- 2014: *Melangell - Honey Angel* concert project during Skálholt Summer Concerts, ICELAND w/ Music for the Mysteries, actor María Ellingsen (IS), South Iceland Chamber Choir conducted by Stefan Parkman (SE).
- 2013: *Farvespillet / The Play of Colours* concert project during festival for interactive music tales in DR Concert House, after winning competition in 2012.
- 2012: Collaboration w/choreographer Sara Ekman (SE) and scenographer Eva Holten (SE/DK) on Melangell as choreographed concert. CD-recording of the Melangell work (Meridian Rec, UK), release concerts in DK.
- 2011: *The Testimony of Melangell* - 1 h total art performance in installation by Alison Mitchell (UK/DK), music by Hanne Tofte Jespersen; manus by Mike Harris (UK). 8 performances in DK.
- 2010: Music for the Mysteries' tour projects in the Faroe Islands: museum project at the Faroese Art Museum, choir project during the festival Sumartónar.
- 2010: *Bilerne fik vinger/ The Cars got wings* - for 5-7 year old children with HTJ's music for rhymes by Halfdan Rasmussen.
- 2009: Music for the Mysteries' 1.CD production *The Seven Natures* (TUTL), release concerts in DK.
- 2008: *Musicians in the Museum* - project w/Music for the Mysteries and four museums for art and culture in Mid- & West Zealand, w/ open rehearsals, walking introductions and dialogue concerts.
- 2008: Music for the Mysteries UK-tour (England, Wales). CD-recording in DK.
- 2007: Commissioned piece for Festival for Tarot and Art 2007. Writing retreat in Northern Wales.
- 2003: *Let's Play!* - idea, production, performing artist in tour project w/Agoro Band (Ghana, DK) in coll. with Roskilde District and LMS (Live Music in Schools)
- 2001: *200 years after* - idea, production, performing artist in Agoro Bands tour project (Ghana, DK) with concerts at UNESCO schools in DK, theme: The Transatlantic Slave Trade.
- 2000: Author and performing artist in World.dk, presenting world music in Danish primary schools.
- 1999: Dramaturgy of dance drama *Kweku Ananse and the Drum*, artistic director of AGORO Festival 99 (DK/Ghana)
- 1998: Producer of tv-documentary *Lad trommerne tale/ Let the Drums Talk* (DRTV & Agoro in DK)
- 1997: Artistic direction & dramaturgy of dance drama *Ndaama Nkaebo / Message from the Future* (Ghana)
- 1996: Dramaturgy of dance drama *River Pra* (Cph City of Culture 96 & Images of Africa 96)

PUBLICATIONS

CDs and ONLINE PUBLISHED MUSIC WORKS :

Ensemble Music for the Mysteries, 2 CDs:

The Testimony of Melangell - MERIDIAN RECORDS 2012 (CDE 84617)

music: Hanne Tofte Jespersen, text: Mike Harris.

sound engineer Richard Hughes, executive producer Bent-Erik Rasmussen, editor Susanne Stanzeleit.

The Seven Natures - TUTL 2009 (FKT 043)

music by Hanne Tofte Jespersen and Anders Hvidberg-Hansen.

rec by Pitch & Time Productions /Niels Høg and Thomas Li, mix & mastering by Thomas Li in MyRoomStudio, Cph.

Other:

Hvis Landet kunne Tale / If The Land Could Speak 2014-17: 41 works for choreographed childrens voices and mixed instrumental trios, 31 interactive instrumental interludes - studio recordings by Studio Liquido feat. Hanne Tofte Jespersen, vocal, Gertie Johnsson, recorders, Anders Gerup, clarinet & bass cl, Anrijs Ivanovskis, bassoon, Thorbjørn Gram, horn, Anette Slaatto, viola, Caroline Tarras-Wahlberg, cello, Katrine Øigaard, doubl bass, Anders Hvidberg-Hansen, Ethnic percussion. Audiofiles and scores published at www.hvislandetkunnetale.dk

Hosianna - 7 songs for childrens choir (scores, cd 2008, Dansk Sang B-CD-876)

Insektudsigten, own label / distribution Gateway 2006

music by: Anders Hvidberg-Hansen, perc, guitar, voc; Anders Gerup, sopr-sax, cl, keyboard, voc & Hanne Tofte Jespersen, voc, p, storyteller. Manus by Hanne Tofte Jespersen (2003).

