

"Haugaard is the master of sublime moments" (Sing Out music magazine, USA)

Harald Haugaard is one of the most sought-after musicians of his generation. Through his constant touring, numerous recordings and strong commitment to teaching he attracts an enthusiastic, ever-growing following and is an inspiration to talented musicians the world over.

His virtuoso playing ranges from the effortless to the ferociously challenging, always with a characteristically rich and melancholy tone. His compositions are original, and his artistic expression draws always on his deep roots in the rich Danish musical tradition, which he treats with a freshness and a respect like no one else.

He grew up in an environment full of traditional music, song and dance, and began at an early age playing for dances together with, among others, his maternal grandfather Johannes Kristensen. The rhythms of dance, and the movement and feeling that flow from them, are at the heart of his music, but although his bedrock is traditional music, he has an inquisitive spirit and is inspired by everything he encounters. He is happy to mix genres as a way of challenging the existing tradition and developing as an artist. In his own words, " the greatest source of inspiration of all is life itself."

As a soloist, with his own ensemble the Helene Blum & Harald Haugaard Band, and with his previous groups Serras, Haugaard & Høirup and Sorten Muld, he has toured most of the world, having been at times, in terms of numbers of concerts, one of Denmark's biggest artistic exports.

Haugaard has appeared frequently on television and radio, and has composed and produced music for theatre, films and concerts, including the opening concert of Womex 2009 "The Great Nordic Night". From 2000 to 2008 he was a tutor for the Fyn Conservatory of Music's renowned folk music degree, and every summer since 2009 he has held his own popular summer-school, "Haugaard's International Fiddle School", for hundreds of talented players from all over the world.

Haugaard has received a great many awards and honours over the years for his music and his work, including the Eiserner Eversteiner European Folk Music Award, the Danish Musicians' Union Prize of Honour and the Odense Live Prize, to name some of the most prestigious. His total of 12 Danish Music Awards make him one of the most frequent winners of that award ever, in any genre. He has been Artist in Residence at one of Canada's most esteemed music festivals, Celtic Colours, and in 2015 he is an official Carl Nielsen Artist with the Odense Symphony Orchestra; he has also worked with the folkBALTICA festival for three years as Artistic Director.

2015 sees the release of his album "Lys og Forfald" [*"Light and Decay"*], which is the third and concluding album in his trilogy with "Burning Fields" and "Den Femte Søster" [*"The Fifth Sister"*] - a trilogy which tells stories in music about people, places and events.

The highly-regarded music magazine 'The Strad' has described him as a *"charismatic virtuoso"* and the British music magazine fROOTS has said: *"Haugaard is a brilliant fiddler, one of the very best in the world"*.

www.haraldh.dk