

## GRETE PEDERSEN | CONDUCTOR



The Norwegian conductor Grete Pedersen is one of the most renowned conductors in the international choral scene. Since 1990 Grete Pedersen is Music Director of the Norwegian Soloists' Choir whose recordings were awarded the 'Choc de la Musique', 'Prix d'Or' from Diapason and a 'Record of the year' by Gramophone. In September 2022 she has been appointed as Artistic Director of the Carmel Bach Festival, USA, for five years.

In 2023, she was part of *The Nordic Choir Expedition* project with the Norwegian Soloists' Choir in Helsinki, Stockholm, Copenhagen and Oslo, performing music by Werle, Strauss, Taube, Janson, Melläs, Nyström, Martland and Eriksson. Further highlights were engagements with Rundfunkchor Berlin, Slovenian Philharmonic & Choir (Brahms: Requiem) and concerts with the Norwegian Soloists' Choir at the festivals in Sion and Merano as well as her engagements at the Carmel Festival 2023 with Mahler: Symphony No. 4, Karin Rehnqvist: *Breaking the Ice from Arktis Arktis* and Haydn: *Creation* and others.

In the 2024/25 season Grete Pedersen follows invitations to Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra San Francisco, Helsingborg Symphony & Choir and Arctic Philharmonic Orchestra with a commissioned work by Ørjan Matre. Highlights of her last season with the Norwegian Soloists' Choir will be Beethoven: *Missa solennis*, Bach: *Christmas Oratorio* and Julia Wolfe: *Oratorio Fire in my Mouth* for women's choir, children's choir and orchestra.

Grete Pedersen is a sought-after guest conductor and has worked with all prestigious European choirs. She has performed oratorios with leading Norwegian orchestras as well as with Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Slovenian Philharmonic, Yale Camerata, and Gulbenkian Orchestra & Choir.

Educated as a church musician at the Norwegian Academy of Music, Grete Pedersen has been part of the historically informed performance movement since the early 1980s and has worked with the Freiburger Barockorchester, Oslo Bach Ensemble, Norwegian Barokkanerne, Barokksolistene and the Drottningholm Barokkensemble, among others.

Grete Pedersen's name stands for productions and stagings with a broad and innovative variety of styles. She has set new standards with her interpretation of early and contemporary music. In the contemporary scene, Grete Pedersen is known as a fearless advocate of new music and she has commissioned and performed numerous pieces by leading composers.

BIS Records has released numerous award-winning recordings with the Norwegian Soloists Choir and works by Per Norgard, Kaija Saariaho, Fartein Valen, Alfred Janson, Knut Nystedt, Nils Henrik Asheim, Lars Petter Hagen, Edvard Grieg, Iannis Xenakis, Helmut Lachenmann, Alban Berg, Olivier Messiaen, Anton Webern, Brahms, Schubert, J.S. Bach and Norwegian Folk Music. Her albums of Luciano Berio: *Coro* and J.S. Bach: *Motets* has been awarded the Diapason d'Or in the years 2020 and 2018. Grete Pedersen and The Norwegian Soloists' Choir lately received the renowned Spellermann Prize for their album *Lament*. The latest album release was in 2023 with Bent Sorensen: *Matthew Passion* with Ensemble Allegria and The Norwegian Soloists' Choir.

In 1984, Grete Pedersen founded the Oslo Chamber Choir and worked with them for 20 years particularly with oratorio repertoire and contemporary music. She completed her postgraduate studies in conducting at the Norwegian State Academy of Music in Oslo and studied choral conducting with Eric Ericson and orchestral conducting with Kenneth Kiesler.

She teaches as a professor in conducting at the Norwegian State Academy of Music since 1996 and is a sought-after teacher for masterclasses.

In 2019, Grete Pedersen was appointed Knight 1st Class of the Royal Norwegian St. Olavs Order for her merit and outstanding achievements in the arts and was awarded the distinguished Lindeman Prize to honour her significant contribution to the musical life of Norway.

Season 2024/25