

RISØR CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2024

June 25–30

Tuesday, June 25

11.00 **Children's Opening Concert**

Venue: Salvation Army Community Church

TBA

Performing artists: TBA

12:00 **Open-Air Concert at The Town Square**

Musicians from the festival perform a short concert at The Town Square.

18.00 & 20.30 **Opening Concert 1 & 2**

Risør Church

FLORENCE PRICE (1887–1953)

Adoration (1951)

Håvard Gimse – piano, **Tine Thing Helseth** – trumpet

NIKOLAJ KAPUSTIN (1937–2020)

Concert Etudes, op 40

1: *Preludium – Allegro Assai*

6: *Pastorale – Allegro Moderato*

7: *Intermezzo – Allegretto*

Yeol Eum Son – piano

JOHAN PSATHAS (1966 *)

Island songs (1995)

Julian Bliss – clarinet

Maximilian Hornung – cello

Gunnar Flagstad – piano

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK (1841–1904)
Piano Quintet in A major, op. 81 (1888)

Allegro, ma non tanto
Dumka, Andante con moto
Scherzo (Furiant), Molto vivace
Finale, Allegro

Yeol Eum Son – piano
Kristine Balanas – violin
Sarah Christian – violin
Jano Lisboa – viola
Sandra Lied Haga – cello

Wednesday, June 26

11:00 *At Home With*

Venue: A Private Home in Risør (45 min)

Julian Bliss enters a private home in Risør! Along with guitarist Jarle Storløkken and the festival's artistic director, Tine Thing Helseth, this will be a morning you'll long remember.

A thrilling, varied, and vigorous concert with three colorful musicians. The concert location is a surprise and will be announced three weeks before the start of the concert.

Julian Bliss – clarinet
Jarle Storløkken – guitar
Tine Thing Helseth – trumpet

12:00 **Open-Air Concert at The Town Square**

Musicians from the festival perform a short concert at The Town Square.

13.00 **Grieg's Music for «Peer Gynt»** Risør Town Hall (45min)

Lecture by Torkil Baden

In 2024, it is 150 years since Ibsen asked Grieg to compose the music for Peer Gynt. The work extended to the premiere at the Christiania Theater in 1876. This collaboration

between two of our greatest cultural personalities led to a musical legacy that still excites and inspires a vast global audience.

Join Torkil Baden on an engaging journey. Based on his latest book "Edvard Grieg – National and International", you will get a lecture that provides insight into the history behind the Peer Gynt music and the collaboration between Ibsen and Grieg. During the lecture, Håvard Gimse and Johanna Rudström will perform some of Grieg's most beloved pieces from Peer Gynt.

Torkil Baden – lecture

Liv Baden – text reading

Håvard Gimse – piano

Johanna Rudström – mezzo-sopran0

15.00 ***Nadia Boulanger's Wednesday Class*** Risør Church (65min)

Risør Church opens its doors for "Nadia Boulanger's Wednesday Class", a 65-minute tribute to the legendary pedagogue whose Parisian salon sculpted the musical titans of the modern era. Nadia Boulanger, celebrated for her pedagogical genius from 1887 to 1979, was renowned not only for her teachings but also for the intimate music salons she hosted, a beacon of cultural and musical exchange. Amidst the shadowed elegance of her apartment, a grand church organ stood as a testament to her stature, echoing the notes of future maestros.

This session delves into the essence of Boulanger's Wednesday gatherings, which evolved beyond mere musical soirées to become a crucible for composers, offering a platform for premieres and the invaluable opportunity to be seen and heard.

In a tribute to Boulanger's unparalleled legacy, we shall traverse her musical journey alongside her sister Lili, through a narrative woven by Leonard Bernstein, Philip Glass, and Astor Piazzolla. This performance promises a glimpse into the uncharted territories of music, featuring the premiere of a piece by Norwegian composer Andreas Gundersen.

Join us for an afternoon at Risør Church, celebrating the enduring spirit of Nadia Boulanger's Wednesday Class, where the past and future of music converge in a symphony of timeless inspiration.

