

SHE COMPOSES LIKE A MAN

Tine Thing Helseth
tenThing Brass Ensemble



tenThing

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I started tenThing sixteen years ago along with three friends. My dream was to create a ten-piece brass ensemble comprised solely of girls. And so it was. It was mostly for fun, but there also was a clear agenda to convey the message that brass is for everyone, regardless of gender. When I was growing up, it was entirely normal for girls to play both trombone and tuba, and for me playing trumpet felt like the most natural thing in the world. However, in the professional music world this was not necessarily the case. In many countries, there is still a long way to go in terms of gender equality in the brass world. I am often asked if it's different to play brass only with girls, and if it would be different than playing with boys. The only thing I do know is that it feels incredibly good to play with the other musicians in tenThing. We trust each other. Without a doubt, trust and security are some of the things I value most when making music with others, and this applies to life in general.

This album project is an idea I've been mulling over for many years. It feels so right for tenThing to record an album featuring female composers. Finally, we did it! So when I heard the story of Ethel Smyth and the critic who gave her the best compliment he could imagine – namely, “she composes like a man” – I knew that this had to be the title of the album. It's both wonderfully provocative and something to bring a wry smile to the face. Luckily, the world has moved on a bit since those days.

There is so much music that people need to hear and experience. The great joy of having our own arranger is that I can choose freely from “all” instruments and ensembles when I listen to and search for music. What's exciting about transcriptions is that in some cases, it almost becomes a new piece. You listen to it differently, and the different timbre in the music can often add something extra and special.

I knew very early on that Clara Schumann and Fanny Mendelssohn had to join in on this. Schumann has written countless beautiful pieces, but there's something about choral music that suits brass so well. When I came across Sally Beamish's incredibly beautiful choral piece *In the stillness*, I felt that it was begging to be played by us. I contacted Sally, and fortunately she agreed.

Lili Boulanger, Cecile Chaminade, and Melanie Bonis (also known by her gender-neutral pseudonym, Mel Bonis) are French composers who were important in their own ways during their times. The same goes for Florence Price. She was the first African-American woman recognised as a symphonic composer, and the first to have her piece played by an American orchestra.

Joy Webb was part of the Salvation Army for many years and wrote music for both choir and brass. There is a very strong brass tradition coming out of England, with brass bands being

formed in the mines and also in the Salvation Army. Much of the music is based on simple, beautiful melodies that were instantly appealing.

The American composer Ruth Crawford Seeger used elements of folk music in her classical compositions. The same can be said for Grazyna Bazewich, who often used elements from Polish traditional music.

The Austrian singer and composer Maria Theresia Paradis was also important in many respects. She became blind as a little girl, and in addition to her career as a musician, she opened her own school for blind girls in Vienna.

Norwegian composer Agathe Backer Grøndahl was a brilliant pianist who travelled the world and toured as a concert pianist.

And of course there's Ethel Smyth, that crucial voice – a composer, conductor, and not least, suffragette.

She composes like a man is a project that means a lot to me. It means a lot to *us*. Good music is good music no matter what, but a little extra girl power never hurts.

Tine Thing Helseth
tenThing



The tenThing Brass Ensemble
Photo: Anna-Julia Granberg

tenThing Brass Ensemble

Tine Thing Helseth
— leader

Formed in 2007 by Norwegian trumpeter Tine Thing Helseth as a fun and exciting collaboration between musical friends, the ten-piece, all-female brass ensemble tenThing have firmly established themselves on the international scene to great acclaim. tenThing are celebrated for their commitment to outreach and access to music through a diverse repertoire that spans from Mozart to Weill, Grieg to Bernstein, and Lully to Bartok. The group work closely with Norwegian guitarist and arranger Jarle Storløkken in the arrangement of scores for the ensemble, enabling them to play pieces of differing instrumentations.

tenThing first came into prominence thanks to performances all over their native Norway, eventually delighting a huge national audience by opening the 2011 Norwegian Grammy Awards. Soon after, the group drew international attention after their highly successful appearance at the BBC Proms at London's Cadogan Hall. Elsewhere in Europe, they have performed at a wide range of prestigious festivals and concert halls, including the Schleswig-Holstein, Beethoven Bonn, Gstaad, MDR Musiksommer, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Rheingau, Bodensee, Engadin, Merano, Thüringer Bachwochen, and Bremen festivals in Central Europe, the Merano and Sienna festivals in Italy, the NCPA Beijing May Festival, and Moscow's House of Music.

In Spring 2017, the ensemble embarked on their American debut tour, which included concerts in New York, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, and at the renowned Wolf Trap Festival. tenThing also made their Paris debut at the St Denis Festival in May 2017. Following their international success, they returned to the USA twice, in 2019 and 2022, and have maintained their presence in Europe with performances in Sweden, Germany, Switzerland and the UK.

