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## O B I T U A R I E S

With the deaths of Knud Ketting and Erland Kolding Nielsen, Nielsen research and Nielsen dissemination have lost two eminent Danish ambassadors and contributors of the past three decades.



### **Knud Ketting (1942-2016)**

**Knud Ketting** graduated from The University of Copenhagen in 1970 with a master's degree in musicology (main subject) and French (secondary subject). He became known as a highly regarded music critic and journalist at leading Danish newspapers and at Radio Denmark. In the years 1984-90, Ketting was head of the Danish Music Information Centre in Copenhagen, after which he became music director of the Aalborg Symphony Orchestra and later (1995-2000) of the Malmö Symphony Orchestra in Sweden. After his return to Denmark in 2000 he took up musical criticism again at the newspaper *Jyllandsposten*.

Ketting had a thorough and almost encyclopedic knowledge of Nielsen's music, and he was able to collect an invaluable body of empirical evidence related to his life and work, which he put at the disposal of a number of ongoing Nielsen research projects, enabling many doubtful or wrong details in the existing Nielsen literature to be corrected.

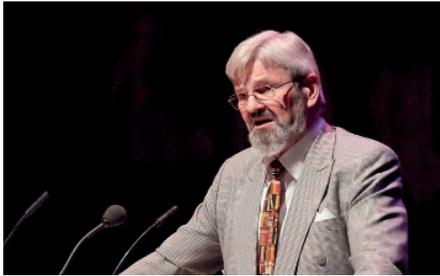
In 1998 – after more than three years of work – Ketting, together with a number of colleagues, edited the pioneering CDROM *Carl Nielsen, the Man and the Music*, which was both a comprehensive catalogue of Nielsen's oeuvre and an overall biography in text and pictures.

As chairman of the *Danish Carl Nielsen Society* and editor of its newsletter *Espansiva* from 1998 until his death in 2016, he contributed to the dissemination of Nielsen's music in Denmark to the many non-professional Nielsen lovers of the country, through the meetings organised by the society and not least through the competent articles on selected Nielsen topics that he contributed to every issue of *Espansiva*.

Shortly before his death, Ketting made it possible for his comprehensive list of Nielsen performances in the composer's own lifetime, which he had collected in the course of several decades, to

be used in the new *The Catalogue of Carl Nielsen's Works* (CNW), as part of the information of each entry in the catalogue.

Ketting was active in the founding of *Carl Nielsen Studies* in 2003 and contributed important articles to the first two volumes of the periodical.



**Erland Kolding Nielsen (1947-2017)**

After 15 years as Head of Department at The Royal School of Library Studies, **Erland Kolding Nielsen** became Director of The National Library of Denmark, The Royal Library in Copenhagen (KB), holding this post from 1985 until a few weeks before his death in January 2017. During his 30 years as Director he changed the image, scope and policy of the Library probably more than any other single person in its history during the previous more than 100 years. The conspicuous and lasting monument of Kolding Nielsen's ideas is the iconic building from 1999 at the harbour front, known as The Black Diamond, which changed the library's role from an academic ivory tower to a public cultural institution, with concert hall, restaurant and cafe, conference and meeting rooms, spacious

reading and IT facilities etc., most of which was of benefit also to music. Not least the concert hall paved the way for a hitherto unknown contact with musical life at home and abroad.

With his academic background as a historian and his ideas about the role of a national library, Kolding Nielsen gave music and musicology his unfailing attention, both by himself enabling new initiatives in music and by supporting ideas that his members of staff would present to him. During his reign, funding for musical activities in the library was available to a degree not seen before or after his time, and in every case, Kolding Nielsen personally followed the projects with enthusiasm and professional expertise. This certainly applied to the music of Carl Nielsen, and it is probably true to say that under Kolding Nielsen The Royal Library became a centre of excellence in this area, not least due to the support of the Director. Among the projects that were supported by him, and for which funding was secured by his initiative, the following could be mentioned as the most important: *The Carl Nielsen Edition* in 32 volumes (CNU), the collected edition in Danish of letters to and from Nielsen in twelve volumes (CNB), the edition of selected letters in English (CNL), the edition of lectures, newspaper articles etc. in three volumes (*Samtid*), *Carl Nielsen Studies* in six volumes to date, the international chamber music competition carrying Nielsen's name in collaboration with Radio Denmark and the Royal

Academy of music, Nielsen exhibitions, and Nielsen conferences – all of them based on Kolding Nielsen's personal interest and ability to secure the necessary funding.

It is fair to say that Nielsen research and the dissemination of Nielsen's music at home and abroad would not have reached its present status without Kolding Nielsen's unfailing interest and enthusiasm.

*Niels Krabbe*