

GRETE PEDERSEN | CONDUCTOR

The Norwegian conductor Grete Pedersen is one of the most renowned conductors in the international choral scene. From 1990 to 2025 Grete Pedersen has been 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. Since 2026, Pedersen has been Principal Conductor of the Yale Schola Cantorum and Professor of Choral Conducting at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

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.

Lately, she led The Yale Schola Cantorum and Juilliard 415 at New York, Alice Tully Hall and on tour in Italy with five concerts.

Upcoming highlights include engagements with Netherlands Bach Society Orchestra & Choir, RIAS Kammerchor Berlin, events with Lise Davidsen with Stavanger Symphony Orchestra and Norwegian Radio Orchestra in Oslo and a concert with Finnish Baroque Orchestra in Helsinki to mark the 300th anniversary of the premiere of Bach's St Matthew Passion.

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*. In 2023 Bent Sorensen: Matthew Passion with Ensemble Allegria and The Norwegian Soloists' Choir was released. The Liszt album Via Crucis with The Norwegian Soloists' Choir and Leif Ove Andsnes has been awarded a Diapason d'Or in 2025.

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.

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 2026/27

