

# Danish music for trombone written by female composers - a historic and a contemporary perspective by Professor Niels-Ole Bo Johansen



Hilda Sehested: (1858-1936) Absolutely one of her generations foremost composers who managed to live a "free" composer most of her life - partly due to her wealthy heritage as a part of the noble family Sehested. Trained as a pianist, organist and composer.



Gudrun Lund: (1930-2020) was trained as a pianist as well as a violinist and viola player. She earned a university degree in English and German and did teach for most of her life in colleges. Gudrun Lund has written a number of chamber works for brass but has never really been to the forefront of the Danish music scene.

The balance between male and female composers who have written music for trombone is very uneven. During my research through the last 15 years searching for the earliest Danish music written for trombone I have found very few works from female composers.

To my knowledge only 3 composers have so far written music for trombone namely Hilda Sehested, Gudrun Lund and Li-Ying Wu.

Hilda Sehested wrote two pieces, this mainly due to her friendship with the renown Danish trombone Godfather Anton Hansen between 1920-25 and Gudrun Lund wrote some pieces between 1978 and 2000 for either solo trombone or trombone in chamber music. The latest piece is written by Li-Ying Wu written for me and pianist Erik Kaltoft in 2011.

This has led me to commission a number of works for trombone by Danish female composers and so far, 3 commissions have been realized through grants from Statens Kunstfond and KODA.

The pieces are now in the process of being written and will be premiered within 2023.

Mette Nielsen - new piece for trombone, bassoon, and double bass

Lil Lacy - 'Solo but not alone' for solo trombone(s) and ensemble or tape

Li-Ying Wu - new piece for trombone and organ



Mette Nielsen: (1985) is one of her generations most prolific composers who experiments and mixes various styles and genres with great success. She is vividly interested in finding ways to create space for small and fragile sounds in the music working both with traditional scoring and open notation.



Li-Ying Wu: (1978) earned a MA in Fine Art from National Taiwan Normal University in 2003 and later she graduated from the soloist class from The Royal Danish Music Academy. Li-Ying Wu has been composer in residence with the Århus Sinfonietta and is presently teaching at The Royal Academy of Music in Aarhus.



Lil Lacy: (1985) is the daughter of two prolific musicians who both were teachers at The Royal Academy of Music in Aarhus. Lil has a BA from the Rhythmic Music Conservatory and a MA and soloist diploma from The Royal Academy of Music in Aarhus. Lil is furthermore a recipient of numerous prestigious prizes.