
CARL NIELSEN STUDIES

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Edited by David Fanning and Michael Fjeldsøe

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Carl Nielsen Centre, Museum Odense

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REPORTS

The Carl Nielsen Correspondence

Multivers Publishing announces the public launch of The Carl Nielsen Correspondence, a digital resource that makes Nielsen's complete letters and diaries freely accessible online in English translation for the first time.

Developed over the past four years in collaboration with the Royal Danish Library, the project presents the entirety of Nielsen's surviving correspondence and diary entries – now available in both Danish and English in digitised and searchable form – at <https://carlnielsencorrespondence.dk> [carlnielsencorrespondence.dk]

The website allows users to:

- read letters and diary entries from the 1880s until Nielsen's death in 1931
- follow Nielsen's correspondence with specific individuals
- trace discussions of particular compositions across the correspondence
- access contextual information on works mentioned (including CNW numbers, links to scores, contemporary commentary, and performance history), with links to additional information from the Royal Danish Library

- view original facsimiles alongside Danish texts and English translations

The Carl Nielsen Correspondence is based on *Carl Nielsen Brevudgaven*, the twelve-volume scholarly edition edited by John Fellow and published by Multivers between 2005 and 2015. The digital project was directed by Henrik Borberg, with translations by John Mason, Anne-Marie Reynolds, David Fanning, Catherine Verner and Nanna Staugaard Villagomez, and editorial consultation from Michael Fjeldsøe and Peter O'Connell Hauge.

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Multivers Publishers, Vesterbrogade 127,
1620 København V, Denmark,
(+45) 20213008

Opening Box 146 of the

Carl Nielsen Archive

January 6, 2026, was a momentous day for Carl Nielsen researchers. It has been known for years that the *Carl Nielsen Archive* contains a box with a sealed enve-

lope containing letters that belonged to Carl Nielsen and Anne Marie Carl-Nielsen. At 10 a.m., amid great media attention, we opened the sealed envelope, which was contained in Box 146 in the *Carl Nielsen Archive*, bearing the inscription: 'This envelope must not be opened before the year 2026'. The inscription and seal were made on 19 February 1976 by Eggert Møller, widower of Carl Nielsen's daughter Irmelin, before the last letters were handed over to The Royal Library. Why these particular letters had to be sealed has been unknown until now. One of the most common guesses was that the letters would reveal previously unknown information about the couple's private life. And that turned out to be the case.

The contents consisted of 47 letters and postcards to and from Ove Jørgensen (1877–1950), who was a close friend of the couple, and most of the letters are from the year 1916. Ove Jørgensen was someone in whom both Carl and Anne Marie confided during the difficult years around 1916, when their marriage was on the verge of collapse. To our great surprise, some of the letters were already known; in fact, 32 of the 47 were already included in *Carl Nielsen: Brevudgaven*. Our initial research has revealed that this is primarily the result of Torben Schousboe making copies of letters for his own research before they were classified. These copies since ended up in Torben Schousboe's Archive, which was been available to John Fellow at The Royal Library when he edited the letters edition. It is worth

noting that it was not apparent that they were restricted.¹

The fact that there were also 15 completely unknown letters to and from Carl and Anne Marie and their closest circle is a significant find that will add new nuances to the stories told about the couple. Museum Odense is planning a special exhibition with letters from Box 146, which will be open until 25 October 2026.

Michael Fjeldsøe and Bjarke Moe

The Carl Nielsen Centre, Museum Odense

On 1 October 2025, Museum Odense established a Carl Nielsen Centre, which is currently in its formative phase. The official opening will take place with an international Carl Nielsen Conference on October 22–24, 2026 (see Call for Papers ...). The author, Michael Fjeldsøe, has been appointed head of the Centre, taking his many years of experience as a Carl Nielsen researcher with him to Odense. In addition to managing and developing the Carl Nielsen Centre, the role includes professional responsibility for Nielsen's Childhood Home and the Carl Nielsen Museum.

The main task of the Carl Nielsen Centre will be to serve as a hub for Danish and international research into the

¹ See Bjarke Moe and Michael Fjeldsøe, 'Den mystiske æske 146. Åbningen af klausulerede breve i Carl Nielsen Arkivet', *Fund og Forskning* 64 (2025), forthcoming.