

The Danish Mandolinduo



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is made up of the only two professional mandolinplayers in Denmark: *Kurt Jensen* and *Tove Flensburg*. Both have for many years performed at a great number of concerts with the Danish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, with the Danish Radio Light Orchestra as well as with regional symphony and chamber orchestras. Moreover, they have taken part in various grammophone recordings, in the cinema and on television.

In 1983, Kurt Jensen and Tove Flensburg established themselves as the Danish Mandolinduo when they first performed at a series of concerts entitled »The Mandolin in the Concert Hall« in the renowned concert hall in the Copenhagen Tivoli Gardens. These annual concerts have met with a considerable success and have led to the publication of live recordings from these concerts.

The repertory consists of original compositions for mandolin, solo pieces as well as concerts. However, the strong point of these two musicians is in their perfect unity of execution, one of the reasons for the homogeneity of their sound and interpretation being due to the fact that Tove Flensburg started her musical career as one of Kurt Jensen's students.

Their extensive repertory ranges from baroque with such composers as Barbella, Cecere, Vivaldi and others to contemporary composers including a number of Danish and Swedish composers who have written music dedicated to Kurt Jensen and Tove Flensburg.

Kurt Jensen

was born in 1913. He has been a regular performer at the Danish National Radio since 1925. Furthermore, he has played on the Swedish, Norwegian and German broadcasting stations as well as on the BBC. For a number of years, Kurt Jensen has been working regularly with the Copenhagen Royal Operahouse Orchestra.

Tove Flensburg

(born 1940) has played with Danish and Swedish National Radio Stations. She too has a working contract with the Copenhagen Royal Opera House.

Together

they have performed in Italy, Spain, Germany and Sweden. In April 1987 they went on a concert tour to Japan, and a tour of Australia is planned for 1988.

The daily newspaper Politiken (Copenhagen) writes:

VIVALDI, the Master. It is always pleasant to listen to Vivaldi's music. The old Italian master had his own way of saying things. Bluff, healthy and vigorous at times but also light and flimsy. Whatever he had on his mind, he was always clear and logical in his form. A master with a sumptuous, exuberant nature, a mind rich and alive. We had the opportunity of listening to his music at the Tivoli where one of his almost unknown works was performed. Unknown at least on these latitudes: A concert for two mandolins, strings and harpsichord a most marvellous little piece of music where the two solo instruments talk together, answer each other, play the echo, unite again to make the delicate sound of the mandolins meet in an abundance of sound. And between the extreme movements a slow one which in its simplicity was of an inimitable charm. A world of untouched beauty, almost too frail to be brought back to life by human hands. But it did resurrect in its almost oversensitive gracefulness and Kurt Jensen and Tove Flensburg were the two instrumentalists who let the miracle happen. Some event.

Prof. Sigfried Behrend (Germany) writes:

I really must thank you for this beautiful result. The content really does justice to the title. »The mandoline in the concert hall« such as we unfortunately very seldom hear it today.



HI-FI-Music, Sweden writes:

Their charming little concerts for mandolin and strings, for two mandolins and for two mandolins and cello are really worth listening to and were performed with charming virtuosity. A must for the increasing number of mandolinplayers.

Marga Wilden-Hüsgen, lecturer in Aachen, West Germany writes:

I find their sound beautiful, warm and intense.

Zupfmusik Magazin (Germany) No. 1. Feb 1987 writes:

That mandolinplaying also in Denmark is on a very high level is clearly demonstrated on this record made in 1984. It was given this title to remind us of a series of concerts given by these two solo instrumentalists for some years in the Tivoli Concerthall with the presentation of mandolinmusic from the 17th and the beginning of the 18th century. The participation of the Frederiksberg Baroque-ensemble that play on original instruments permits alternating and interesting orchestral combinations Altogether a recommendable record with varied and beautifully sounding mandolinmusic.

From the repertoire.

Duets with or without accompaniment

Barbella, Cecere, de Bériot, Marais, Gossec, Sanz

Concertos for one or two mandolins

*Vivaldi, Lecce, Pergolesi, Giuliani, Hummel, Caudioso,
Karl Thomas, Ole Høyer*

Solo pieces for mandolin and piano/harpsichord

Beethoven, Munier, Calace, Denis, Monti

Recitals with harpsichord/piano or guitar

Baroque Italian composers and contemporary music.