

Niklas has been teaching at the Royal Conservatory of music in Copenhagen for 10 years and is now holding the position as head of department and Professor.

His current class features among others 6 sololistclass students and 4 of those

will make their debut during 2010-2011.

The students are coming from Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Hungary, China, and Latvia.

Some of the most successful students of Prof. Sivelöv:

Kristoffer Nyholm Hyldig was born in 1982 in Denmark. He currently studies at his last year at the soloist line with prof. Niklas Sivelöv at the Royal Danish Academy of Music.

He has already been a very active member of Danish music life for several years both as a soloist, chamber musician and accompanist. He has played with several of the Danish orchestras in recent years counting Copenhagen Philharmonic in Tivoli's Concert Hall where he played Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, Aalborg Symphony Orchestra and most recently he played Messian's "Oiseaux Exotiques".

As accompanist he has among others played with Tina Kiberg and Stig Fogh Andersen and has assisted both the Figura ensemble and Odense Symphony Orchestra.

Apart from his current teacher he has also been taught by Tove Lønskov and Amalie Malling in Denmark as well as Zara Piruman. He has attended masterclasses with Pnina Salzman, Volker Banfield, Pierre Réach, Mirta Herrera, Bengt Forsberg, Malcolm Martineau, Rudolf Jansen, Anne Sofie von Otter and the piano duo Taal/Groethuysen among others.

In 2008 he has performed several of Messian's pieces here among his major piano composition "Vingt Regards sur L'Enfant-Jésus".

In 2007 Mr. Hyldig recieved the Jacob Gade Grant. He has won 1st prize in both the Royal Danish Academy of Music Mozart Piano Competition and the Scholarship Competition.

Harawi, Messiaen's longest work for solo voice, might fairly be described as an hour-long piano suite with major contributions from the soprano. This new version is blessed with a pianist, Kristoffer Hyldig, who provides a technically impeccable and emotionally generous partnership for soprano Hetna Regitze Bruun. Hyldig commands both ends of the great mood swings Messiaen wrote into the piece, clarity of birdsong on the one hand and washes of huge, perfumed sonic clouds on the other. He doesn't clatter in the busy music unless Messiaen wants him to. He also, in tandem with Bruun, manages to give the illusion that the music is taking unlimited time, even though the duo is maintaining a continuity underneath, as in "Amour oiseau d'étoile," one of Messiaen's stopped-time inventions, and "L'amour de Piroutcha."

<http://www.metoperafamily.org/operanews/recording/recording.aspx?id=1845>

The Gramophone:

'Naxos's recording equally reveals that Kristoffer Hyldig is a fine new Messiaen pianist.'

Christian Westergaard (b. 1980) began studying the piano at the age of eight with Esther Lund Madsen. He trained at the Royal Danish Academy of Music with Amalie Malling and Niklas Sivelöv and in recent years has made a name as a striking partner of a number of the leading young Nordic singers. He has played concerts at among other venues the Wigmore Hall in London, at the Hamburg Musikhalle and in the rest of Germany, in Italy, Sweden, Norway and in Denmark in the DR Concert Hall, the Tivoli Concert Hall, at Takkelloftet and The Black Diamond. He is founder and artistic director of Liedkompagniet, which has renewed the focus on Danish Lied art with composers including Rued Langgaard and Herman D. Koppel. In 1999 and 2000 he won First Prize in the Danish Steinway Competition.

On Dacapo with the Randers Chamber Orchestra, Christian Westergaard has recorded chamber music by his father, Svend Westergaard, and with the singers Signe Asmussen and Adam Riis has recorded "Songs of their Times" with music by Ib Nørholm on Kontrapunkt. He has been engaged as an accompanist at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen and the Opera Academy. Christian Westergaard has received among other grants the Van Hauen Grant and the grant of the Sonning Music Foundation.

Kati Eriikka Arikoski (born in 1979) started her piano studies at the Conservatory of Kuopio, Finland in 1986. Since 1999, she studied in the Turku Art Academy in Finland and graduated as a piano teacher in the spring 2005 from the class of the head teacher Jukka Juvonen. In spring 2008 she graduated with a masters degree at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen and continues her studies at soloist line with Professor Niklas Sivelöv.