Music by: Johann Sebastian Bach, Nadia Boulanger, Igor Stravinsky, Leonard Bernstein, Astor Piazzolla, Philip Glass, Lili Boulanger, and a brand-new work by the Norwegian composer Andreas Gundersen

Johanna Rudström – mezzo-soprano

Gunnar Flagstad – piano

Sanae Yoshida – piano

Sandra Lied Haga – cello

TBA – organ

Cathrine Winnes

18.00

Rhapsody in Blue

Risør Church (70min)

MARC-ANDRÉ HAMELIN (1961*)

Suite à l'ancienne (2019)

Préambule

Allemande

Corrente

Air avec agréments

Gavotte – Musette – Gavotte da capo

Gigue

MARC-ANDRÉ HAMELIN (1961*)

Barcarolle

Pt. 1 Calmissimo, ondeggiando

Pt. 2

Pt. 3

Pt. 4

Marc-André Hamelin – piano

DARIUS MILHAUD (1892–1974)

La création du monde (1923)

Ouverture. Modéré

Le chaos avant la création.

La naissance de la flore et de la faune.

La naissance de l'homme et de la femme.

Le désir. Mouvt.

Le printemps ou l'apaisement.

GEORGE GERSHWIN (1898–1937)

Rhapsody in Blue (1924)

Gunnar Flagstad – piano

Julian Bliss – clarinet

Sebastian Haukås – trumpet

Emily Hultmark – bassoon

Frode Berg – bass

Eirik Raude – percussion

Håvard Gimse – orchestral piano

Jarle Storløyen – banjo

Cathrine Winnes – conductor

(Arr: Øyvind Westby)

20.00

A Soldier's Tale

Risør Cultural Center (70min)

IGOR STRAVINSKY (1882–1971)

In the tumultuous year of 1918, amidst the darkest days of the First World War, Igor Stravinsky, in collaboration with author Charles F. Ramuz, crafts the narrative of "The Soldier's Tale". This compelling piece tells the story of a soldier deceitfully persuaded by the devil to trade his violin for a tome bestowing untold riches and mystical powers. It explores themes of morality versus greed, questioning the lengths to which one might go in pursuit of personal advantage, and whether the ensuing price is one worth paying.

Audiences are invited to experience this captivating performance, rendered by the esteemed actors Herborg Kråkevik and Helge Jordal. Their interpretation breathes life into this rich tapestry of music and narrative, ranging from the spirited rhythms of the foxtrot to the sophisticated nuances of jazz, all performed by an illustrious lineup of musicians. Join us for an evening of enthralling storytelling and exquisite musicality.

Herborg Kråkevik og Helge Jordal: The Soldier, the Devil, and the Narrator

Julian Bliss – clarinet

Emily Hultmark – bassoon

Tine Thing Helseth – trumpet

Audun Breen – trombone

Eirik Raude – percussion

Sarah Christian – violin

Frode Berg – double bass

Cathrine Winnes – conductor

Thursday, June 27

11.00

Chaminade Club

- at home with Brita og Jan Egil, Ringveien 41 (50min)

The turn of the 20th century saw the rapid spread of the Chaminade Music Club phenomenon, with some of these chamber music clubs still in existence today. At their peak, there were 1,500 such clubs across the USA, each named after the French style icon of the 1900s: composer and concert performer Cécile Chaminade.

After all, it was the salons of homes where women's music-making predominantly took place. In the home of Brita and Jan Egil, we allow the esteemed Virginia Woolf to articulate the significance of having "A Room of One's Own." With women's suffrage on the horizon, Virginia Woolf debates the status quo with her contemporaries, female composers Germaine Tailleferre, Ethel Smyth, and the superstar Cécile Chaminade.

Music by Cécile Chaminade, Germaine Tailleferre, Alma Mahler, and Ethel Smyth will be featured.

Johanna Rudström – mezzo-soprano

Håvard Gimse – piano

St. Croix String Quartet

Cathrine Winnes – narration

12:00

Open-Air Concert at The Town Square

Musicians from the festival perform a short concert at The Town Square.

