

# **International Carl Nielsen Conference 2026**

## **Carl Nielsen and Beyond. Music, Musical Cultures and Future Nielsen Studies**

Thursday 22 October – Saturday 24 October 2026

### **Venues:**

- Carl Nielsen Centre, Museum Odense
- H.C. Andersen Centre, SDU Odense
- Danish National Academy of Music (Syddansk Musikkonservatorium), Odense.

### **Conference committee:**

- David Fanning (University of Manchester, UK)
- Christopher Tarrant (Newcastle University, UK)
- Bjarke Moe (Royal Danish Library, Copenhagen)
- Thomas Husted Kirkegaard (Aarhus University)
- Michael Fjeldsøe (Museum Odense, Carl Nielsen Centre, editor-in-chief of Carl Nielsen Studies).

**The conference language is English.**

# International Carl Nielsen Conference 2026

## Day 1: Thursday, 22 October

**Venue:** H.C. Andersen Centre, SDU, Odense Adelige Jomfrukloster, Albani Torv 6

**12.00-12.40:**

Arrival, lunch, registration.

**12.40-12.45:**

Welcome (Michael Fjeldsøe, head of Carl Nielsen Centre)

**12.45-17:**

Conference Theme 1. CREATIVE PROCESSES AND PERFORMATIVE PRACTICES: The creation of musical works and beyond  
What can we learn from studying the creative processes from sketches and drafts to practice-based feedback from rehearsals and performances?

**Invited speakers:** Karol J. Borowiecki, Ane Grum-Schwensen, chair: Christopher Tarrant.

**12.45-13.30:**

**Invited speaker** Ane Grum-Schwensen.

Associate Prof. Ane Grum-Schwensen, Hans Christian Andersen Centre, University of Southern Denmark, PI of the digital edition of Andersen manuscripts. The paper shows how the Andersen edition works with genetic criticism and reflects upon cross-disciplinary methodological aspects of genesis of texts within literature and music.

**13.30-14.00:**

**Paper:** Michael Fjeldsøe: Carl Nielsen's Flute Concerto – a multilayered work.

Michael Fjeldsøe, Head of Carl Nielsen Centre and curator of Carl Nielsen Museum, Odense. The paper will explore Nielsen's drafts and sketches in line with genetic criticism in order to discuss Nielsens approach to musical form in the second movement of the Flute Concerto, which presents an extraordinary case with its two different endings.

**14.00-14.15** Coffee break

# International Carl Nielsen Conference 2026

## Day 1: Thursday, 22 October - continued

**14.15-15.00**

**Invited speaker** Karol J. Borowiecki.

Prof. Karol J. Borowiecki, University of Southern Denmark, prof. of economics working with the field of creativity, esp. of composers. Upcoming book: Borowiecki & Marc. T. Law, What Makes a Great Composer? A Data-Driven Exploration of Music History

**15.00-15.30:**

**Paper:** Mikkel Vad: Hans Christian Andersen Confronts the Danish People's Party: Exotic Style and the Early Twenty-First Century Politics of Belonging in Pelle Gudmundsen-Holmgreen's Moving Still (2004)

Assistant Prof. Mikkel Vad, PhD, Section Musicology, University of Copenhagen. The paper explores a theme of Danishness in Gudmundsen-Holmgreen's Moving Still (for voice and string quartet) that can be traced back to two sons of Funen: Carl Nielsen and H.C. Andersen.

**15.15-15.30:** Break

**15.30-16.00**

**Paper:** Jonas Faurholt Høegh: Carl Nielsen – The Dramatist. Reflections on his dramatic compositional style.

MA in Musicology Jonas Faurholt Høegh, research assistant at Carl Nielsen Centre, Odense. The paper examines how Nielsen's concept of dramatic music manifests itself in specific compositional strategies across his output, not primarily be understood as a characteristic of music drama, but as a general compositional principle.

