

curriculum vitae
SIGURÐUR ÁRNI JÓNSSON

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Biography

Sigurður Árni Jónsson is an Icelandic composer and conductor.

Jónsson's music ranges from choral works and solo pieces to more expansive chamber and orchestral works. His pieces have been performed by ensembles including Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Norrköping Symphony Orchestra (SE), NorrlandsOperan's Symphony Orchestra (SE), Musica Vitae (SE), Esbjerg Ensemble (DK), Norrbotten NEO (SE), Caput Ensemble (IS), Ensemble Dasein (SE), Stirni ensemble (IS) and Söngsveitin Fílharmónía (IS) and others. His works have been featured at events including Dark Music Days in Reykjavík 2017 and 2020, Ung Nordisk Musik 2017 and New Directions Festival 2016.

Jónsson holds an advanced level diploma in classical guitar from Hafnarfjörður School of Music and a Bachelor's degree from Iceland Academy of the Arts, where he studied composition with Hildigunnur Rúnarsdóttir and Tryggvi M. Baldvinsson and conducting with Gunnsteinn Ólafsson and Magnús Ragnarsson. From 2015 Sigurður studied composition on the master's level at the Academy of Music and Drama, University of Gothenburg, under the tutelage of professors Ming Tsao and Ole Lutzow-Holm, followed by a second master's degree, now in conducting, at Piteå School of Music with professors Petter Sundkvist and Erik Westberg.

Sigurður Árni Jónsson is the conductor of Ensemble Dasein, an international new music ensemble based in Gothenburg, and has as such already premiered a handful of newly commissioned works by young and eminent Nordic composers.

Education

- 2017-19 **Piteå School of Music, Luleå University of Technology** – M.A. in conducting
- Focus on instrumental conducting, orchestral and ensemble, as well as choral.
 - Main teachers are professors Petter Sundkvist and Erik Westberg.
- 2015-17 **Academy of Music and Drama, Gothenburg University** – M.A. in music composition
- Primary focus on instrumental music.
 - Main teachers were professors Ming Tsao and Ole Lutzow-Holm.
- 2012-15 **Iceland Academy of the Arts** – B.A. in music composition
- Primary focus on acoustic music, vocal and instrumental.
 - Teachers included Tryggvi M. Baldvinsson and Hildigunnur Rúnarsdóttir (composition), and Gunnsteinn Ólafsson and Magnús Ragnarsson (conducting).
 - Exchange studies from September to December 2014 at the Royal Academy of Music Aarhus, attending lessons with Simon Steen-Andersen and Niels Rønsholdt.

Recent and upcoming activities

- 2019: Norrbotten NEO premiered *This Circumstance Exists* in Piteå in January and the Icelandic Stirni ensemble premiered the specially commissioned *Sense-data* in Reykjavík in February. In April the RSPO Orchestra Academy premiered *Transfers – four short pieces for ensemble* in Stockholm and, in the culmination of his master's work in conducting, Sigurður lead the NorrlandsOperan's Symphony Orchestra in the premier of his new orchestra piece *I Adore Just the Nearest Star* in Umeå. In May Ensemble Dasein was hired to work with composition students at the Academy for Music and Drama in Gothenburg and performed their pieces in concert, and in August, in collaboration with Scenkonst Sörmland, the ensemble premiered five new pieces by Nordic composers in Eskilstuna, Sweden.
- 2020: Iceland Symphony Orchestra, with conductor Bjarni Frímann Bjarnason, premiered *Illusion of Explanatory Depth* at Dark Music Days in Reykjavík. The new composition was a part of YRKJA, a mentorship program for young Icelandic composers, co-operated by the ISO and Iceland Music Information Centre, and mentored by Anna Thorvaldsdóttir. The Covid-19 pandemic put a dent into Ensemble Dasein's concert agenda, but a repeat of the Eskilstuna program was cancelled in April. The ensemble hopes to reschedule and perform at Pymeteatern in Stockholm in the autumn. Other projects on the horizon include a tour of Norrbotten, Sweden, a tour in Norway in collaboration with Ny Musikks komponistgruppe, and recording sessions.
- 2021: The year will see completion of recent commissions, including one from Salurinn Concert house for Siggí string quartet (IS) and one from Elektra Ensemble (IS).

Grants and affiliations

Sigurður Árni Jónsson has been awarded local stipends (lokala stipendier) from the Swedish Royal Academy of Music, funding for independent composition projects from RÚV (the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service) and STEF (the Icelandic performance right association) and an educational stipend from the Mary von Sydow foundation. In 2017 Sigurður was one of three young composers awarded a national stipend (nationella stipendier) from the Swedish Royal Academy of Music.

In 2019 Sigurður was selected as one of two young Icelandic composers to participate in YRKJA V, with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, mentored by Anna Thorvaldsdóttir. In 2020 he was selected as one of four Icelandic composers commissioned by Salurinn concert house to write a new piece for the award winning Siggí string quartet.

Jónsson's intellectual property rights are protected internationally by STEF and scores are published and distributed by Iceland Music Information Centre.

He was elected as member of the Icelandic Composers society – Tónskáldafélag Íslands – in 2018.

References*

Petter Sundkvist, professor of orchestral conducting at Piteå School of Music, Luleå University of Technology.

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Erik Westberg, professor of choral conducting at Piteå School of Music, Luleå University of Technology.

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Ole Lutzow-Holm, professor of composition at the Academy of Music and Drama, Gothenburg University.

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Ming Tsao, professor of composition at Hannover University of Music, Drama and Media, previously professor of composition at the Academy of Music and Drama, Gothenburg University.

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*Further references can be provided with notice. Please contact me before approaching persons of reference.