13.00

Tine Thing Helseth & Friends

Hollenderhagen (60min)

After four years of sold-out concerts, we promise another unforgettable morning with world-renowned trumpeter Tine Thing Helseth and a select ensemble of her musical friends!

Join us on a journey through diverse and vibrant musical pieces, from heartwarming melodies to compelling rhythms. Don't miss this exceptional opportunity to enjoy the summer accompanied by brilliant tones in the picturesque setting of Hollenderhagen. Secure your tickets early – history has shown this is an experience audiences cherish.

15.00

From Indian Raga to Western Melancholy

Risør kirke (70min)

HARPREET BANSAL (1980–)

Otherwise (2019)

Harpreet Bansal – violin

Andreas Bratlie – tablas

Cikada String Quartet

GEORGE CRUMB (1929–2022)

Black Angels. Thirteen Images from the Dark Land. For electric string quartet (1970)

Cikada String Quartet

VALENTYN SYLVESTROV (1937*)

TBA

18.00

Transfigured Night

Risør Church

JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833–1897)

Trio in A Minor for Clarinet, Cello, and Piano, op. 114 (1891)

Allegro

Adagio

Andantino grazioso

Allegro

Julian Bliss – clarinet

Maximilian Hornung – cello

Marc-André Hamelin – piano

ARNOLD SCHÖNBERG (1874–1951)

Verklärte Nacht, op. 4 (1899)

Kristine Balanas – violin

Sarah Christian – violin

Jano Lisboa – viola

Michael Grolid – viola

Maximilian Hornung – cello

Sandra Lied Haga – cello

20.00

Mathias Eick Quintet

Risør Cultural Center (70min)

The Norwegian trumpeter Mathias Eick, renowned for his signature tone and compelling performance style, has secured his place as an exceptional soloist and a uniquely adept band leader. His tuneful compositions, executed by a top-tier ensemble, have enthralled audiences the world over.

Eick has spent years refining his craft, both as a standout performer and as band leader. The British newspaper, *The Guardian*, has lauded his concerts for their "cinematic interest in musical storytelling." The Mathias Eick Quintet is a robust ensemble, featuring five of the finest instrumentalists in the music scene. Eick's appeal to a broad spectrum of listeners, beyond the jazz purists, is unsurprising. His music is an open invitation into an evocative realm where melodies flow, colors blend, and emotions flourish.

Mathias Eick – trumpet

Andreas Ulvo – piano

Håkon Aase – violin

Audun Erlien – bass

Torstein Lofthus – drums

Friday, June 28

12:00

Open-Air Concert at The Town Square

Musicians from the festival perform a short concert at The Town Square.

13.00

Inside the World of Marc-André Hamelin (50min)

Renowned pianist Hamelin, celebrated for his exceptional musicality, continues to captivate audiences and critics alike. Following a mesmerizing performance in 2015, acclaimed music critic Zachary Woolfe of The New York Times lauded Hamelin's playing, noting its "supernatural clarity and control," qualities seamlessly intertwined with sensitivity and poetry.

Hamelin, known for his daring repertoire choices, is set to grace a special occasion with some of his cherished works. Audiences are invited to an intimate concert where the pianist's unparalleled talent and profound musical insight promise an unforgettable experience. Anticipation is building as Hamelin gets ready to dazzle Risør once more with his mastery and artistic brilliance.

15.00

Behind Closed Doors

Risør Church (70min)

ALBAN BERG (1885–1935)

Die Nachtigall (1905)

Gunnar Flagstad – piano

Johanna Rudström – mezzo-soprano

FANNY MENDELSSOHN (1805–1847)

Piano Trio in D Minor, op. 11 (1847)

Allegro molto vivace

Andante espressivo

Lied: Allegretto

Allegretto moderato

Gunnar Flagstad – piano

Oda Holt Günther – violin

Sandra Lied Haga – cello

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770–1827)
Moonlight Sonata, Piano Sonata nr. 14 (1801)

