

Lars Dyremose

(March 1st 1932 – October 11th 2006)

Lars Dyremose (born Lars Bjarne) by 1948, at 16 years of age, was playing the accordion professionally in restaurants, impressing diners with his virtuoso performances.

In 1952 and 1953, Lars Bjarne (as he was then) won the Danish Accordion Championships. In 1953, the first prize was one month's stay as a visiting student at the world's then only state school of music offering accordion instruction: the Hohner School of Music in Trossingen, Württemberg, Germany. Lars arrived, was completely overwhelmed by the experience, and in the autumn of 1953 enrolled as a regular student at the school.

In 1956, Lars graduated from Trossingen as an accordion teacher, and the following year also graduated as a solo performer.

After his debut in the concert hall of Odd Fellow Palæet, Copenhagen, Lars Bjarne worked as a professional accordionist from 1957 to 1979, playing solo concerts as well as a number of concerts with various symphony orchestras. The composer Peter Hoch dedicated to him the work 'Concert Music in Three Movements for Accordion and Symphony Orchestra'. The first performance took place in Copenhagen with the symphony orchestra of the Tivoli Garden.

The composer Per Nørgård dedicated to him the first Scandinavian work 'Introduction and Toccata' (1952) and 'Recall, Concerto for Accordion and Orchestra', which won great popularity. For instance, it was chosen as the test piece of the final round of the Klingenthal Accordion Competition during the Vogtländische Day of Music in May 1998.

In 1970, Lars Bjarne met Jeanette Dyremose and an intense partnership began. They married in 1972 and during the following years they launched a number of accordion activities, activities which are carried on even today: the Danish Accordion Ensemble, the National Union of Danish Accordion Players, the Danish Accordion Academy, Jollyday A/S, the Dyremose Prize, the Danish Harmonietta, the Jeanette Dyremose Academy of Music and the Jeanette & Lars Dyremose Accordion Foundation. The latter includes a large collection of historical instruments.

Lars, who took the last name Dyremose at marriage, and Jeanette were both on the staff of the Royal Chapel for a number of years, performing at many modern operas, ballets and theatre plays at the Royal Theatre. Later, there followed employment at Folketeatret as well as participation in numerous radio and TV shows.

In addition to the ballet music 'Anno & Mikko', Lars Dyremose has written a number of accordion compositions, usually in collaboration with Jeanette Dyremose. A number of these compositions were published at Edition Wilhelm Hansen with the title 'Dyremose Pieces', involving seven books and a double CD produced by their son Helgi Dyremose.

All pieces were recorded by pupils and students at the Jeanette Dyremose Academy of Music and have obtained international recognition. In 2003, the book the 'Living Bellows Play' was published. This book contains all the knowledge obtained by Lars and Jeanette throughout their many years of education experience.