She has also frequently participated in master courses, both in Finland and abroad. Her teachers have included Matti Raekallio, Erik T. Tawaststjerna, José Ribera, Pierre Réach, Emanuel Krasovsky and Liisa Pohjola, a.o

She has given a number of solo concerts, has been a member of various chamber music ensembles and worked as lied pianist in Finland, Sweden, the Faroe Islands, Denmark and Austria. She also performed with the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra in May 2004, at the Concert for Young Soloists and played as a soloist with the Sigyn Sinfonietta in autumn 2006.

Arikoski won 3rd prize at the National Leevi Madetoja Piano Competition in Oulu, January of 2006. She was also awarded a special prize, a recital, which was held at a music festival, "Music in Paanu Church" in Käsämäki, the summer of 2006. In June 2008 she won joint first prize at the piano competition and became second place with her piano trio in chamber music competition at the Royal Danish Academy of Music.

Arikoski is an active chamber musician. She performs with tenor Jakob Holtze and viola player Jussi Aalto and forms a piano duet with Anna-Mari Murdvee. The piano duo, who performs mainly four-hand piano music, has played together since the year 2000 and has performed in various places in Finland and abroad in Austria, Denmark and the Faroe Islands. Arikoski also belongs to the group "Elokuu Ensemble" that has given concerts every year since 2003 in Seinäjoki, Finland. They arrange own Chamber music series "Tunes of August", as the name already implies, always every August! Check more information about the group: www.elokuu-ensemble.com.

Søren Rastogi has in the last few years established himself as one of the most promising Danish musicians. He was educated in Copenhagen at The Royal Danish Academy of Music by Tove Lønskov and Prof. *Niklas Sivelöv* . He graduated from RDAM with the highest grades and had his debut from the soloist class the same place in 2005.

He is most sought after at festivals and concert venues in Denmark and internationally, both as a soloist, chamber musician and accompanist. He has received a number of excellent reviews for his performances. As a soloist with orchestra, Søren Rastogi has performed with most Danish orchestras with conductors such as Christian Mandeál, Douglas Bostock, Mathias Aeschbacher and Thomas Søndergaard in concertos by Schumann, Gershwin and Mozart.

In 2009-10 he will appear again with Ålborg Symfoniorkester and the conductor Mathias Aeschbacher in the Piano Concerto No. 24 by Mozart and he will perform for the first time with Danish National Radio Symphony Orchestra the Piano Concerto by Strawinsky conducted by Peter Dijkstra.

In 2006 he was appointed "Artist in Residence" by The Round Tower of Copenhagen and the Danish National Radio. Included was a broadcasted concert series with 5 concerts as a soloist, chamber musician and accompanist. He has been broadcasted in Denmark and Norway on numerous occasions, as well as several broadcasts in the EBU.

Alongside his soloist appearances, Søren Rastogi has performed several works for choir and piano with the Vocal Ensemble of the Danish Radio. He is among the most sought after Danish accompanists, and has a close collaboration with baritone Johannes Weisser, with whom he has been touring Scandinavia. Recently they have released the CD "Visiting Grieg" which has received outstanding reviews and was recommended as one of the 3 best recordings in 2009 by Norwegian "Aftenposten"

He has received numerous prizes and awards, for instance from the Danish Music Critics Association, and was a prizewinner at several competitions such as the 5th Nordic Piano Competition, Nyborg and the Mendelssohn Competition, Berlin.

He is currently teaching at the **Royal Danish College of Music** and the **Royal Danish Academy of Music**

Cæcilie Grønkjær Tagmose was born in Denmark in 1987. She is currently studying with Professor Niklas Sivelöv at The Royal Danish Academy of Music, where she started in 2007.

She began taking piano lessons at the age of nine and when she was eleven years old she became a student of Martin Lysholm Jepsen. A few years later she was admitted to Klaverskolen Gradus (a school for young talented pianists) where she continued her studies under the guidance of the same teacher. After graduating from high school at Århus Statsgymnasium in 2005, she devoted herself to musical studies full time.