PUBLICATIONS - *continued*

FILM & VISUALS

Lad trommerne tale. DRTV & AGORO i DK, 1998. Documentary on Agoro Project in Ghana (28,5 min).

Buemageren. / The Arch Maker. Slide show for visual concert 2005

Agoro. Sound-slide shows, 1993-94.

AUTHOR

Hvis Landet Kunne Tale (If the Land Could Speak). Lyrics for 41 songs based on walks with children. 2014-17

Hosianna - 7 songs for Childrens Choir (Dansk Sang 2008). Includes six original compositions, of which five are with own lyrics, one is an adaptation in Danish of a traditional Carribbean song.

Lyrics for other works for childrens choir include:

Da himmelen rørte Jorden (When Heaven touched Earth) 2006

Rosen i Norden (The Rose in the North) 2005, published in PO-Bladet Aug 2012

Insektudsigten (Insects' weather forecast) - story for concert w. same title, 2003, cd 2006

Navnefesten (The Naming Ceremony) - storytale for kindergarden children. LMS/Live Music in Schools, 2003

Hvis du var Esi Ata (If you were Esi Ata) - online teaching material for children. On childrens' daily life in Ghana and on Ghanaian music. World.dk/kids & Mellempøkeligt Samvirke 2000.

Kweku Ananse and the drum - manus & dramaturgy for dance performance, Agoro Festival in DK 1999

Ndama Nkaebo/ Message from the Future - dramaturgy for dance performance, Agoro Centre, Ghana, 1997

River Pra - manus and dramaturgy for dance performance, Images of Africa 1996 / Copenhagen European City of Culture 1996.

Man skal høre meget (ed.) - on learning processes and the role of the teacher in music. Cbh., Chr.Ejlers Forlag 1988, 2.issue 1993.

APPOINTMENTS

nov 2015 - : consultant in singing at Sangkraftcenter Roskilde Synger

from 2008 - : conductor of Vor Frues Choir (Vor Frues Sangkor).

2001-2014: organist and conductor of childrens choirs at Ny Vor Frue Kirke.

1993-99 Agoro Project: co-leader 1993-94, intercultural consultant 1994-99 of Danida-sponsored centre for music, dance & drama in Ghana; coordinator of Agoro in Denmark (incl. artists' cultural exchange, capacity building and tour programmes between DK & Ghana)

1989-97: master of music and film at Amtsgymnasiet in Roskilde (sec.school), on leave 93/94, 95/96 and 96/97 due to work in Ghana

1988-89: editor (of periodicals *Nyt Aspekt*, *Opus*); music teacher at Roskilde Katedralskole (sec.school)

1985-88: researcher (kandidatstipendiat) at University of Copenhagen, Institute of Musicology

1984-85: pædagogikum (teaching practice) at Herlev Statsskole; researcher at the Danish State's Humanistic Research Council (SHF)

1982-84: teacher in singing at Rødovre Music School

1978-82: music teacher at Greve Gymnasium (sec.school)

1974-79: soloist and choirist (Roskilde Cathedral; Sct.Jørgensbjerg Churches; Herslev-Gevninge Parishes).

Has taught and lectured numerous courses, seminars, workshops, lectures at conferences and postgraduate courses for public and private organisations and companies, educational institutions (formal and nonformal educ.) human resource departments within subjects like singing, singing and dance, music & consciousness, the experiences of music, culture & development, art and culture in foreign aid programmes a.o.

HONORARY POSTS

Board member of Danish Musicians Union' Roskilde Branch. Chairman of Koncertkapellet.

Vice chairman of Regional Music Council at Roskilde County 2001-06, chairman of its school concerts programme in the same period.