

HRAFNHILDUR HAGALÍN

Born in Reykjavík in 1965, Hrafnhildur Hagalín graduated from the Reykjavík College of Music as a classical guitarist and later studied Literature and Theatre at the University of Sorbonne, Paris-IV. Her first play, “I am the Maestro”, was produced at the Reykjavík City Theatre and won her the Icelandic Critics’ Award in 1991 and the Nordic Theatre Prize in 1992. It has since been translated to twelve languages and produced in many countries around the world, including Australia, France and the USA. It was nominated as Best Foreign Play in Italy in 2004. “Easy now, Electre,” Hrafnhildur’s second play, premiered at the Icelandic National Theatre in 2000 and was nominated to Gríman, the Icelandic Theatre Prize, as the Best Icelandic Play in 2001. Her other plays include “North” 2004, “Salka Valka” (an adaption of the novel by Nobel Prize winner Halldór Laxness) 2005, a television play and the radio play “Loners” which a cycle of short plays for older actors produced and broadcast by the Icelandic State Broadcasting System in September of 2009. Her plays have been published by Mál og menning in Reykjavík, Iperborea (Io sono il Maestro, 2003) and Oxford University Press (Easy now, Electre in Anthology of Modern Women Playwrights of Europe, 2002). Hrafnhildur lives in Reykjavík.

PÉTUR JÓNASSON

Pétur Jónasson was born in Reykjavík, Iceland, in 1959. At the age of nine he began studying the guitar with Eythór Thorláksson at the Gardar College of Music, later continuing under Manuel López Ramos at the Estudio de Arte Guitarrístico in Mexico City. After graduating in 1980, he moved to Spain where he studied with José Luis González for three years. There, he also attended Master Classes with David Russell and Abel Carlevaro. In 1986, Pétur received a scholarship from the Spanish Government to study with José Luis Rodrigo at the Santiago de Compostela Master Classes. That same year he was one of only twelve guitarists selected to perform for Maestro Andrés Segovia at the historical Segovia Master Classes held at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Pétur Jónasson has appeared as a soloist on numerous occasions in Scandinavia, the United States, Mexico, Canada, Great Britain, Continental Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Japan. He has recorded several CDs, some of which include works composed especially for him. He is also an active chamber musician, being the principal guitarist of the Caput Contemporary Music Ensemble. Mr. Jónasson received an honorary stipendium from the Sonning Music Foundation in Copenhagen and was the first Icelandic soloist to be nominated for the Music Prize of the Nordic Council. He is currently Head of Classical Guitar Studies at the Iceland Academy of the Arts and Artistic Director of the Nordic Music Days Contemporary Music Festival which will be taking place in Reykjavík in October of 2011.