Adagio sostenuto

Gunnar Flagstad – piano

GRAŻYNA BACEWICZ (1909–1969)
Oberek (1951)

Gunnar Flagstad – piano
Oda Holt Günther – violin

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770–1827)
Variations on Bei Männern welche Liebe fühlen (1801)

Gunnar Flagstad – piano
Sandra Lied Haga – cello

ERIK SATIE (1866–1925)
Je te veux (1902)

Johanna Rudström – mezzo-soprano
Gunnar Flagstad – piano

ERICH WOLFGANG KORNGOLD (1897–1957)
Sonett für Wien, op. 41 (1953)

Johanna Rudström – mezzo-soprano
Gunnar Flagstad – piano

18.00 ***Musical Delights***

Risør Church (70min)

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756–1791)
Kegelstatt Trio in E-flat Major for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano K 498 (1786)

Andante
Menuett
Rondeaux – Allegretto

Julian Bliss – clarinet
Jano Lisboa – viola

Håvard Gimse – piano

CARL CZERNY (1791–1857)
Variations on a Theme by Pierre Rode, op. 33 (1820)

La Ricordanza

Yeol Eum Son - piano

ROBERT SCHUMANN (1810-1856)
Dichterliebe, op. 48 (1840)
Im Wunderschönen monat Mai

CLARA SCHUMANN (1819-1896)
Op. 13, nr. 1 (1844)
Ich stand in dunklen träumen

ROBERT SCHUMANN (1810-1856)
Dichterliebe, op. 48, nr. 10
Hör Ich das Liedchen Klingen

JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833-1897)
Op. 32, nr. 9 (1865)
Wie bist du, meine Königin

ROBERT SCHUMANN (1810-1856)
Dichterliebe, op. 48, nr. 11
Am leuchtenden Sommermorgen

Tine Thing Helseth - trumpet
Gunnar Flagstad - piano

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS (1835–1921)
Septet in E-flat Major (1889)

Préambule - Allegro moderato
Menuet - Tempo di minuetto moderato
Intermède - Andante
Gavotte et Finale - Allegro non troppo

Tine Thing Helseth – trumpet
Kristine Balanas – violin
Sarah Christian – violin
Jano Lisboa – viola
Maximilian Hornung – cello
Frode Berg – duoble bass
Yeol Eum Son – piano

20.00 ***Herborg's Musical Tales***

Risør Cultural Center (70min)

In this year's festival lineup, storytelling takes the spotlight, a theme that strikes a chord with Herborg Kråkevik, an avid storyteller herself. Picture this concert as a journey where tales unfold through words and melodies alike.

Kråkevik will whisk you away with her own stories, snippets from music lore, and glimpses into the lives of artists throughout history. Accompanied by a talented crew of chamber musicians, expect a seamless blend of music and narrative that'll keep you hooked from start to finish.

On the playlist, you'll find classics by Mozart, Grieg, Bartók, and Kilar, alongside fresh tunes from Tine Thing Helseth and Kenneth Sivertsen. It's a chance to soak up the magic of classical music wrapped in the warmth of storytelling—an experience not to be missed!

Herborg Kråkevik

Gunnar Flagstad – piano

Oda Holt Günther – violin

TBA – violin

Michael Grolid – viola

Sandra Lied Haga – cello

Frode Berg – double bass

Julian Bliss – clarinet

Tine Thing Helseth – trumpet

Saturday, June 29

11.00 ***3x100 meters Re(p)lay***

Venue: Risør Baptist Church, Salvation Army Community Church and Risør Church

Prepare for an exhilarating journey with the "3x100 meters re(p)lay" – a creative evolution of last year's musical spectacle! Secure your ticket now for an unparalleled adventure where you, alongside our virtuoso festival musicians, will embark on a high-caliber musical relay.

The "3x100 meters re(p)lay" offers you exclusive access to three electrifying concerts, each spanning roughly 20 minutes, occurring simultaneously across three distinct venues. Emulate the vigor of a relay racer as you launch from your designated starting point, surging through the course to each musical milestone. Your ticket will designate your initial venue – yet, rest assured, every attendee will complete this journey, enriched by a full spectrum of musical delights. This year's venues include the Baptist Church, Salvation Army, and Risør Church, setting the stage for a memorable trek. In the spirit of an athlete, you'll briskly transition from one performance to the next during the intermissions.

