



LAWO
CLASSICS

KARSTEN BRUSTAD

Ylg, hof, Udjat!

Concerts for soloists
and orchestra

NORWEGIAN RADIO ORCHESTRA
INGAR BERGBY - CONDUCTOR

Ylg, hof, Udjat!

Concerts for soloists and orchestra

Ylg (2012) concerto for two flutes, piccolo and orchestra. The piece is a commission from Co-Principal Flutist Norwegian Radio Orchestra Anne Karine Hauge with support from the Norwegian Culture Fund.

The title *Ylg* is from Norse mythology and the book *Younger Edda*. Here it is described that long before the earth came into being, Nivlheim was made. In the middle of it is a well called *Kvergjelme*. From it flow the rivers *Sval*, *Gunntrå*, etc., including *Ylg*. The music is both eruptive, rhythmically moving, and mythically contemplative – energy and atmosphere.

Anne Karine had the idea of splitting the orchestra into three parts on stage to support the various soloists, and to give the audience a more spacious sound experience. By using the instrument groups against, and with each other, a clearer stereo effect is achieved than with a more traditional orchestral setup. The set-up in *Ylg* nevertheless does not deviate much from what musicians, and conductors are used to dealing with.

hof (2015) concerto for timpani and orchestra. The piece is a commission from Principal Timpani Norwegian

Radio Orchestra Rune Halvorsen with support from the Norwegian Culture Fund.

The word *hof* is Old Norse, and has three meanings: possibility, discretion/meaning/understanding and farm/court/temple.

The timpani are often called the “second conductor” in an orchestra. During the first performance of *hof*, Rune Halvorsen was both soloist/timpanist/“the second conductor”, and conductor of the orchestra. A setup with five timpani is voluminous and very visible as a soloist in front of an orchestra. Just as clearly as the old *Hov* were located in the landscape. Timpani can be prominently dynamic, and are often used to emphasize high points in the music. As a soloist in this piece, the timpani also get the opportunity to show their more lyrical, sonorous and quiet sides. The instruments have a large and varied range of different expressions, which is used with care in the piece. There will still be no doubt as to who is the chief/soloist of the court.

Udjat (2005) concerto for euphonium, electronics and orchestra. The piece is a commission from Geir Davidsen and

Tromsø Symphony Orchestra with support from *Komponistenes vederlagsfond*

In 1999 I had the pleasure of collaborating with Geir Davidsen on a new piece for euphonium solo, *Wrsh*. It became a kind of musical evaluation of many new playing techniques developed by Geir. After that, we wanted to continue the collaboration, put the instrument euphonium into a larger context and use the new playing techniques further in an expanded musical universe. The result was *Udjat*.

Udjat is the name of the god Horus’s “sound eye” from Egyptian mythology. Two different worlds of sound, the acoustic (orchestra and soloist) and the electronic play both with, and against each other, but still form a total whole. Parts of the electronics in *Udjat* are real-time processed, while all pre-made electronics are adaptations of a recording of the solo piece *Wrsh*. The concert is at times virtuosic and eruptive, but also has quieter parts. Everyone is encouraged to be open and challenge their own inner “sound eye”.

Music is constantly being re-created by the musicians as they play it. This is an aspect that fascinates me. Scores

are possibilities, but do not come alive until they are interpreted and performed by musicians. The concept of time, an eternal now, makes every performance of a piece of music unique and special. Something similar happens when you listen to a recording - time makes, even if it is the same recording, every playback into a separate event.

KARSTEN BRUSTAD

Karsten Brustad (born 16 August 1959) is a Norwegian composer known for his contributions to contemporary music. He studied classical guitar, and he has a master's degree in composition from the Norwegian Academy of Music.

Throughout his career, Brustad has composed a variety of works, including pieces for orchestra, opera, solo concerts, choirs, various chamber ensembles, and solo instruments. He has a particular interest in integrating electronic elements with acoustic instruments but has also pure electroacoustic compositions on his list of works. In addition, Brustad has worked with music for other art forms such as visual arts, TV, video, and theatre.

Several compositions have been recorded and Brustad has received several commissions and grants, which underlines his significant influence on Norway's contemporary music scene. His works continue to be performed and appreciated, e.g. for mixing acoustic and electronic sounds. This reflects his dedication to expanding the boundaries of contemporary music.