Cæcilie Grønkjær Tagmose has received top prizes in several competitions for young musical talents – Berlingske Tidendes klassiske Musikkonkurrence, Unge Spiller

Klassisk in Århus, and in 2006 she won the 1st prize at the Steinway Festival. The same year she was also a prize winner in the international competition "Music without Limits" in Lithuania.

Cæcilie is active as a soloist and has participated in numerous concerts – she has performed at the Copenhagen Summer Festival, in Kammermusikforeningen Brage, Fredericia Musikforening, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art and many other places. She has gained experience as a teacher through her job at Zahles Music School in Copenhagen and orchestral experience participating in concerts as a member of The Danish Concert Band.

Cæcilie has performed in master classes with many renowned artists, including Hui-Ying Tawaststjerna, Matti Raekallio, Liisa Pojholta, Victor Derevianko, Volker Banfield, Gerhard Schultz, Sergei Senkov, Veronika Vitaite, Andrzej Jasinski, Jozéf Stompel, Eugen Indjic, Eero Heinonen and Yonty Solomon.

In the coming year she will perform Shostakovich's concerto for piano and trumpet with the ARCO ensemble and she has planned duo recitals at Kirsten Kjærs Museum in the north of Jutland and in Copenhagen with cellist Amy Jolly. This ongoing duo will receive coaching from Mats Lidström and Josephine Knight at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Anne-Marie Lipsonen (born 1981 in Helsinki, Finland) began her musical education with playing the piano at the age of four and violin at the age of eight. She took her B.A. degree as a pianist in 2005 at Helsinki Conservatory/ Stadia- Polytechnic with specialising in Accompaniment and Chamber Music. Since 2004 she has been living in Copenhagen and finished her studies for Masters degree in The Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen with highest grades. Her teacher was Prof. Niklas Sivelöv.

She is currently taking the post graduate pianist program specializing in chamber music, practice and accompaniment at The Royal Danish Academy of Music under the guidance of Professor Niklas Sivelöv and Associate Professor Friedrich Gürtler.

During her studies at The Royal Danish Academy of Music she has also been coached by Associate Professor Pianist Amalie Malling, Professor Tim Frederiksen among others.

Anne-Marie Lipsonen has performed in her homeland as well as abroad. She has performed together with Aalborg Symphonic orchestra and worked with conductors Frans Rasmussen and Benjamin Shwartz, bariton Audun Iversen, soprano Denise Beck and violinist Minna Pensola. She has been awarded prizes in The V Nordic Lied Competition 2007 together with soprano Lina Johnson, Erkki Melartin Lied Competition 2004 together with soprano Katri Mäntylä, The Piano Competition in IV Forum Internacional de Música 2006 in Spain and awarded several grants from -among others- The Finnish Cultural Foundation, Danina's legat and most recent from the *Léonie Sonning's* Music

Foundation in Denmark.

Anne-Marie Lipsonen is an active lied pianist and accompanist. She has given concerts at the Danish Song Society among others. She has participated on master classes by known lied musicians like Helmut Deutsch, Malcom Martinue, Hartmut Höll and Rudolf Jansen. In the spring 2009 she studied at The Curtis Opera Theatre at The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, USA.

She also takes keen interest in modern music and has performed on festivals for contemporary music such as the Musica Nova Festival in Helsinki and Ung Nordisk Musik Festival in Copenhagen. In the coming spring she has been invited to perform works by Danish composers at The Nordic Music Festival in St. Petersburg with The St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonics.

In addition she has frequently participated in master courses in chamber music and solo by teachers such as Jacob Lateiner, Matti Raekallio, Eero Heinonen, Paul Badura-Skoda, Luiz da Moura Castro and Tokyo Quartet.

She has worked as an accompanist and teacher in music schools and colleges and as pianist on masterclasses with Professors Bo Skovhus, Anner Bylsma, Ralph Kirschbaum, Valter Despalj, Reinhard Latzko, Harro Ruijsenaars and Jakob Kullberg.

www.Lipsonen.dk