

# HENRIK HELLSTENIUS

[www.hellstenius.no](http://www.hellstenius.no)

Henrik Hellstenius (b. 1963) studied musicology at the University of Oslo and later composition with Lasse Thoresen at the Norwegian Academy of Music. In 1992-93 he studied with Gérard Grisey at the Paris Conservatoire, as well as computer-assisted composition at IRCAM. Hellstenius' output encompasses a large range of works: chamber music, orchestral works, operas, instrumental theatre works, music for dance and staged concerts. His music is frequently performed at concerts and festivals around the world. His opera *Sera* received the Norwegian Edvard Award in 2000, and has been staged in Oslo and Warsaw. His second opera, "Ophelias: Death by Water Singing" was premiered in Oslo 2005 and staged in Polen, Norway and Germany. He has been composer in residence with the Bergen International Festival 2011, Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra 2013/2014, and the Buffalo in June Festival 2017. Henrik Hellstenius is also a professor in composition at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo.

## Education

1991-95

Master in composition at Norwegian Academy of Music.

1992-93

Studies in Paris with Gérard Grisey private and at Conservatoire National Supérieur de Paris.

1993

Stage d'été. Studies in computer assisted composing at IRCAM, Paris.

1986-90

Bachelor in composition at Norwegian Academy of Music

1983-84

Studies in Musicology at University in Oslo (UiO).

## Present position

Since 2007, professor in composition at Norwegian Academy of Music

## Artistic research

2014 -2017

Project manager for artistic research project: **Music with the Real**, funded by KPU. The project was an initiative by percussionist and performer Håkon Stene with Asamisimasa and the composers Clemens Gadenstätter, Carola Bacukholt, Matthew Shlomowitz, Johannes Kreidler and Henrik Hellstenius, concerts and seminars in Oslo, London, Graz, Linz, Darmstadt etc.

2008-2011

Participant in the Swedish artistic research **Towards and expanding field of art music** at *Academy for stage and Music in Gothenburg*. Project manager was professor and composer Ole Lützow-Holm and project participants were violinist Anna Lindal, composer Anders Hultquist, writer Magnus Haglund and composer Henrik Hellstenius. It was funded by the Swedish Research Council. Seminar and concerts in Gotheburg, Stockholm, Oslo and Malmö . Publication of essays in the book: *Musikens frihet och begränsning (Daidalos)*.

## **Selected performances 2017 –2011**

### **2017**

March 20, Cycle Festival, Iceland, April 24 North Atlantic Flux Festival, UK

#### **TRIO DE DANSE**

Pinguins Percussion Trio

May 30 – June 3, Buffalo in June Festival, USA

#### **THE ARGONAUT**

Irvine Arditti – violin

May 30 – June 3, Buffalo in June Festival, USA

#### **RIFT**

Mivos Quartet

May 30 – June 3, Buffalo in June Festival, USA

#### **UNFOLDED AS IT WERE**

Cikada

June 15, Utopia of Access festival, Venice

#### **INSTRUMENT OF SPEECH**

Asamisimasa

August 17, Musik 21, Hannover

#### **INSTRUMENT OF SPEECH**

Asamisimasa

November 23, Grieghallen, Bergen

#### **AS IF THE LAW IS EVERYTHING**

Tora Augestad/Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra/Edvard Gardner

### **2016**

January 28, Dansens Hus, Oslo

#### **THE GOLDEN FLEECE**

Karin Hellquist - violin

April 13, Grieghallen, Bergen

#### **STILL PANIC**

Diego Lucchesi – bass clarinet

Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra/ Ed Gardner

May 26. Bergen International Festival, Bergen

#### **INSTRUMENT OF SPEECH**

Asamisimasa

June 9. Sentralen, Oslo

#### **TRIO DE DANSE**

Pinguins Percussion Trio

### **2015**

September 26, Nordic Music Days, Copenhagen

#### **PLACES OF SOUNDS AND WORDS**

Elisabeth Holmertz – soprano/Cikada

September 11-13, The Norwegian National Opera, Ultima festival,  
**ABOUT THE NATURE**  
Njål Sparboe, Silje Aker Johnsen, Stine Janvin Motland  
Oslo Sinfonietta, Dans, Les Arbres/Andrea Pestalozza - conductor

April 9. Oslo Konserthus, Norway  
**PETITES MACHINES**  
Oslo Filharmoniske Orkester/Vassily Petrenko – conductor

March 6. Oslo Konserthus, Norway  
**READINGS OF MR. G**  
**A QUIET SPACE**  
**HELLSTENIUS/SCHUMANN: DICHTERLIEBE**  
Solveig Slettahjel –vocal/Hans Kristian Kjos Sørensen –percussion/Peter Knutsen – video  
Oslo Filharmoniske Orkester/Christian Eggen - conductor

## **2014**

November 27, Oslo Konserthus, Norway  
**LOVEN**  
Tora Augestad –soprano/Anders Mordal – narrator  
Oslo Filharmoniske Orkester/Christian Eggen - conductor

September 25, Oslo Konserthus, Norway  
**LIKE OBJECTS IN A DARK ROOM**  
Oslo Filharmoniske Orkester/Fabien Gabel – conductor