As both an observer and participant, a 'personal coach' or guide will usher you to subsequent performances. Anticipate a concert series brimming with unexpected delights and comedic musical interludes. The "3x100 meters re(p)lay" promises not just exceptional experiences but a spectacularly entertaining commencement to your festivities!

Frankågunnar

Last year, Frank Havrøy seized the audience's imagination with a memorable opening address. This season, he aims to outdo himself with a whimsically engaging duet alongside his reliable "sparring partner," Gunnar Flagstad. Performing under the moniker Frankågunnar, they're set to ascend new heights with their dynamic selection. Primed to "launch" into the musical slopes, their show promises a blend of technical prowess and lighthearted mirth, sure to rally the crowd.

Händel/Halvorsen in Mixed Relay

Experience a melodious relay featuring Oda Holt Günther (violin) and Michael Grolid (viola) in an exquisite musical pas de deux. Culminating with Halvorsen's renowned Passacaglia, this concert is poised to captivate attendees.

Three Runners Without Blocks

Jarle Storløyken (guitar), Sebastian Haukås (trumpet), and NN warmly invite you to a "block-free" musical sprint at the Baptist Church. Freed from the constraints of starting blocks, this trio will navigate their repertoire with unparalleled agility and spontaneity, showcasing true artistry in motion. High energy and engaging, the trio's chemistry and improvisational prowess promise an unforgettable segment of the relay, leaving audiences exhilarated.

12:30

Open-Air Concert at The Town Square

Musicians from the festival perform a short concert at The Town Square.

13.00

Carmina Burana

Frydendal Church (70min)

Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" is a thrilling masterpiece that captures the essence of human life with its highs and lows, joys and despairs. Composed in the mid-1930s, it's become one of the most beloved choral works, known for its powerful energy and captivating music.

The piece is based on medieval poems found in a German monastery, covering themes like love, fate, and the joys of spring. Orff chose 24 of these poems for his music, creating a vibrant and emotional journey that speaks to audiences even today.

Tonight, we're excited to present "Carmina Burana" in a special version for choir, soloists, percussion, and two pianos. With the help of the talented conductor Tor Morten Halvorsen, we've brought together a choir of 150 singers to bring this magnificent work to life.

Expect a performance full of passion and energy, as we explore the timeless themes of "Carmina Burana" together. It's a musical experience that promises to be both grand and deeply moving, perfect for anyone looking to be swept away by the power of music.

Erik Haugan Aasland og Herman Bakke Karlsen – piano

Eirik Raude – percussion

Ingrid Vetlesen – soprano

Knut-Sigurd Bygland – baritone

Project Choir

Tor Morten Halvorsen – conductor

15.00

Winterreise

Risør Church

FRANZ PETER SCHUBERT (1797–1828)

Winterreise, op. 89 (1827)

1. *Gute Nacht / Goodnight [God natt]*
2. *Die Wetterfahne / The weathervane [Værhanen]*
3. *Gefror'ne Tränen / Frozen tears [Frosne tårer]*
4. *Erstarrung / Frozen solid [Stivfrossen]*
5. *Der Lindenbaum / The linden tree [Lindetreet]*
6. *Wasserflut / Life cycle [Vannets strøm / Livssyklus]*
7. *Auf dem Flusse / On the river [På elva]*
8. *Rückblick / Turning back [Tilbakeblikk]*
9. *Irrlicht / Will-o'-the-wisp [Lyktemann]*
10. *Rast / Rest [Hvil]*
11. *Frühlingstraum / Dreaming of spring [Vårdrøm]*
12. *Einsamkeit / Loneliness [Ensomhet]*