INGAR BERGBY

Ingar Bergby was born in 1964 in Sarpsborg, Norway and grew up in a musical family where he was playing in the local wind bands. He studied clarinet with Richard Kjelstrup at The Norwegian Academy of Music, and later orchestra conducting with Karsten Andersen at the same institution, as well as with Jorma Panula at the Sibelius Academy. He graduated as conductor from the Norwegian Academy of Music in 1991.

Bergby is one of Norway's leading conductors, known for his versatility across classical, opera, contemporary, and crossover music. He has collaborated with major Norwegian and Scandinavian orchestras. He was principal conductor of the Värmlands Opera and Värmlands Opera Sinfonietta from 1999 to 2005, permanent guest conductor in Bergen Fhilharmonic Orchestra from 2003 to 2008, focusing on Norwegian and Nordic repertoire. He engaged as a profile conductor with the Norwegian Radio Orchestra (KORK) | 2009-2010 and has had several engagements there every year since. He is regularly guest conductor with almost all Nordic orchestras.

Renowned for his interpretations of contemporary music, Bergby has premiered works by Norwegian contemporary

composers like Thommessen, Wallin og Waage. His dedication to Norwegian music is evident through his numerous recordings and performances, contributing significantly to the country's cultural landscape. In 2024, he was the conductor-in-residence for the Cartagena Music Festival.

In addition to his orchestral career, Bergby has also conducted Norwegian wind bands, earning both national and European championship titles for brass bands with Eikanger-Bjørsvik Musikklag and five national championship titles for wind bands with Lillestrøm Musikkorps.



NORWEGIAN RADIO ORCHESTRA

The Norwegian Radio Orchestra is known as “the whole land’s orchestra” and is today regarded with a unique combination of respect and affection by its music-loving public. With its remarkably diverse repertoire, this is no doubt the orchestra most heard throughout the land – on the radio, television, and online, and at various diverse venues around the country.

It is a flexible orchestra, performing all from symphonic and contemporary classical music to pop, rock, folk, and jazz. Each year the orchestra performs together with internationally acclaimed artists at the Nobel Peace Prize Concert, which is aired to millions of viewers worldwide. Those with whom the orchestra has collaborated in recent years include the Kaizers Orchestra, Mari Boine, Jarle Bernhoft, Diamanda Galàs, Renée Fleming,

Andrew Manze, Anna Netrebko, and Gregory Porter.

The Norwegian Radio Orchestra was founded by the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation in 1946. Its first conductor, Øivind Bergh, led the ensemble in a series of concerts from the broadcasting company’s main studio, establishing the basis of its popularity and securing its status as a national treasure. The orchestra continues to per-

form in the context of important media events. It is comprised of highly talented classical instrumentalists and yet its musical philosophy has remained the same: versatility, a light-hearted approach, curiosity for all kinds of music, and an unwillingness to pigeonhole musical styles. Petr Popelka is currently the orchestra’s Chief Conductor.

The orchestra handpicks its conductors, focusing on their suitability for

the chosen repertoire. The Norwegian Radio Orchestra is well known for using Norwegian conductors, soloists, artists and arrangers to a much larger extent than other leading orchestras in Norway.



ANNE KARINE HAUGE

Anne Karine Hauge has for several years been co-Principal Flutist Norwegian Radio Orchestra and is well acquainted with a wide range of musical styles. She is Principal Flutist with the Oslo Sinfonietta and Cikada, two ensembles known for their work with leading contemporary composers. With these ensembles, she performs at prestigious festivals, both nationally and internationally. Anne Karine has an active career as soloist and ensemble musician. Cikada and Oslo Sinfonietta have received several awards, including the Nordic Council's Music Prize and the Norwegian Spellemann Prize. She has performed as a soloist with The Norwegian Radio Orchestra, and other ensembles, on several occasions. Several solo works have been written especially for her. In addition to her performing career, she is employed at the Norwegian Academy of Music, where she is integrating new playing techniques into her teaching.