September 11, Ultima festival  
**PLACES OF SOUNDS AND WORDS**  
Elisabeth Holmertz – soprano/ Cikada

May 25, Bergen International Festival  
**VICTORIA COUNTING II**  
Victoria Johnson – violin/Henrik Hellstenius - electronics

May 23, New Directions Festival, Piteå, Sweden  
**PLACES OF SOUNDS AND WORDS**  
Elisabeth Holmertz – soprano/Cikada

## **2013**

January 31 – february 3, 2013 Dansens Hus, Oslo, Norway  
**PRAEAMBULUM** (World Premier)  
Music for dance performance  
by Ingun Bjørnsgaard /Julia Strelchenko – piano

January 11, 2013 Norwegian Academy of Music, Oslo, Norway  
**LOVE SONGS II** (World premier of new version)  
Norwegian Academy of Music Sinfonietta /Per Sigmund Torp, Conductor

## **2012**

November 8, 2012 Kulturhuset Tromsø, Norway  
**READINGS OF MR. G**  
Jennifer Torrence – percussion/voice  
Tromsø Chamber Orchestra/ Rolf Gupta – cond.

September 20, 2012 Stavanger Concert House, Stavanger, Norway

**Å SYNGE OLAVS DRAUMAR (WP)**

Composition of texts by Jon Fosse for singers and actors

Silje Aker Johnsen, Ruth Wilhelmine Meyer, Anders Dale, Svein Solesnes

Director: Mette Arnstad

August 16, 2012 Oslo National Academy of The Arts, Norway

**EXERCISES AND ESSAYS**

Pre-production of new music theatre piece

Njål Sparboe – barytone Victoria Johnson – violin, Erlend Habbestad – cello Julia Strelcheno – piano

Hans Kristian Kjos Sørensen – percussion

July 11, 2012 All Saints Church Hall, St. Andrews, Scotland, UK

**FIVE IMPRINS OF TIME**

Current Saxophone Quartet

June 12–15, 2012 Oslo National Academy of the Arts, Norway

*Et Moderne Sted* Dance performance by Ingun Bjørnsgaard

**PLACES OF SOUND**

Orchestra of The Norwegian Opera and Ballet

June 2, 2012 Dramatikkens Hus, Oslo Norway

**SELF PORTRAIT IN BRIGHT LIGHT**

Cikada/ Natali Garner

May 23, 2012 Sendesaal, Bremen, Germany

**READINGS OF MR. G – solo version (wp)**

Hans Kristian Kjos Sørensen

**BOOK OF SONGS II**

Florian Donderer – violin

Tanja Tetzlaff – cello

May 3, 2012 Aulaen, Music Conservatory Tromsø, Norway

**FIVE IMPRINTS OF TIME II**

Pinquins Percussion Trio

April 19, 2012 Verdensteateret Tromsø, Norway

**IN MEOMRIAM (world premier)**

Tromsø Chamber Orchestra,

Peter Szilvay conductor /Peter Herresthal – violin

March 1, 2012 The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

February 27, 2012 Melbourne Conservatory of Music, Melbourne, Australia

**FIVE IMPRINTS OF TIME II**

Pinquins Percussion Trio

March 2, 2012 Vinterlyd festival, Norwegian Academy of Music, Oslo

February 5, 2012 Ilios Festival, Harstad, Norway

**SELF PORTRAIT IN BRIGHT LIGHT**

Cikada String Quartet/ Hans Christian Bræin – clarinet /Natali Garner – voice

## 2011

November 29, 2011 Festspielhaus Hellerau, Germany

### **OMBRA DELLA SERA**

Ensemble El Perro Andaluz

November 15 -20, LiteraturHaus, Copenhagen, Ny Musikk. Oslo

### **THE ARGONAUT**

Emily Fowler – violin

July 26, 2011 Tom Lee Music Hall Vancouver, Canada

### **HERITAGE (wp)**

Sunniva Wettre: Harp

*The Bergen International Festival has invited the composer Henrik Hellstenius to be in charge of four concert performances. He has called the series The Theatre of the Ear\*. In these four concert performances he has placed his own music and that of others in various thematic settings, all of which involve an encounter between the music and the stage elements in the form of video, text, lighting or movement.*

May 26, 2011 Logen, Bergen International Festival, Logen, Norway

### **THE THEATRE OF THE EAR I: 24 HOURS/GRASS**

#### **BY THE VOICE A FAINT LIGHT IS SHED**

Peter Herresthal – violin/ Ensemble Ernst/ Thomas Rimul

### **OMBRA DELLA SERA**

Hans Kristian Kjos Sørensen – percussion/Dan Styffe - double bass

June 3, 2011 Logen, Bergen International Festival, Logen, Norway

### **THE THEATRE OF THE EAR IV: STORY TELLERS**

#### **FRAGMENTS OF A TEACHING (wp)**

Christian Immler – baryton/Florian Donderer – violin/Gro Lovdahl – viola/Tanja Tetzlaff – cello

