
ESPEN WENSAAS**CURRICULUM VITAE**

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Profile

Norway native, Espen Wensaas is a powerful force in the burgeoning Nordic music scene. Espen Wensaas tours, records and performs regularly both domestically and abroad. He is also one of Norway's leading performers of traditional music on guitar and cittern.

Performing Musician

- **Performed in several major venues and festivals:** Bergen International Festival, Førde Festival, Oslo Jazz Festival, Landskappleiken, International Accordion Festival in Poland, Oslo World Festival, Kråkeslottfestivalen, Gamle Logen, University Aula in Oslo, The Norwegian Opera & Ballet, Oslo Concert Hall, Jakob Cultural Church. Larger productions / tours in Japan, Russia, Germany, Morocco, Switzerland ETC.
 - **Several television and radio appearances:** NRK Stjernekamp, NRK Typen Til, NRK Árdna, NRK P2 Kulturhuset, TV2 Norwegian Got Talents ETC.
 - **Theatre Work:** Musician / Actor in Theatre of Cruelty. Hired musician at Det Norske Teatret, Anna i Ødemarka - Kopparleden Teaterlag, Festspillene i Elverum ETC.
 - **Collaborations includes:** Norwegian Radio Orchestra (KORK), Silje Nergaard, Steinar Ofsdal, Unni Løvlid, Jelena Tomasevic, Ståle Ytterli, Elin Kåven, Aslak W. Brimi, Bjørn Kåre Odde, Øyvind Sandum, Sivert Holmen, Carl Morten Iversen, Emil Solli Tangen, Tore Bruvoll, Hallgrim Hansegård, Ole Jørn Myklebust and more...
 - **High activity level** with about 90-110 public concerts and appearances each year.
 - **Experience with institutional concerts:** Den Kulturelle Spaserstokken, Kulturdråpen (Østfold), Ila landsfengsel, Ringerike fengsel.
 - **CD-publications and studio work:** The Kuraybers, SKALDIC, Aslak Brimi Kvartett, Ole Nilssen, Almir Meskovich and Daniel Lazar, Skarvebarna (compositions) and several other.
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Education

- **2018-present. Norwegian Academy of Music** - Masters Degree in Music Performance - Folk music (guitar and miscellaneous stringed instruments),
- **2015-2018. Working** - Freelancer, 2015-2018.
- **2010-2015. Norwegian Academy of Music** - Bachelor Degree in Music Performance - Improvised music/jazz (jazz-guitar).
- **2009-2010. University of Stavanger (UiS)** - Bachelor Degree in Performing Jazz (jazz-guitar).
- **2008-2009. Working** - Oslo Nevropsykologiske Senter.
- **2006-2008. Ringerike videregående skole**, Hønefoss - Music section (Classical guitar).
- **2005-2006. Gol videregående skole** - Allmennfaglig linje.
- **2004-2005. Toneheim Folkehøgskole**, Hamar - Music School (Classical guitar).

Teaching

- **2006-present.** Giving private lessons in guitar and mandolin.
- **August 2015-May 2016.** Substitute teacher at Nesodden Cultural School.
- **2009-2010.** Giving group courses in guitar for adults in Stavanger.
- **2007-2008.** Substitute teacher at Hole Cultural School.

Awards and grants

- **2019** - Nominated for The Norwegian Grammy Awards (Spellemannsprisen) for Best Folk Music Album.
 - **2018** - Nominated for Best Folk Music Album (Åpen Klasse) at Folkelarm.
 - **2017** - Miscellaneous grants from Norwegian Government (tours and CD-release).
 - **2017** - Tour support from FFUK (Fond For Utøvende Kunstnere).
 - **2016** - Artist funding from Kulturrådet in.
 - **2014** - Tour support from Kulturrådet.
 - **2014** - The Oslo Award «Stage performance of the year» for Svanhild with Theatre of Cruelty.
 - **2010** - Hol Municipality's Cultural award and grant.
 - **2010** - NMHs annual chamber music competition, 2nd place.
 - **2007** - Drømmestipendiet (Norwegian Award for talented youth).
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