13. *Die Post / The post [Posten]*
14. *Der greise Kopf / The Gray Head [Det grå hodet]*
15. *Die Krähe / The crow [Kråka]*
16. *Letzte Hoffnung / Last hope [Siste håp]*
17. *Im Dorfe / In the village [I bygda]*
18. *Der stürmische Morgen / Stormy morning [Stormfull morgen]*
19. *Täuschung / A mirage [Illusjonen]*
20. *Der Wegweiser / The fingerpost [Veiviseren]*
21. *Das Wirtshaus / No room at the inn [Vertshuset / Fullt på vertshuset]*
22. *Mut / Courage [Mot]*
23. *Die Nebensonnen / Three suns [Tre soler]*
24. *Der Leiermann / The hurdy-gurdy man [Lirekassemannen]*

Tekst: Wilhelm Müller. I Engelsk oversettelse av Jeremy Sams.

Roderick Williams – baritone

Håvard Gimse – piano

18.30 ***Stangholmen Summer Concert*** (90min)

This summer, prepare to be whisked away to an enchanting evening that promises to blend the serene beauty of Norway's archipelago with the stirring sounds of classical music and Norwegian folk tunes. Stangholmen island, a hidden gem just off the coast of Risør, is set to host a gala concert unlike any other, featuring the beloved Herborg Kråkevik, the acclaimed Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra, and the extraordinary trumpet talents of Tine Thing Helseth.

Imagine standing on Norway's most breathtaking outdoor stage, enveloped by the open sea, as the day fades into a starlit night. This unique setting will serve as the backdrop for a musical rendezvous where classical compositions meet the soulful essence of Norwegian songs, creating an atmosphere that's both atmospheric and spectacular.

Herborg Kråkevik, known for her captivating performances, will grace this special evening, offering an atmosphere that can only be found on Stangholmen. It's an opportunity to experience the artist in a light like never before, surrounded by the natural beauty and acoustics that this unique island venue provides.

Don't miss this chance to be part of what's set to be the most talked-about musical experience of the summer. An evening of beautiful music awaits, right in the heart of Norway's unparalleled summer paradise. Join us for a night where music and nature converge to create unforgettable memories.

Herborg Kråkevik – vocal

Tine Thing Helseth – trumpet

Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra

Torodd Wigum – conductor

22.00 **Chamber Pub**

Risør hotel

Dive into the heart of the festival with our signature event, the Chamber Pub, where the charismatic Frode Larsen guides you through a recap of the festival's highlights. Settle in for a festive hour as our exceptional musicians unveil unexpected musical dimensions. This is a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in groundbreaking performances that blur the lines between genres, embodying the festival's essence of creativity, unity, and sheer delight. Join Frode Larsen and our virtuoso musicians for an unforgettable journey.

Sunday, June 30

15.00

Closing Concert

Risør Church (80min)

AUF DEM WASSER ZU SINGEN (To sing on the water)

Adapted by Roderick Williams

FRANZ SCHUBERT (1797–1828)

Auf dem Wasser zu singen (1823)

(text: Graf zu Stolberg)

JOHN IRELAND (1879–1962)

Sea Fever (1913)

(text: John Masefield)

REBECCA CLARKE (1886–1979)

The Seal Man (1922)

(text: John Masefield)

JOAN TRIMBLE (1915–2000)

My grief on the sea (1937)

(text: Douglas Hyde)

HENRI DUPARC (1848–1933)

La vie antérieure (1884)

(text: Charles Baudelaire)

BENJAMIN BRITTEN (1913–1976)

O Waly, Waly (traditional) (1948)

FRANZ SCHUBERT (1797–1828)

Der Schiffer (1817)

(text: Johann Mayrhofer)

Roderick Williams - baritone

Gunnar Flagstad - piano

Tine Thing Helseth - trumpet

Sandra Lied Haga - cello

CESAR FRANCK (1822–1890)

Piano Quintet in F minor (1878)

Molto moderato, quasi lento – Allegro

Lento, con molto sentimento

Allegro non troppo ma con fuoco

Yeol Eum Son – piano

Sarah Christian – violin

Kristine Balanas – violin

Jano Lisboa – viola

Maximilian Hornung – cello

