

Jónas Ásgeir Ásgeirsson

Curriculum vitae

Short biography

Jónas Ásgeir Ásgeirsson is a classical accordionist based in Copenhagen. He holds a Masters Degree as well as a Postgraduate Degree from the *Royal Danish Academy of Music* where he studied under the tutelage of *Geir Draugsvoll* and *Andreas Borregaard*.

Jónas has won awards both as a soloist and chamber musician. He was the recipient of 'Performer of the Year' and 'Album of the year' at the **Icelandic Music Awards 2023** in the classical/contemporary category. He was among the prize winners of the „Young Soloists” competition hosted by the *Icelandic Symphony Orchestra* and *The Icelandic University of the Arts* and as a result played as soloist with the ISO. This made him the first Icelander to play an accordion concerto with that orchestra. In 2024, Jónas again took to the stage with the orchestra and become one of the few soloist in the orchestra's history to perform two concertos in one night. Jónas has also performed as a soloist with **Elja ensemble** as well as **BIT20** in Bergen, and will be premiering recent *Ernst von Siemens Musikstiftung Composer Prize* recipient **Bára Gísladóttir's** new concerto for accordion and ensemble alongside **Århus Sinfonietta** in 2026.

Jónas likes to work closely with composers to expand the accordion literature and allow other artists to gleam the potential of the instrument. Jónas has premiered pieces by numerous composers from Iceland, Denmark and further afield. Jónas released the album **FIKTA** with Icelandic contemporary music for the classical accordion in October 2022 through *Dacapo Records* which includes a concerto by *Finnur Karlsson* as well as the notoriously challenging solo work *Radioflakes* by *Atli Ingólfsson*. *Radioflakes* was also released as a music video, directed by *Stephan Stephensen*. **FIKTA** won 'Album of the Year' at the Icelandic Music Awards 2023 in the classical/contemporary category.

As well as being a virtuosic soloist, Jónas is a member of several ensembles. The Icelandic accordion trio *ítrío* has played widely and won several awards, for example the first prize in the chamber music competition of The Royal Danish Academy of Music. Jónas is also a member of *EKKI MINNA*, an accordion/cello duo with British cellist *Andrew Power*, which has performed at international contemporary music festivals and received positive reviews. Finally, Jónas founded and plays in *KIMI ensemble*, where he performs with *Pórgunnur Anna Örnólfsdóttir* (voice) and *Katerina Anagnostidou* (percussion). *KIMI* was nominated for concert of the year at the *Icelandic Music Awards* 2021.



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Studies

2022

Receives his Postgraduate Degree from The Royal Danish Academy of Music with excellent remarks

2020

Receives his Masters Degree from The Royal Danish Academy of Music with the highest possible mark

2017

Receives his Bachelors Degree from The Royal Danish Academy of Music with the highest possible mark

2014

Starts the Bachelor's programme at The Royal Danish Academy of Music

2013

Finishes the Upper Secondary music exam from Tónskóli Eddu Borg with great marks

Awards & Competitions

2023

- Received 'Performer of the Year' and 'Album of the Year' at the Icelandic Music Awards 2023 in the category contemporary/classical.

2018

- Placed 6th in the *Arrasate Hiria* competition, the largest and most prestigious international competition for classical/contemporary accordion

2017

- Received the 1st prize in the chamber music competition of the *Royal Danish Academy of Music* (along with the other members of *Ítríó*)
- Placed 9th in the main category of *PIF-Castelfidardo*, one of the most prestigious accordion competition in the world
- Was chosen as one of eleven ensembles to participate in *P2*, the most prestigious chamber music competition hosted by the Danish Radio

2016

- Received the 2nd prize in the chamber music category of *PIF-Castelfidardo* (along with the other members of *Ítríó*)

2015

- Was one of four winners of the soloist competition „Young Soloists“ hosted by The Icelandic University of the Arts and the Iceland Symphony Orchestra and as a prize played a concerto with the same orchestra

2012

- Received 1st prize in the senior category of *Nótan*, the Icelandic music school competition along with other members of *The Accordion Quintet of Reykjavik*



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Miscellaneous work

2022 -

Committee member of Ung Nordisk Musik Iceland. A member of the festival organising team in Reykjavík 2022 where he was Head of Ensemble Production, Performer's Coordinator and produced Elja ensemble's concert

2018 -

Teacher of accordion and groups at *Byens Musikskole* in Copenhagen, Denmark
<https://byensmusikskole.dk/>

