PER NØRGÅRD

Per Nørgård is considered by many to be the most prominent Danish composer after Carl Nielsen. At the age of 17 he began studying composition with Vagn Holmboe, and from 1952 through 1957 he studied at the Royal Danish Academy of Music and with Nadia Boulanger. In the 1960s Per Nørgård developed the Infinity Series, a principle in which new intervals are created ad infinitum, which he used in his 1968 composition *Voyage into the Golden Screen* for chamber orchestra; his use of this system culminated in his Symphony No. 3 (1972). Mr. Nørgård's subsequent encounter with the work of Swiss artist and schizophrenic Adolf Wölfli is evident in his Symphony No. 4, *Indian Rose Garden and Chinese Witch Sea* (1981), and his opera *The Divine Circus* (1982). In his Viola Concerto *Remembering Child* (1986) — commissioned by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, which premiered it with Pinchas Zukerman, its dedicatee, as soloist — and Violin Concerto *Helle Nacht* (1988), Mr. Nørgård continued his exploration of the stratification of time in a tempo-scanning of the melodies where accentuation, meter, and beat reveal new melodies within melodies. His later works border on the surrealistic, notably his Piano Concerto *Concerto in Due Tempi* (1995), which was premiered in 1996 at the ceremony awarding Mr. Nørgård the Léonie Sonning Music Prize. His Symphony No. 8 was commissioned and premiered by the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra in 2012. Per Nørgård has also composed scores for several films, including *Babette's Feast* (1987). He collaborated with Ane Dorthe Roel on the 2006 book *Nye aspekter i uendelighedsrækken (New Aspects of the Infinity Series)* on her discoveries in the Infinity Series. Today, he is traveling with a select group of collaborators and composing for harp, percussion, violin, cello, and piano; his catalog now surpasses 400 works in total. Per Nørgård taught at the Royal Academy of Music, Aarhus, from 1965 through 1995, becoming a professor in 1987. In 2009 he was portrayed in Martin Verdet's music documentary *Timeless Harvest*. He was awarded the Carl Nielsen Prize in 1969 and 2002, and The Nordic Council Music Prize in 1974. From 1975 until 1982 he served as chairman of the Danish Composers' Society. He is the winner of the 2016 Ernst von Siemens Music Prize in recognition of his lifelong contribution to music.