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**ESPEN WENSAAS****CURRICULUM VITAE****Phone:**[+47 90759976](tel:+4790759976)**E-mail:**[mail@espenwensaas.com](mailto:mail@espenwensaas.com)**Official artist site:**[www.espenwensaas.com](http://www.espenwensaas.com)**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 Scandinavia's leading performers of traditional music on guitar and cittern.

Knapstadveien 2a  
1823, Knapstad  
Norway

**Performing Musician****• Collaborations includes:**

Norwegian Radio Orchestra (KORK), SWR Vokalensemble, Universitetets Symfoniorkester, Stian Carstensen, Silje Nergaard, Åse Kleveland, Steinar Raknes, Kari Svendsen, Tuva Syvertsen, Johan Hedin, Steinar Ofsdal, Eli Storbekken, Jørn Jensen, Per Ladegård, Unni Løvlid, Tove Bøygard, Sjur Miljeteig, Geir Bratland, Maurice Adams, Yuval Weinberg, Magnus Rosén, Jelena Tomasevic, Ståle Ytterli, Elin Kåven, Aslak Brimi, Bjørn Kåre Odde, Øyvind Sandum, Sivert Holmen, Amina Sewali, Mimmi Tamba, Carl Morten Iversen, Emil Solli Tangen, Tore Bruvoll, Hallgrim Hansegård and FRIKAR, Ole Jørn Myklebust, Daniel Lazar, Almir Meskovic, Sanskriti Shrestha and more...

**• Experience with institutional concerts:**

**Hundreds of concerts with** Den Kulturelle Skolesekken, Den Kulturelle Spaserstokken, Kulturdråpen (Østfold), Ila landsfengsel, Ringerike fengsel.

**• CD-publications and studio work:**

Espen Wensaas og Bjørn Kåre Odde (Lilleslåtter, Lilleslåtter 2), The Kuraybers, Aslak Brimi Kvartett (Vev, Isomeri), Ole Nilssen (Premiér), Almir Meskovich and Daniel Lazar (Roots), Huldra Hildur, Solhov with Solfrid Gjeldokk, Lars Inge Tverberg and Johan Hedin, Skarvebarna (compositions) and several other contributions.

**• 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, Belgium, Canada ETC.

**• Several television and radio appearances:**

NRK Stjerneekamp, NRK Typen Til, NRK Árdna, NRK P2 Kulturhuset, TV2 Norwegian Got Talents, SWR Weihnachtskonzert (Germany).

**• Theatre Work:**

Musician / Actor in Theatre of Cruelty (Grusomhetens Teater), musician at Det Norske Teatret, Anna i Ødemarka - Kopparleden Teaterlag, Festspillene i Elverum, DKS - production RÓHTA. Norden for 1000 år siden.

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### Education

- **2020-present. Working** - Freelance musician.
- **2018-2020. Norwegian Academy of Music** - Masters Degree in Music Performance - Folk music (guitar and miscellaneous stringed instruments), focusing on the traditional music of Gudbrandsdalen. First ever alumni on stringed instruments.
- **2015-2018. Working** - Freelance musician, 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** - Freelance musician.
- **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

- **2021-2022.** Stringed instrument teacher at Ole Bull Academy.
- **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

- **2024** - Nominated for Best Folk Album at Folkelarm with the album "Solhov".
  - **2022** - Nominated for Best Folk Album at Folkelarm with the album "Lillelsåtter"
  - **2021** - Nominated for The Norwegian Grammy Awards for Best Children's Music Album with "Huldra Hildur".
  - **2021** - Government funding for touring and recording
  - **2019** - Nominated for The Norwegian Grammy Awards (Spellemannsprisen) For Best Folk Music Album with "Vev".
  - **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.
  - **2014** - Tour support from Kulturrådet.
  - **2014** - The Oslo Award «Stage performance of the year» for Svanhild with Theatre of Cruelty.
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- **2010** - Hol Municipality's Cultural award and grant.
  - **2010** - NMHs annual chamber music competition, 2nd place.
  - **2007** - Drømmestipendet (Norwegian Award for talented youth).
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