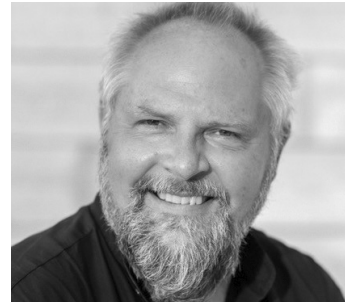
VIVIAN ELLEFSEN

Vivian Ellefsen has been Principal Flutist Norwegian National Opera Orchestra since 2002. She started her career five years earlier, as Principal Piccolo Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, while she was still a student at the Norwegian Academy of Music. During her career she has been involved in several prominent orchestras, such as Royal Chamber Orchestra in Stockholm, Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, and Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra. In recent years, she has been Principal Flute with the Norwegian Radio Orchestra on several occasions. Alongside her work as an orchestra musician, Vivian Ellefsen has regularly performed as a soloist and chamber musician in various contexts. She has participated in prestigious festivals such as Oslo Chamber Music Festival, Risør Chamber Music Festival, been a soloist with The Norwegian Chamber Orchestra, and participated as a soloist and chamber musician in the Norwegian National Opera Orchestra chamber music series. She also has experience from several Contemporary Music Ensembles such as Ensemble Ernst, Kammarensemble N Stockholm, and Oslo Sinfonietta. Vivian thrives best in interaction with others. She feels at home both in the orchestra and in smaller ensembles. Exploring and creating the right colors and characters for the music, together with fellow musicians, is what makes the music alive and interesting.



LINN CECILIE AASVIK

Linn Cecilie Aasvik is a versatile flautist and piccolo flautist who started her professional career as a 21-year-old in the Armed Forces Music. After one year in Harstad, she spent eight years in Trondheim, where she alternated between work and completing her studies at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo. This was followed by eleven years in The Norwegian Wind Ensemble in Halden, where she worked with a varied repertoire, that ranged from baroque on original instruments to real-time music and improvisation. Since 2016, Linn has been Principal Piccolo Norwegian Radio Orchestra, an orchestra known for its innovative and diverse repertoire. Alongside her regular involvement in Norwegian Radio Orchestra, she is an active chamber musician with, among others, Østfold Serenade Ensemble. In addition, she regularly substitutes in Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, Norwegian Opera Orchestra, The Norwegian Chamber Orchestra, and most of the country's other professional wind bands and orchestras.



RUNE HALVORSEN

Rune Halvorsen has had a varied career as a musician, conductor, and instructor. He has played with all the professional orchestras in Norway, with all the military bands, been employed by SL's Symphonic Band in Stockholm, and played with Wermland Opera and Gothenburg Symphony in Sweden. He was also involved in the initial phase of the contemporary ensembles BIT 20 in Bergen, and the SISU Percussion Trio in Oslo. He has conducted several of the military bands in Norway, and led projects with Norwegian Radio Orchestra, Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra, and guest conducted Stavanger Symphony Orchestra. Throughout his life as a professional musician and conductor, he has been active as a conductor and instructor for wind bands, orchestras, and choirs. Since 2001 he has been Principal Timpani Norwegian Radio Orchestra, and in the years 2009 - 2018 he held the same position in NOSO, these days known as The Arctic Philharmonic. Halvorsen is co-founder of the festival Kammerfest in Østfold and served in the years 2016 - 2023 as the festival's program manager. He is now chairman of the same festival and has left the main part of both program responsibility and administration to younger forces.



GEIR DAVIDSEN

Geir Davidsen is educated at the Conservatory of Music in Tromsø and the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo. He is the first in Norway to have a performing major in euphonium, and he has immersed himself in contemporary music. In 2009, Davidsen received Ph.D. in artistic research through the national Program for artistic research and is one of very few brass players with this education in Norway. As a performer, he is in demand among contemporary composers and several compositions have been written for him. In addition to his work with new music, he plays serpent in the early music ensemble Contrafacta. Davidsen is Associate Professor of Euphonium UiT Arctic University of Norway. In recent years, he has led several major projects within artistic research work and is head of the Norwegian Academy of Music's artistic research group ARcTic Sustain.

NORWEGIAN RADIO ORCHESTRA
INGAR BERGBY—CONDUCTOR

KARSTEN BRUSTAD (1959)

1. *Ylg* 15:29
Concerto for piccolo, two flutes and orchestra

ANNE KARINE HAUGE—FLUTE
VIVIAN ELLEFSEN—FLUTE
LINN CECILIE AASVIK—PICCOLO

2. *Hof* 17:25

Concerto for timpani and orchestra

RUNE HALVORSEN—TIMPANI

3. *Udjat* 19:18

Concerto for Euphonium, orchestra and electronics

GEIR DAVIDSEN—EUPHONIUM

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ANNE KARINE HAUGE: CAMILLA BRATT
VIVIAN ELLEFSEN: ISA ARESKJOLD
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