

## Ragnar Rasmussen

(b. 1966) in Vardø - the high arctic Norway.

Professor of choir conducting at

**NTNU - The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Trondheim).**

He is currently the conductor and artistic director of

- **NTNU Chamber Choir**, Trondheim
- the international "**Utopia & Reality Chamber Choir**" (Europe) and
- **UArctic World Ensemble** (Canada, Scotland, Russia and Norway).

Invitations as guest conductor 2020 includes the **BBC Singers, London** and the **Slovene Chamber Choir**, Ljubljana.

He was in 1999-2011 the conductor/artistic director of the chamber choir **Vokal Nord** in Tromsø, where he also founded The **University Choir Mimas** (2000).

In 2008-2010 he was also engaged as conductor of the **Norwegian National Youth Choir**.

In 2010 he was the conductor of **World Youth Choir**.

In 2011 he was conductor/artistic director of the professional **Stavanger Symfoniorkestere Kammerkor** (Stavanger, Norway).

- and in 2014-2019 professional **Kilden Vocal Ensemble** (Kristiansand, Norway),

During the academic year 2007/08 Mr. Rasmussen held a guest professorship the **Academy of Music, University of Slovenia**.

In 2017 he was appointed Visiting Professor at **Sichuan University of Media and Communications** (Chengdu, China).

He studied church music (Trondheim Music Conservatory, Norway), choir conducting with **Eric Ericson** and **Stefan Sköld** (Sweden) and orchestra conducting with **Colin Metters**, (Head of the conducting program at the Royal Academy of Music, London) and **Jorma Panula** (Professor Em. at Royal College of Music, Stockholm and Sibelius Academy Helsinki).

As conductor of the choirs **Saga**, **Mimas** and **Vokal Nord** he has won numerous first prizes, including several conductor prizes, in choral competitions in Norway and abroad.

He participated at the International competition for choral conductors in Bologna, Italy (2001) where he won the 1. Prize ("**1.editione Concorso Internazionale Direttore de Coro, Mariele Ventre**").

As guest conductor he works with orchestras throughout Europe, such as the baroque orchestra **Concerto Farinelli (Germany)**, **Ulster Orchestra (UK)**, **Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra**, **The Arctic Philharmonic Orchestra**, **Trondheim Symphony Orchestra**, **Thüringen Philharmonie**, **The Serbian Radio Symphony Orchestra**, **St. Petersburg State Academic Orchestra**, **STOP** (professional percussion ensemble, Slovenia) and the **RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra** (The national Radio Orchestra)

and with a large number of choirs in

Scandinavia, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Italy, Russia, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Germany, Austria, Turkey, Ireland and the UK, including **The Estonian National Male Choir (Tallinn)**, **The Slovene Chamber Choir (Ljubljana Philharmonie)**, **The State Choir Latvija (Riga)**, **The Chamber Choir of the Slovene National Radio (Ljubljana)**, **il Coro del Teatro Comunale di Bologna**, **The Turkish State Choir (Ankara)**, **The Shout, (London)**, **Domestik (Yekaterinburg Dom Musikij, Russia)**, **Amadeus (Murmansk, Russia)**, **Trondheim Vocal Ensemble** and several European national youth choirs, including **Cor Jove Nacional de Catalunya (The Catalan National Youth Choir)**.

Ragnar Rasmussen frequently holds lectures and workshops for conductors in Norway and abroad. He was guest lecturer at the following institutions: **The Utrecht Conservatory**, (The Netherlands), **The Advanced School for Choir Conductors of the Guido d'Arezzo Foundation** (Arezzo, Italy) **Music Conservatory** (Pitea, Sweden), **The Music Conservatory** (Petrozavodsk, Russia), **Hochschule für Musik und Theater** (Hamburg, Germany), the **Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music** (Budapest, Hungary), the **A.I. Herzen State Pedagogical University** (St. Petersburg, Russia), the **Oulu University of Applied Sciences** (Finland) and **The Royal Conservatory den Haag** (the Netherlands), as well as workshops/masterclasses for institutions like **Yeosu ICCF** (South-Korea), **AOIC** (Ireland), **Split Cro Patria** (Croatia), **Innsbruck TS** (Austria), **CNDc** (Colombia), **ABCD** (The UK), **Beijing CICF** (China), **Sommerkorskolene/NK** (Norway) **MusicaConnect** and **European Academy for Choral Conductors** (Fano, Italy)

He is often a member/head of juries at prestigious national and international choir and conducting competitions all over the world, including **London Int. competition for Choral Conductors** and **Hong Kong World Competition for Choral Conductors**.

In 2004 Ragnar Rasmussen was awarded the **Albo d'oro award** from Fondazione Mariele Ventre, Bologna, Italy. In 2007 he received the **Tromsø University College Honorary Research Prize (Forskningsprisen)**. In January 2008 he received the prestigious **Northern Lights Prize (Nordlysprisen)**. In December 2008 he was awarded the **Honorary Prize of the Town of Tromsø** for his extraordinary artistic achievements, his contribution to artistic enjoyment among his fellow citizens and his contributions to positive profiling of his hometown in Norway and abroad. In December 2009 Norwegian Choral Association awarded him the **Norwegian Choir Prize 2009** for his dedicated work at all levels in his homeland's choral life.

**As composer** Rasmussen has written several a - cappella works, vocal -instrumental works and one opera.

A cappella (ex.): **“Wachet auf!”**, **“The Hope”**, **“Caritas Patiens Est”**, **“Call of the wild”**

Vocal-/instrumental: **The Fight, Heksehammeren – Malleus Maleficarum (Full opera)**, **Dansen på Domen (Konsertsuite)**, **TIR-ALU**

His new opera **Kongens reise** (WiP, libretto by Ragnar Olsen) is commissioned by **The Arctic Philharmonic Orchestra** for the occasion of the opening of the new concert hall in Tromsø, and was a part of the programme **“Verker underveis”**, administrated by **DNO&B/Norwegian Society of Composers**

He is a member of the board of **Norwegian Society of Composers**.