

The Danish Trombone Heritage

Anton Hansen's music library

Recordings by Professor Niels-Ole Bo Johansen

Over the past 14 years I have been searching for the oldest written Danish solo music for trombone as we know the instrument today. This has led to a number of projects:

- Three Etude Books - with the works of Axel Jørgensen, Axel Hildingsen and Georg Allin Wilkenschildt.
- A triple CD containing all the pieces from these books, recorded together with pianist Erik Kaltoft.
- A CD, "The French Connection", and publication of the scores for most of these pieces on Cherry Classics (Vancouver).

This CD-box concludes my search in The Royal Danish Library and numerous visits and conversations with fellow trombonists who had some pieces - or fragments of them.

The process has been overwhelming, and it has been most fascinating to reveal and revitalize these hidden treasures.

The findings include:

a complete concert collection of music for trombone and organ from Anton Hansen's library. This has been reconstructed and recorded with organ professor Ulrik Spang-Hanssen

- 1) a suite by Alfred Andersen: "Moses on Sinai" in two movements of substantial length + "Andante religioso"
- 2) two pieces titled "Arioso" written by Axel Hildingsen and Wilhelm Halberg respectively and finally
- 3) a beautiful little "Nocturne" by Alfred Hildebrandt Sørensen

None of these composers are known today - but their work is nonetheless worth listening to!



Professor Ulrik Spang-Hanssen and Niels-Ole Bo Johansen at the organ.



Pianist Erik Kaltoft and Niels-Ole Bo Johansen

More music written for Anton Hansen and his colleagues was found - a total of 21 pieces for trombone and piano, spanning from short songs to large scale trombone concertos - among them the first Danish Trombone Concerto written by Alfred Andersen.

The most famous of the composers is without doubt the trumpeter and composer Thorvald Hansen who was Anton Hansen's colleague in the Royal Danish Orchestra for some years.

The composers also include other colleagues from the Royal Danish Orchestra such as cellists Siegfried Salomon and Axel Hildingsen, oboe player Heinrich Carl Petersen, horn player Alfred Rasmussen and trombonists Vilhelm Aarkrogh and Anker Albech.

Furthermore, most likely the first Danish piece for trombone written by C.H. Møller in May 1863 has been retrieved.

From the music life outside the Royal Danish Orchestra there are pieces by the politician and businessman Viggo Gamborg, composers Aage Jersholt, M. Carl, Thor Ibsen and Jens Andersen Bagge. The latter wrote two extremely taxing pieces for Anton Hansen and his good friend and mentor professor Paul Weschke.



First page of C. H. Møller's piece for Trombone from 1863

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