

Rondo  
RECORDS

# T-Bone Music

Danish Concert Band

Conductor Jørgen Misser Jensen - Trombone Jesper Juul Sørensen

Johan de Meij  
Søren Hyldgaard  
Tostein Aagaard-Nilsen  
Launy Grøndahl



## **Jesper Juul Sørensen**

Jesper Juul Sørensen (b. 1973) is solo trombonist in the Danish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, where he has been permanently employed since 1997. Moreover, Jesper Juul is employed as teacher at the Royal Danish Academy of Music from where he graduated in 1997. During his studies, Jesper has been on a sojourn for purposes of study in Chicago with Arnold Jacobs and Kleinhammer. Furthermore, Jesper has been studying in Paris



with Benny Sluchin (avant garde-specialist) and Jacques Mauger (soloist).

Jesper has several times participated in soloist competitions. In 1995, he became prizewinner at the international trombone soloist competition in Toulon and was no. three at the international trombone soloist competition in Munich. In 1997, Jesper became the winner of the Danish selection to the Nordic soloist biennial in Trondheim. In 1998, Jesper Juul won the highly esteemed Concours international d'execution musicales in Geneve. They competed in four instruments, and Jesper won his group ahead of 70 other trombonists. At present, he also conducts the Lyngby-Taarbæk Brass Band, one of the best brass bands in Denmark, and in May 2003, he won the European Conductors Competition in Norway.

## **Johan de Meij**

Johan de Meij (b. 1953) studied trombone and conducting at the Royal Conservatory of Music at The

Hague. He has earned international fame as a composer and arranger. His catalogue consists of original compositions, symphonic transcriptions and arrangements of film scores and musicals. The Symphony no. 1 *The Lord of the Rings*, based on Tolkien's best-seller novels of the same name, was his first substantial composition for symphonic band and received the prestigious Sudler Composition Award in 1989.

His other larger compositions, such as Symphony no. 2 *The Big Apple*, the *T-Bone Concerto* (for trombone and symphonic band) and *Casanova* (for violoncello and symphonic band) are also on the repertoire of the better bands all over the world. *Casanova* was awarded the First Prize at the International Composition Competition at Corciano, Italy in 1999, and a year later, Johan de Meij won the Oman International Composition Prize with *The Red Tower*.

Besides composing, Johan de Meij is also very active in various musical fields. He plays the trombone in the Orchestra *De Volharding* (The Perseverance), *The Amsterdam Wind Orchestra* and regular substitute with the *Radio Chamber Orchestra*. Moreover, he is much in demand as a guest conductor: having conducted concerts and seminars in almost all European countries, in Japan, Singapore, Brazil, and the United States.

### **Torstein Aagaard-Nilsen**

Torstein Aagaard-Nilsen (b. 1964) is educated at Bergen University and Bergen Academy of Music. He has acted as organizer and composer for the Norwegian Corps of Defence, received Hordaland Fylke's scholarship for development, the state's scholarship for establishment, and the state's scholarship for work for artists (2001 and 2002).

The list of works shows a wide range of productions. The works for

Brass Band and Wind Band are much presented and are recorded both at home and abroad. Several instrumental concerts are on his list of works: Concert for Cello and Orchestra (1995), Concert for Trumpet and String Band (1996), Concert for Trombone and String Band (1998), Concert for Tuba and Orchestra (1997), and Concert for Euphonium and Orchestra (2001).

Aagaard-Nilsen does also work as an educationist. For several years he has taught at Manger Folkehøgskule and conducted school and amateur corps. In 1998-99, he was attached to BIT 20 Ensemble's procurement of contemporary music to children and young people. In 2000 and 2001, he was in charge of Autunnale Festival's conference "Young Music" – a conference about children's meeting with contemporary music.

Aagaard-Nilsen was the leader of New Music department Bergen from 1990–1994 and was one of the establishers of the Autunnale Festival in Bergen where he is still in the management.

## **Søren Hyldgaard**

Versatility is the keyword in describing the prolific musical talents of Søren Hyldgaard (b. 1962). He is wearing at least three hats; he seems as comfortable at juggling the nuts-and-bolts of composing the seminal epic film score, as he is writing for the concert-hall - be it symphonic, chamber, concert bands and brass ensembles. Yet another approach is Hyldgaard's highly popular "New Age" or relaxation CD albums, boasting a Platinum Disc for the title "Flying Dreams". Despite his impressive and diverse output, Søren Hyldgaard is basically self-taught in music; a fact that most likely has conveyed the composer's liberal and versatile attitude towards the many styles and genres in contemporary music.

Recent and upcoming credits include Søren Hyldgaard's symphonic score for the international animated adventure film Help! I'm A Fish and his choral-symphonic score for the Scandinavian adventure-fantasy film Eye of the Eagle. At the opposite end of Hyldgaard's oeuvre

we find the Rapsodia Borealis for Trombone and Wind Orchestra (dedicated to distinguished soloist Jesper Juul Sørensen) and Bagatelle for Euphonium and Wind Orchestra.

