

SCEN ATET

ensemble for art & music

biography

SCENATET was founded by artistic director Anna Berit Asp Christensen in 2008 and moves in a cross-genre field of music, drama and happenings towards areas of yet undefined genre. The ensemble aims to create conceptual art works of high quality, where music is part of a larger whole. They work with many types of productions from theatrical and artistically unique productions to the more classic productions including many new works and formats in close collaboration with composers, directors, artists, film makers as well as festivals and art spaces. In addition, a number of SCENATET's projects and collaborations have resulted in CD recordings and film footage - most recently the music and art video *Angel View Movie*, based on composer Juliana Hodkinson's theatrical concert *Angel View*, and produced in collaboration with film director Michael Madsen.

SCENATET consists of 12 permanent musicians and is recognized as one of the most innovative and experimental ensembles for music and art in Europe. The ensemble works with the younger generation of both Danish and foreign composers from the international avant-garde scene and among others presents composers like Peter Ablinger, George Aperghis, Joanna Bailie, Kaj Duncan David, Jagoda Szmytka, Christian Winther Christensen, Juliana Hodkinson, Simon Løffler, Jessie Marino, Sarah Nemtsov, Marianthi Papalexandri-Alexandri, Niels Rønsholdt, Francois Sarhan, Salvatore Sciarrino, Simon Steen-Andersen, Bent Sørensen, Manos Tsangaris og Jennifer Walshe.

SCENATET is highly visible on the international art scene and has been touring both Europe, the United States and Asia's cultural hubs, often with premieres at established venues and in renowned concert halls. Furthermore SCENATET's concerts also take place in unexpected but yet familiar surroundings such as parks, libraries, backyards and private homes so that a close contact with the audience is established through special designed concerts. SCENATET has been invited to play at a number of renowned festivals such as Ultima (NO), Transit Festival (BE), Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (UK), Klang Festival (DK), Borealis (NO), November Musik (NL), Shanghai New Music Week (CHN), SPOR festival (DK), MATA Festival (US), Maerz Musik (DE), Bergen Festspillene (NO), and Warsaw Autumn (PL).

Again in 2018, SCENATET will be performing at leading venues and festivals around the world, both with premieres and re-performances. At the beginning of the year, SCENATET will visit two of the most cutting-edge concert series for new experimental music in Europe - Kammer Klang in London and Kontraklang in Berlin, among others performing the premiere of Christian Winther Christensen's piece *Freunde*. In June, SCENATET will conquer the scene at the Copenhagen avant-garde festival Klang with Salvatore Sciarrino's piece *Aspern Suite (1979)*, after which the ensemble will go on an extensive tour with Jessie Marino's new piece *Nice Guys Win Twice* - a 50-minute-long concert piece with 10 performers, live electronic audio and video. The premiere will take place

at the internationally renowned music event Internationale Ferienkurse für Neue Musik in Darmstadt, followed by performances at Transit Festival (BE), Gong Tomorrow (DK), Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (UK), and Borealis (NO).

From 2012 to 2014, SCENATET represented Denmark in the prestigious EU project NEW: AUD - New Music New Audiences, developing new concert formats for the new, composed classical music. SCENATET receives a multi annual grant from the Danish Arts Foundation and is supported by several leading Danish foundations.



In collaboration with film maker Michael Madsen, SCENATET transform the piece 'Angel View' by composer Juliana Hodkinson into a music and art film to be released in 2017/2018.

Anna Berit Asp Christensen, artistic director of SCENATET (b. 1971)

Anna Berit Asp Christensen is an artist and curator with strong roots in both classical and new music. Her activities are partly based on her past as a practising, classically trained musician, and partly related to comprehensive work on the theory and dissemination of music. Her practice is characterised by a constant investigation of the potential of experimental art music as well as its range and position on the contemporary art scene. Christensen's work has displayed an impressive breadth in its knowledge of repertoire – also within various art forms ranging from art music and sound art to performance art, modern dance and concept art. This finds expression in her works, which mainly seek to link up with other art forms in order to place music in new perspectives. Typical of her is her ability to compose meetings, between musical genres as well as to get music to cohere as an unified genre compared to other art genres.

Since 2007, Anna Berit Asp Christensen has been director and artistic director of the SPOR festival in Aarhus and founded SCENATET - ensemble for art and music in 2008. Here too, she is artistic director and the ensemble is her primary artistic and curatorial platform, where she has, among other things, created and developed the projects *DokumentarKoncerten*, *Living Room Installa*

tioner and *Backyard Pictures* (the latter in collaboration with composer Bent Sørensen). Christensen also does solo pieces and in 2013 she contributed to the art exhibition Geist Glorup on Funen with the sound installation *The Singing Trees*. The sound piece, which was installed in a cluster of old chestnut trees, is based on lullabies collected from people who either personally, or via earlier generations, have frequented the Glorup Estate. The five trees have their separate compositions and together make up a choir of singing trees which – as a musical echo – 'retell' the sound of the estate.

In 2011, Anna Berit Asp Christensen received a six months long residency in Berlin, granted by the Danish Arts Council, she has been appointed as member of several cultural foundations and committees, and among others is a board member of Danish Dance Theatre as well as SNYK - the national centre for contemporary and experimental music and sound art in Denmark.