

## Composer Louise Alenius (1978)

### About:

Louise Alenius is a Danish composer, born in 1978. She has created operas, ballet music, choir pieces and string quartets, film and commercial music, as well as the acclaimed series of one-to-one petit shows, *Porøset*, that was performed at the Royal Danish Theatre through several years. Alenius has received numerous nominations and awards for her music, including most importantly the prestigious honorary award *Carl Nielsen & Anne Marie Carl Nielsens Hæderspris 2019*.

See a short documentary about Louise Alenius from the award show [here](#) (in Danish). Read the research article "Through the Fabric of My Own: Louise Alenius and Embodied Interrelationality" [here](#) (in English).

### Currently working on/coming up (major works):

- Opera (Grand opera) commissioned by The Royal Danish Opera, will premiere in may 15. 2022 at Operaen (store scene) Titled 'Manualen' - libretto and music by Louise Alenius.
- Musical theatre piece for Betty Nansen Theatre (in collaboration with Director Elisa Kragerup), will premiere in April 2021. Title: *Kejseren af Portugalien* (*The Emperor of Portugalien*, based on the Selma Lagerlöf novel).
- Choral work for eight voices titled 'Stille slag' for Østerbro Theatre, Copenhagen, to premiere may 2021.
- Five compositions for the new Hans Christian Andersen Museum in Odense, Denmark, permanent sound installations, year TBA (2021)

[See the list of important creations \(chronological\) below.](#)

### Awards and accolades:

- Carl Nielsen og Anne Marie Carl Nielsens Hæderspris 2019 (Honorary Award) (750.000 Danish kroner/100.000 Euro).
- P2 Prisen 2018 (Danish Broadcasting Corporation) for the chamber opera *Silent Zone*: Concert of the Year (Bedste koncertoplevelse).
- Winner, Carl Prisen (The Danish Music publishers' Annual Award) 2018 for *Silent Zone*.
- Trippel nominated with *Silent Zone* at the The Reumert Prize (Danish: Årets Reumert) which is an annual Danish awards ceremony to recognize excellence in theatre achievements.
- Double nominated at The True Award 2017 with the piece 'No Matter'.
- Winner, The True Award 2015, Best Film Music, with the song 'Slow Mover'.
- Winner, Carl Prisen 2014. Awarded the 'Special Talent Prize.
- Nominated Classical album of the year P2 Prisen 2021

### Important creations (in reverse chronological order):

- *Længst væk fra mig* Choral piece, for DR Pige-koret (Danish Broadcasting Corporation), premiered April 2020 at the annual Spring Concert in Holmens Kirke.
- *//t* Choral piece for five voices commissioned by The Royal Danish Theatre for the sound and light installation *The Wave*, premiered February 2020 Ofelia Plads, Copenhagen
- *Tête de Louise Alenius*. *Tête* is a three-metre tall wooden installation/sound sculpture shaped like the artist's head. It premiered at Eighteen Gallery, Copenhagen, and was subsequently exhibited at The National Gallery of Denmark (Statens Museum for Kunst), August to December 2019. With this piece, Alenius moved into fine/figurative art, and she also invited visitors inside the head that is shaped like a miniature concert hall. Here, an installation with 10 Etudes was playing inside, and the composer also performed live several times during the exhibition with new vocal improvisations.
- *Porøset* 1-8 at The Royal Danish Theatre (2014, '15, '16, '17, '18). A series of 15 minutes one-to-one petit shows playing more than 500 times. The series incorporated all the art forms of the Royal Theater, opera, ballet, theatre and orchestral music, with intimate concerts and performances by the composer.
- *Rite of Nothing*, a site-specific choral work for 14 voices, created for Cisternerne, presented by Bloom Festival May 2018. The choral work was later developed into a digital, interactive work with recorded sound, experienced through headphones with a built-in tracker. Re-premiere November 2019 under the title: *Rite of Nothing - Imprint of Voices*, also at Cisternerne.
- *Silent Zone*, a chamber opera, premiered and re-premiered at Copenhagen Opera Festival 2017 (the opera was directed by Tue Biering). The opera themed the difficult subject incest.
- *Prequiem*, a ritual for dying people and terminal patients. Performed by the composer for dying people and their families in their homes or at hospices, 2016.  
  
Read the research article "*The composer in the bedroom. Reflections on a meeting with persona Louise Alenius in her performance 'Prequiem'*" [here](#) (in English).
- *De Standhaftige*, music for the Danish/Swedish feature movie *De Standhaftige*, produced by Per Holst, Nordisk Film. Premiere in cinemas April 2016.
- *Rouge*, a composition for two strings and composer, commissioned by Nordic Music Days, Iceland, premiered 2016.
- *Elephant Man*, a ballet. Music for the entire ballet, 45 mins. Premiered at Bellevue Theater 2014, starring Alexander Kølpin and Nikolaj Hübbe. Listen at Spotify [here](#).

- *Napoli (Golfo, symphony)*. Golfo is a new 2nd act for the classic Bournonville ballet *Napoli* (Naples) (1848). Premiered in 2009 and listed in '10, '11, '12, '13, '14, '18 and '19 at The Royal Danish Theatre. Furthermore, it was listed at The Kennedy Center 2011, Opera Garnier 2012, Mariinsky Theatre 2014 and Beijing National Theatre 2016 – a.o.

*Updated January 2021*