Søren Hyldgaard has won numerous awards and prizes including the “Robert” from The Danish Film Academy. In May 2001, Hyldgaard accepted a prestigious artistic acknowledgement award for his achievements in film scoring, presented to him by The San Diego Film Commission in Southern California.

## **Launy Grøndahl**

Launy Grøndahl lived from 1886 to 1960. He was educated as violinist from the Academy of Music in Copenhagen, and afterwards he studied in Rome, Paris, and Vienna. Furthermore, he was active both as conductor and composer. In 1925, Launy Grøndahl was attached to the Danish National Radio Symphony Orchestra as conductor, where he worked until 1956.

## **The T-Bone Concerto**

The *T-Bone Concerto* is Johan de Meij's very first composition for solo instrument and symphonic band. It consists of three movements called respectively *Rare*, *Medium* and *Well Done*. This work was commissioned by The Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA) and was written between August 1995 and January 1996.

In addition to the solo trombone, an important role has been allotted to a kind of chamber music ensemble within the band. This group introduces now and then new thematic material and accompanies the soloist, thus creating a nice transparent accompaniment. The ensemble consists of a double wind quintet (2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 French horns and 2 bassoons) plus an English horn and a double bass. Parts I and II are written in the A-B-A form and allow the soloist to display both the technical and the lyrical characteristics of the instrument. Part III at first develops into a kind of neo-

baroque style using the thematic material of the first and second movement, and finally leads to a triumphant finale and a virtuoso conclusion.

## **Cantilena for Trombone and Wind Band**

The piece of music was composed in 2001 commissioned by The Danish Concert Band. It is composed with soloist Jesper Juul Sørensen in mind. The two of them have also worked together in an earlier project. In 1998, Jesper played for the first time "Concerto for Trombone and String Orchestra", in 2000 he played for the first time "Skuld" for solo-trombone and participated in the performance of "Crossing Lines".

"Cantilena" has the subtitle "cradle-song" (lullaby). The composer's youngest daughter was close to her first birthday, and singing lullabies was a natural thing of the everyday life. Cradle-song as a phenomenon also became an idea - not that everyone must sleep but the often-

toned down character of these songs became something to characterize the work.

The piece of music does not have a character of being a song, but it has to be singable (cantilena means song). The solo part is considered as a lyric and singable line, which the accompanying parts are built around.

### **Rapsodia Borealis**

Rapsodia Borealis, A Nordic Rhapsody for Trombone and Wind Orchestra

The ignition to write a concert piece for the trombone happened in Copenhagen at the Tivoli Gardens concert hall in 1997. Attending rehearsals of the *Hans Christian Andersen Suite for Wind Orchestra*, Søren Hyldgaard happened to be around for the rehearsal of Johan de Meij's inspiring *T-Bone Concerto* performed by the phenomenal Jesper Juul Sørensen. Søren Hyldgaard was particularly struck by the merging of technical virtuosity and lyrical expression – and, first and last, how completely easy and effortlessly

Jesper Juul Sørensen made it sound. A few years later, The Danish Concert Band commissioned a trombone concerto to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the municipality of Rødovre – the hometown of The Danish Concert Band.

With *Rapsodia Borealis* Søren Hyldgaard had in mind a sort of circular structure centred around a truly lyrical, *cantabile* theme – a song of the North for the trombone (hence the title which means Rhapsody of the North). The orchestra is launched at full force but the soloist soon jumps on the carousel of semi-dissonant, kaleidoscopic and nearly minimalist chord progressions. Following a series of playful inventions, the trombone almost surprisingly takes the lead with its tuneful hymn, later to be joined by members of the orchestra in various permutations and arrangements. From the very start, the purpose of this concerto has not necessarily been to re-define the term *technically challenging* in context with the solo trombone; rather, it was as much the goal to emphasize the

tender, lyrical side of the modern concert trombone.

### **Concerto for Trombone and Band**

In 1924, Launy Grøndahl wrote his Trombone Concerto. The concerto was written to his friend Vilhelm Aarkrog, who was trombonist in the Royal Danish Orchestra. The music was actually written in preparation for first performance by the Zoological Garden's Orchestra, but, however, it became the Tivoli Wind Band, who was responsible for the first performance in 1925. Shortly after, Grøndahl wrote a version for symphony orchestra himself, and the concerto is later on published in several new versions with corrections from a.o. legendary Palmer Traulsen. Launy Grøndahl did not like these corrections, so this recording is as far as possible based on the original edition.

The Trombone Concerto has become a cornerstone in the trombone literature and is played all over the world today. It is a special

pleasure for Jesper Juul Sørensen to play it, because he is playing in the orchestra today that Grøndahl was so closely connected to, the Danish National Radio Symphony Orchestra.

