JANNE THOMSEN

FLAUTIST | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Photo: Susie Knoll

BIOGRAPHY

Danish flautist Janne Thomsen is an internationally acclaimed soloist and passionate chamber musician, celebrated for her distinctive artistic voice, exceptional range of tonal colours and compelling musical imagination. A prizewinner at international competitions in Prague, Paris, Bayreuth, Rome, Vienna and Boston, she has appeared with leading orchestras and ensembles including the Czech Philharmonic, English Chamber Orchestra, DR, Aarhus, Odense and Aalborg Symphony Orchestras, Kremerata Baltica, Camerata Salzburg, Amsterdam Sinfonietta, Vienna Chamber Orchestra, O/Modernt Chamber Orchestra and Moscow Soloists. She has collaborated with conductors such as Gidon Kremer, Yuri Bashmet, Christopher Hogwood, Thomas Dausgaard, Christian Kluxen, Olli Mustonen, Norman del Mar and Maxim Vengerov.

Recent highlights include the world premiere of Olli Mustonen's flute concerto *Sadunkertoja – The Storyteller*, written for Janne and premiered with the Prague Philharmonia at the opening of the Concentus Moraviae Festival. Invited by Osvaldo Golijov, she recorded *Esperanza*, the love theme for Francis Ford Coppola's film *Megalopolis*. In 2026, she premiered Golijov's *Earth & Shadow* with Finnish guitarist Ismo Eskelinen, followed by its UK premiere at the new Schwarzman Centre in Oxford with guitarist Mats Bergström, and Albert Schnelzer's *DRIVE* with bassoonist Bram van Sambeek and the O/Modernt Chamber Orchestra, recorded by Danish Radio. In 2026, she also premiered *Eventyr fra Livets Kyst – H. C. Andersen Through Words and Music*, an interdisciplinary collaboration with internationally acclaimed author Anne Fortier, weaving storytelling and music into a dialogue inspired by H. C. Andersen's fairy tales, including Olli Mustonen's *Anderseniana*, written for Thomsen. A new collaboration is also taking shape with Finnish composer Sauli Zinovjev, Composer-in-Residence at Klassiske Dage in 2027.

Janne has developed close artistic collaborations with some of today's most distinguished composers. Osvaldo Golijov, Giya Kancheli, Olli Mustonen, Éric Tanguy, Michael Berkeley, Tõnu Kõrvits and Pēteris Vasks have dedicated works to her. She has also collaborated with Sofia Gubaidulina, Hans Werner Henze, James MacMillan, Albert Schnelzer, Wolfgang Rihm, Kaija Saariaho, Bent Sørensen and Erkki-Sven Tüür. These musical encounters have led to numerous commissions and premieres, from solo and chamber works to concertos for flute and orchestra.

An adventurous and imaginative musician, Janne explores classical music, contemporary repertoire, jazz, folk traditions and interdisciplinary projects. Her recording projects include *Vildspil – Danish Folk Music Re-designed*, an exploration of her native musical heritage with folk fiddler Harald Haugaard and jazz drummer Anders Mogensen, and *Mosaïque danoise*, featuring Danish music of the 1930s and 1940s with violinist Cecilia Zilliacus, cellist Andreas Brantelid and pianist Bengt Forsberg. Her artistic curiosity extends to collaborations involving dance, literature, theatre and film.

BIOGRAPHY / CONTINUED

In 2005, Janne founded Klassiske Dage © Holstebro International Music Festival, where she is Artistic Director. The festival has grown into an internationally oriented meeting place for outstanding musicians, composers and artists. Recognised for its imaginative programming and distinctive thematic narratives, Klassiske Dage explores unexpected connections between musical traditions, artistic disciplines, cultures and generations, bringing internationally renowned performers together with emerging talents.

Janne began her musical education in Denmark with Lise Stolarczyk and Toke Lund Christiansen and was selected as Young Musician of the Year for Denmark (EBU). She continued her studies with William Bennett at the Royal Academy of Music in London, including chamber music lessons with the Amadeus Quartet, before being admitted to the highly selective 3e cycle advanced soloist programme at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris, where she studied with Maurice Bourgue and Alain Marion.

She was awarded an ARAM (Associate of the Royal Academy of Music) in recognition of her distinguished contribution to music. Her other honours and awards include support from the Queen Margrethe II and Prince Henrik Foundation, the Augustinus Foundation, the D.A.N.C.E. Foundation in New York, the Jacob Gade Prize, the Czech Music Foundation Prize, the Lions Award and the Holstebro Culture Award.

Janne has taught at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg and served as Guest Professor at Hochschule Luzern – Musik. She performs on a flute specially crafted for her by Peruvian-born, Boston-based flute maker Miguel Arista.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

“Her warm expressive and infinitely varied sound, with its astonishingly wide dynamic range, and her transcendental technique actually seem to hold a magnifying glass up to the music.”

PAN MAGAZINE · BRITISH FLUTE SOCIETY

“The Danish flautist Janne Thomsen is a magnificent rich-toned soloist, full-bodied and clear, and her range of timbre extremely wide.”

GRAMOPHONE

“Janne Thomsen plays with incredible vitality, wonderfully differentiated expression, agility and elegance.”

FRANKFURTER NEUE PRESSE

“Janne Thomsen was one of the true stars of the evening. Pure pleasure of playing, technical perfection and a certain radiating factor sparkled through her playing and stage presence.”

SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

“Janne Thomsen is a treat for eyes and ears. She is a phenomenon.”

RHEIN-ZEITUNG

“The concerto soloist was Janne Thomsen. The flautist, who has collaborated with Mustonen for years, made us realize just how much can be achieved with an instrument so often associated merely with light, decorative charm. Janne Thomsen’s flute sounded at once brilliantly lyrical, passionately vivid, dazzlingly virtuosic and rhythmically precise, articulating with utmost clarity. As the performance encountered virtually no resistance, the instrument’s inherently magical nature came fully into its own.”

KESKISUOMALAINEN · CENTRAL FINNISH NEWSPAPER