2016-2022

Church singer at *Tingbjerg Kirke* in Copenhagen, Denmark

2013-2014

Accordion teacher at *Tónskólinn DoReMi* in Reykjavík, Iceland

Selected premieres

Prisma (2022), **Friðrik Margrétar-Guðmundsson** [ítríó]

Monstro City (2022), **Hafdís Bjarnadóttir** [ítríó]

MEDEA VERSES (2022), **Hugi Guðmundsson**

Reaction (arr. 2021), **Haukur Tómasson** [EKKI MINNA Duo]

Accordion Concerto (2020), **Finnur Karlsson**

B(e)part (2020, **EKKI MINNA Duo** & **Áslaug Magnúsdóttir**

Bittersweet (2019), **Nikki Martin**

VINÁTTA. SÓLIN. (2020), **Þórunna Dögg Björnsdóttir** [KIMI]

νόστος και άλγος και νόστος (2020), **Gunnar Karel Másson** [KIMI]

Fikta (2018), **Friðrik Margrétar-Guðmundsson**



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Links

Homepage

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The music video of Radioflakes by Atli Ingólfsson, released in 2022

<https://youtu.be/TTkehBM3i4g>

The album FIKTA which Jónas recorded. Released by Dacapo Records in 2022

<https://www.dacapo-records.dk/en/recordings/karlsson-fikta>

A recording of Jónas performing the accordion concerto Installation around a heart by Þuríður Jónsdóttir with Elja chamber ensemble

<https://vimeo.com/311985593>

A recording of Jónas performing the solo work Fikta by Friðrik Margrétar-Guðmundsson, composed for Jónas in 2018

<https://youtu.be/503tJXtTmFg>

Homepage of KIMI ensemble

<https://www.kimi-ensemble.com/>

Homepage of EKKI MINNA Duo

<https://www.ekkiminnaduo.com/>



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Reviews

It is not only air that Jónas Ásgeir Ásgeirsson articulates with his accordion - nation, nature and history are also set in vibration. In the glacier-heavy movements and the bright and childlike sounds of birds, one experiences not only harmony and narrative. One also senses a search for identity. A quest with free movement between roots and innovation, the serious and playful, heavy and light... and of course Iceland. The core of the album is precisely this quest, embedded in the album title, which refers both to the medieval musical concept of *musica ficta* and the Icelandic word "fikta", meaning "to play around with".

That said, *Fikta* is not your typical solo release showcasing an individual and an instrument, and the album places itself at the intersection of history, aesthetics and identity in a way rarely seen in classical releases. There is something at stake when Ásgeirsson describes his origins, and as a listener you understand both the complexity and the immediacy of that question.

Seismograf

<https://seismograf.org/kortkritik/leg-med-luft>

The biggest highlight of the evening was accordion soloist Jónas Ásgeir Ásgeirsson. In Atli Ingólfsson's solo work 'Radioflakes', he exceeded many times over the boundaries of what sounds I could imagine it was possible to achieve with an accordion over the course of nine minutes. Inspired by switching quickly between radio stations, the piece captured the mood and soundscape with equal parts originality and precision.

And even after three hours of new music, I personally set a goosebump record during Þuríður Jónsdóttir's 'Installation Around a Heart' for accordion and sinfonietta. In the work, the accordion represents a pumping heart, while the musicians in the ensemble represent the veins through which the blood flows.

Again, the composer and soloist achieved unimaginably rich spectrums of sound from the accordion. When the orchestral musicians reacted to all these small and large inputs - from breaths and sighs to tremors and outbursts - it created a pulse and a flow that was deeply moving. In addition to getting to know many new performers and composers, I was left with the feeling of having gotten to know the accordion as an instrument on a whole new level.

Bergens Tidende

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/c0x1t88bzrjh08w/gagnr%C3%BDni.jpg?dl=0>

Jónas Ásgeir has the concerto completely in hand. He is intertwined with the work, and showcases virtuoso touches that bring the performance to an astral level.

Hjálmar H. Ragnarsson

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=821745935581539&set=a.111265739962899>

One could say that Jónas Ásgeir stole the show with a rarely seen concert instrument in his lap, and at the same time presented to well versed audiences a rarely heard but interesting composition with a brilliant touch. A fifteen-piece string ensemble met the solo instrument, creating an exotic but irresistibly beautiful cross-section of the sound of the accordion and string instruments, for in fact the accordion outweighed a whole wind section. [...] Jónas Ásgeir performed the particular characters of the work artistically and convincingly, with passion and humor. [...] The project committee of the Symphony Orchestra would be encouraged to look for more concertos for the accordion.

Ingvar Bates

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/c0x1t88bzrjh08w/gagnr%C3%BDni.jpg?dl=0>



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