Hans Kristian Kjos Sørensen – percussion

June 1, 2011 Logen, Bergen International Festival, Logen, Norway

### **THE THEATRE OF THE EAR III: GROUP THERAPY**

#### **A QUIET SPACE**

Cikada/ Christian Eggen

#### **SELF PORTRAIT IN BRIGHT LIGHT (wp)**

Hans Christian Bræin/Cikada String Quartet

May 28, 2011 Logen, Bergen International Festival, Logen, Norway

### **THE THEATRE OF THE EAR II: FOUR WAYS TO DIE**

#### **READINGS OF MR. G**

Hans Kristian Kjos Sørensen – percussion/Ensemble Allegria/Michael Bartosch

8 april 2011 Inter Arts Center, Malmö, Sweden

28 march 2011 Norwegian Academy of Music, Oslo

### **VICTORIA COUNTING**

Victoria Johnson – el violin/Edvin Østvik – sound design

26 january 2011 Societaets theater Dresden, Germany

### **HI-OPHELIA**

Ensemble El Perro Andaluz / Lennart Dohms - conductor

## List of works

<http://www.musicalesclassical.com/composer/works/Henrik-Hellstenius>

### Music for dance and theatre

1993 – 2016

Music for dance performances by choreographer Ingun Bjørnsgaard (<http://www.ingunbp.no/>):

2016	The Golden Fleece	Dansens Hus, Oslo
2013:	<i>Praeambulum</i>	Dansens Hus, Oslo
2008:	<i>A Modern Place</i>	The opening of the new opera house in Oslo
2004:	<i>Four pieces including Sjoa and Sjøk</i>	TanzBremen
2002:	<i>Book of Songs</i>	Tanzhalle, Düsseldorf)
2000:	<i>The afternoon and the others</i>	Kanonhallen, Copenhagen
1999:	<i>Pli á Pli</i>	Black Box Theatre , Oslo
1993:	<i>Olympia</i>	Den Nationale Scene, Bergen

1996 – 20011

Music for theatre performances directed by Kai Johnsen

2011	Liv Heløe: <i>I år skal det være moderne</i> , Nationaltheatret, Oslo
2006	Jon Fosse: <i>Rambuku</i> , Det Norske Teater
2006	<i>Transitt</i> , musikkteaterforestilling med NING
2005.	Liv Heløe: <i>Lise L.</i> Nationaltheatret, Oslo
2000:	Jon Fosse: <i>Besøk</i> Den Nationale Scene, Bergen
1999:	Jon Fosse: <i>Draum om Hausten</i> , Nationaltheatret, Oslo
1998:	Peter Handke: <i>Timen</i> Den Nationale Scene, Bergen
1996:	Jon Fosse: <i>Barnet</i> , Nationatheatret, Oslo

### Curator of concert-performances

2015

**About Nature** Concert-performance at the Norwegian Opera, during Ultima Festival

2011

**Theatre of the ear I – IV.** Four concert-performances at Bergen International Festival

2009

#### FREDRIKSEN/CIKADA/HELLSTENIUS

Concert with videos by artist Hilmar Fredriksen and Cikada ensemble..

2007

**Theater of the ear** – staged concert with Norwegian Radio Orchestra and singer Elisabeth Holmertz.

Pieces by Henrik Hellstenius, Salvatore Sciarrino, Luigi Nono and Claude Vivier.

### Selected discography

#### *Ophelias: Death By Water Singing*

Elisabeth Holmertz, Tora Augestad, Ivan Ludlow, Ebba Rydh,  
Janna Wettergren, Silje Aker Johnsen  
Cikada/Christian Eggen  
LAWO 1098 (2016)

#### *In Memoriam/ Like Objects in a Dark Room*

Peter Herresthal - violin  
Stavanger Symfoniorkester/Rolf Gupta  
BIS (2015) 8004

*Hi-Ophelia!/ Readings of Mr. G/ Ombra della Sera/ By the Voice a Faint light is shed../  
Book of Songs I.b/ Imprints III, V*

**Henrik Hellstenius: Readings of Mr. G**

Peter Herresthal- vln Hans Kristian Kjos Sørensen – perc, voice, Dan Styffe -db  
Frode Larsen – vln Jon Sønstebo – vla Emery Cardas – vlc

BIT20 ensemble

Pierre-André Valade – cond.

Aurora ACD 5047

*By the Voice a Faint light is shed..*

Peter Herresthal: **Catch Light**

Aurora ACD5066

*Ombra della sera*

Dan Styffe: **Bass trip**

Simax Classics PSC 1288

*Book of Songs I*

Sigyn Fossnes: **Tigthrope Walker**

Aurora ACD5036

*Book of Songs III*

Åge Kvalbein: **Norwegian Short Stories**

Aurora ACD5040

*Cinq Empreints du temps*

Saxophone Concentus: **Second Tale**

Simax PSC1200

*Essays sur les temps double*

Bjørn Ianke: **The contemporary solo double bass , vol 3**

Simax PSC1154

*Five Imprints of Time II*

Sisu: **Scratch!**

Simax PSC1219

*Stirrings Still*

Bit 20: **Absolute pling plong: Eight ways of making music**

Hemera HCD2909

*Sera*

BIT 20, Pierre-André Valade

Aurora ACD5024