**16.00-17.00:**

Conducting Nielsen: Talk on Performative Practices with conductors Helen Harrison, Christian Øland and Christopher Tarrant with Michael Fjeldsøe: How to conduct Nielsen – in past and future.

**17.30:**

Official opening of the Carl Nielsen Centre, reception.

**Venue:** Carl Nielsen Museet, Claus Bergs Gade 11, Odense.

**19.00:**

Concert, Odense Symphony Orchestra in Carl Nielsen Symphony Hall, Claus Bergs Gade 9, Odense, including Nielsen's Fifth Symphony, cond. Christian Øland.

All speakers at the conference are provided tickets for the concert.

For everyone else, affordable tickets are available at: [QS' 80-ÅRS FØDSELS DAGSKONCERT - Odense Symfoniorkester.](#)

# International Carl Nielsen Conference 2026

## Day 2: Friday, 23 October

**Venue:** Danish National Academy of Music/Syddansk Musikkonservatorium (inside Odeon), Odeons Kvarter 1, Odense, Room 3.1. (on third floor)

### 9.00-12.00:

Conference Theme 2. INCORPORATING THE PAST: Counterpoints. 'The Culture of the Line'

How did Nielsen's interest in counterpoint and music from the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries influence aesthetic ideals and stylistic developments in his music and beyond?

**Invited speakers:** Steven Vande Moortele, Robert Rival, chair: Bjarke Moe.

### 9.00-9.45:

**Invited speaker:** Steven Vande Moortele. Professor of Music Theory Steven Vande Moortele, Centre for the Study of Nineteenth-Century Music, University of Toronto. The paper explores Nielsen's Violin Concerto and reflects on how it relates to other works by Nielsen.

### 9.45-10.00: Break

### 10.00-10.30:

**Paper:** Christopher Tarrant: Carl Nielsen's Four Temperaments: Texture and Musical Constructions of Personality  
Dr. Christopher Tarrant MA (Oxon) MMus PhD, President, Society for Music Analysis, Senior Lecturer in Music Analysis, Newcastle University. The paper proposes a way of reading Nielsen's Second Symphony through the lens of Carl Jung's conception of psychological type. In this context, texture plays an important role not only in establishing the different personality types, but also in sculpting the ebb and flow of the music.

### 10.30-11.00:

**Paper:** Thomas Husted Kirkegaard: Transformational Prolongation in Carl Nielsen's Slow String Quartet Movements  
Tenure-Track Assistant Professor, PhD, Musicology, School of Culture and Communication, Aarhus University. The paper explores the slow movements of Nielsen's string quartets, with particular attention to Opp. 5 and 14. To capture the dynamic interplay of structure and process, it proposes a model of transformational prolongation.

### 11.00-11.15: Break

### 11.15-12.00:

**Invited speaker:** Robert Rival.

Robert Rival, composer, adjunct prof. of theory and composition, University of Ottawa. The paper explores Nielsen's close connection to counterpoint, especially from the 16C.

### 12.00-13.00: Lunch

### 13.00-14.00:

**Keynote:** Julian Horton, Nielsen as Symphonist, chair: David Fanning. Prof. Julian Horton MA Mphil PhD (Cantab), HDip (NUI), Department of Music, Durham University. Based on the corpus studies underpinning the forthcoming book, *The Symphony: A History*, the keynote addresses Nielsen's symphonies, their place in history and Nielsen's approach to symphonic composition.

# International Carl Nielsen Conference 2026

## Day 2: Friday, 23 October - continued

### 14.00-19.00:

Conference Theme 3: RE-CREATING HISTORIOGRAPHY: Marginalized composers in musical cultures of Nielsen's time. How does the current interest in female and marginalised composers reshape the contexts and concepts of musical cultures in Nielsen's time and beyond? Chair: Thomas Husted Kirkegaard.

### 14.00-14.10:

Introductory remarks to the theme by chair Thomas Husted Kirkegaard.