### **Bagatelle**

*Bagatelle* was written as an *encore* for a concert a few years ago in the Tivoli Gardens of Copenhagen. The tuba player Jens Bjørn-Larsen was the soloist that evening, and Søren Hyltdgaard simply could not resist this opportunity to write a simple, haunting piece that would bring out the soft and mild-mannered side of the talent of Jens Bjørn-Larsen. Often playing in the alto register, he nearly makes the rotund tuba sing with an ethereal quality, not unlike a French horn playing *lontano*.

When publishing this piece it was suggested that it also should be made available for euphonium and tenor trombone. First of all, there are not many performers like Jens Bjørn-Larsen, *and* there is a dire need for new, soloistic music for the solo euphonium and solo trombone.

**The Danish Concert Band** (Rødovre Concert Band) was founded in 1968, and today it consists of 70 musicians aged 15-45 years. Since the mid-seventies, the orchestra has made tremendously progress resulting in several National Championships, The Nordic Championship, 1st prizes in several international competitions and in 1990, a European Championship. Two days after celebrating its 25th anniversary in 1993, The Danish Concert Band won the

Europäischer Wettbewerb in Trier, Germany.

The orchestra has performed several times on the Danish Radio and in every major concert hall in Denmark, a.o. Concert Hall Tivoli and The Danish National Radio Concert Hall. Locally in Rødovre, the band appears very often in the Concert Hall Viften.

At least every second year, The Danish Concert Band goes on a concert tour in Europe, and so the



orchestra has played in large concert halls in Scotland, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Austria and The Czech Republic.

The orchestra has recorded 15 CD's with a wide-ranging repertoire, first compositions, concerts with soloists, and world premiere recordings.

**Jørgen Misser Jensen** (b. 1947) is the conductor of The Danish Concert Band since 1970. He played the piano from the age of five and continued his education in the Tivoli Boy's Guard as a clarinetist. He studied at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen with Professor Tage Scharff, and in London, with Professor Antony Pay.

In 1975, Jørgen Jensen became Solo Clarinetist in the Zealand Symphony Orchestra, and at present, he is alternating Solo Clarinetist in the Danish National Radio Symphony Orchestra and a member of Collegium Musicum. Since 1988, he is associate professor at the Royal



Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen.

Jørgen Jensen is very often used as a guest conductor and leader of master classes in Denmark and abroad. At several occasions, he has been a member of the jury in international wind band competitions. In 1999, he was guest conductor at the 21st Annual WIBC Convention in Seattle, USA and in 2002, he conducted the Birmingham Symphonic Winds. In May 2003, he was member of the jury in "Muziek Festival in Neerpelt", Belgium.

Previous releases from Rondo Records with  
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**Concert Band Music** (RCD 8331)  
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**Recording dates, locations, and producers**

T-Bone Concerto: March 2000, Viften - Rødovre, Per Jacobsen  
Cantilena: May 2003, Viften - Rødovre, Frans Rasmussen  
Rapsodia Borealis: July 2002, Casino Beringen - Belgium, Johan de Meij  
Bagatelle: July 2002, Casino Beringen - Belgium, Johan de Meij  
Grøndahl Concerto: November 2000, Viften - Rødovre, Preben Ivan

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Engineering: **Torben Krogh** and **Jos Boerland**  
Booklet editors: **Iris Madsen** and **Jørgen Münster**  
Cover design: **Thomas Juul Sørensen**



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Independent Music, OH Musik ApS, P.O. Box 49, DK-2680 Solrød Strand Denmark  
Fax: (+45) 56 14 66 67 - e-mail: oh@ohmusik.dk - www.ohmusik.dk

**Johan de Meij**

*T-Bone Concerto*

- |    |           |       |
|----|-----------|-------|
| 1. | Rare      | 10:43 |
| 2. | Medium    | 9:19  |
| 3. | Well Done | 6:42  |

**Torstein Aagaard-Nilsen**

- |    |   |       |
|----|---|-------|
| 4. | <i>Cantilena for Trombone and Wind Band</i> | 13:08 |
|----|---|-------|

**Søren Hyldgaard**

- |    |                          |       |
|----|--------------------------|-------|
| 5. | <i>Rapsodia Borealis</i> | 16:28 |
|----|--------------------------|-------|

**Launy Grøndal**

*Concerto for Trombone and Band, arr. Poul Ivan Møller*

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|----|--------------------------------------|------|
| 6. | Moderato assai ma molto maestoso     | 5:12 |
| 7. | Quasi una Leggenda, Andante grave    | 6:20 |
| 8. | Finale, Rondo, Allegretto scherzando | 5:14 |

**Søren Hyldgaard**

- |    |                  |      |
|----|------------------|------|
| 9. | <i>Bagatelle</i> | 4:18 |
|----|------------------|------|

Total time: 77:29

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