### 14.10-14.30:

Elise Ligaard. Remembering the sound of women's struggle: The International Women's Music Festival, 1978.

### 14.30-14.50:

Laura Nørholt. Rewriting art history's hierarchies. The approach of the Anne Marie Carl-Nielsen Centre, Museum Odense.

### 14.50-15.00:

Discussion.

### 15.00-15.15: coffee break

### 15.15-15.45:

Maria Claustad: Rewriting Music History One Note at a Time: Publishing the Works of Nanna Liebmann (1849-1935)  
Maria Claustad, MA in musicology, project manager & publisher at Edition-S. The presentation introduces the Danish composer Nanna Liebmann (b. Lehmann) (1849-1935), and the ongoing DCM project, a sub-edition to the music publisher Edition-S, that (re)publishes music of her and other female composers.

### 15.45-16.15:

**Paper:** Sanne Lorenzen: Diatonically Convincing without Keys? Voice Leading and Compositional Strategies in Carl Nielsen's Songs.

Sanne Lorenzen, MA, music theorist, organist, PhD-scholar at University of Graz, DozentIn für Musiktheorie, Hochschule Luzern. The presentation investigates compositional strategies through which Nielsen challenges established tonal expectations. Particular attention is given to the role of diatonic lines, modal inflections, unconventional pedal points, and modulation techniques.

### 16.15-16.45:

**Paper:** Nanna Staugaard Villagomez: Orla Rosenhoff – the overlooked generation between Nielsen and Gade.

Nanna Staugaard Villagomez, MA in Musicology, editor at Multivers. The paper argues that Rosenhoff's influence, himself a composer, offers a more nuanced understanding of the emergence of the modernist musical style in turn-of-the-century Copenhagen.

### 17.00-19.00:

Concert with Christina Bjørkøe and friends performing female contemporaries of Nielsen – and more. Concert Hall of the Academy of Music.

**Venue:** National Academy of Music Concert Hall, Odeon, lower floor.

More information at [SDMK - Calendar](#) - Admission: Free.

### 20.00-22.30:

Conference dinner at Madklubben – Odense.

Please notice that all participants and speakers need to register in advance.

# International Carl Nielsen Conference 2026

## Day 3: Saturday, 24 October

### 9.00-10.00:

Advisory Board Meeting of the Carl Nielsen Centre, the Library, Museum Odense, Overgade 48, entrance through the courtyard of the old red building.

### 10.00-13.00:

Conference Theme 4: FUTURE (of) NIELSEN STUDIES: How do we imagine and shape the future of Nielsen scholarship?

Venue: Kirkesalen, Museum Odense, Overgade 48, Odense, entrance through the courtyard of the old red building.

Statements, roundtable and open discussions.

Chair: Michael Fjeldsøe.

### 10.00-10.15: Coffee, welcome

### 10.15-11.00:

State of the art of Nielsen studies and where to go from here.

Opening statements from 'insiders' David Fanning & Michelle Assay, and Daniel Grimley.

### 11.00-11.15: break

### 11.15-12.00:

Perspectives on Nielsen Studies from 'outside' Nielsen scholarship – what is needed and how to achieve it

Panel discussion: Trine Boje Mortensen (artistic director of Odense Symphony Orchestra), Anne Gry Haugland (PhD, head of Artistic Research, Royal Danish Academy of Music), Eva Havshøj Orth (CEO of Edition S) (tbc), Pia Quist (prof., head of Centre of Excellence TRANSITION, University of Copenhagen) (tbc)

### 12.00-12.15: Break

### 12.15-13.00:

Open discussion: Future Nielsen Studies – Strategies for the Carl Nielsen Centre

Openings remarks by Michael Fjeldsøe: The Carl Nielsen Centre.

### 13.00:

Thank you – and lunch [NB: Meeting for the editors of Nielsen Studies]

### 14.00:

**Guided tour** of the Exhibition of Sealed Letters, TID, Museum Odense.