Musicians:

Tine Thing Helseth, trumpet and leader
Maren Ingeborg Tjernsli, trumpet
Ingrid Eliassen, trumpet
Elin Holmen Kurverud, flugelhorn
Lena Wik, horn
Heidi Solem, tuba
Astri Karoline Ellann, bass trombone
Marie Nøkleby Hanssen, trombone
Ingebjørg Klovholt, trombone
Tone Christin Lium, trombone

Tine Thing Helseth — trumpet

Since the beginning of her career, Norwegian trumpeter Tine Thing Helseth has championed the trumpet repertoire amongst audiences on all six continents, meriting the highest critical praise for her soulful, lyrical sound and collaborative approach to music-making. An artist

who challenges the boundaries of genre with an intensely creative, open-minded philosophy, Tine's ever-expanding repertoire ranges from the classical period to contemporary works and new commissions.

Sines 2023 Tine has been the Artistic Director of the Risør Chamber Music Festival with which she has been associated for over a decade. Throughout her career, she has been the recipient of numerous awards for her work in classical music, including "Newcomer of the Year" at the 2013 Echo Klassik Awards, the 2009 Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship, and second prize in the 2006 Eurovision Young Musicians Competition, to which Tine returned to serve as juror for the 2016 competition. In 2007, Tine had the rare honour of being the first ever classical artist to win Newcomer of the Year at the Norwegian Grammy® Awards (Spellemannprisen).

Tine has worked with some of the world's leading orchestras, including the NDR Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Tonkünstler-Orchester Vienna, Philharmonia Orchestra, BBC Scottish Orchestra at the BBC Proms, Warsaw, Rotterdam, Oslo, Bergen and Helsinki Philharmonic orchestras, Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Minnesota, Baltimore and Cincinnati orchestras, Singapore Symphony, KBS Symphony and Hong Kong Philharmonic. She also enjoys collaborating with several chamber orchestras, namely the Norwegian Chamber, Zurich Chamber, Munich Chamber orchestras and the Orchestre de chambre de Lausanne; Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia and the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

Tine continues regular tours with her ten-piece, all-female brass ensemble tenThing. An idea which started in 2007 as a fun and exciting project to pursue with her closest musical friends, the group have gone on to play to numerous audiences across Europe, the USA and China.

Complimenting her live performances, Tine maintains an active presence in the recording studio. Her newest album *Seraph*, released in November 2022, gained worldwide recognition including a 5 stars review from the BBC Music Magazine, whilst her previous disc *Magical Memories For Trumpet and Organ* (May 2021) was selected by Gramophone to feature in their "Recording of the Year 2021" August selection, and received 5* review from BBC Music Magazine. Earlier recordings include concertos by Haydn, Albioni, Neruda and Hummel with the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra, *Storyteller* disc with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic released on the EMI Classics label, a self-titled CD in March 2013, presenting a personal selection of original and transcribed works accompanied by pianist Kathryn Stott, and an album with tenThing Brass Ensemble released on Warner Classics.

Tine resides in Oslo and maintains an active role in her community as a regular TV and radio presenter, and teaches trumpet at the Norwegian Academy of Music. An all-round musician, she also regularly performs in some of the most iconic jazz bars in Norway.



Tine Thing Helseth
Photo: Anna-Julia Granberg

Grazyna Bacewicz

- 01 __Oberek No. 1 01:41
(Arr.: Jarle Størløkken)

Lili Boulanger

(Arr.: Jarle Størløkken)

Deux Morceaux

- 02 __I. Nocturne 02:55
03 __II. Cortège 01:26

Florence Beatrice Price

- 04 __Adoration 02:56
(Arr.: Jarle Størløkken)

Fanny Mendelssohn

- 05 __Schwanenlied, Op. 1 02:37
(Arr.: Jarle Størløkken)

Cécile Chaminade

- 06 __Rondeau, Op. 97 03:14
(Arr.: Jarle Størløkken)

Grazyna Bacewicz

- 07 __Mazovian Dance 03:04
(Arr.: Jarle Størløkken)

Sally Beamish

- 08 __In the Stillness 02:08
(Arr.: Jarle Størløkken)

Agathe Backer Grøndahl

3 Morceaux, Op. 15

(Arr.: Jarle Størløkken)

- 09 __I. Serenade 02:48
10 __II. Au Bal 04:48
11 __III. Humoresque 03:48

Maria Theresia von Paradis

- 12 __Sicilienne 02:31
(Arr.: Roger Harvey)

Ruth Crawford Seeger

- 13 __Rissolty Rossolty 02:57
(Arr.: Jarle Størløkken)

Joy Webb

- 14 __Share my yoke 03:55
(Arr.: Sebastian Haukås)

Ethel Smyth

- 15 __The Prison, No. 2 04:37
Voices Sing of Immortality
(Arr.: Jarle Størløkken)

Clara Schumann

Drei Gemischte Chöre

(Arr.: Jarle Størløkken)

- 16 __I. Abendfeier In Venedig 02:49
17 __II. Vorwärts 01:31

Mel Bonis

- 18 __Miocheries, Op. 126, No. 13 01:55
La Toute Petite s'endort
(Arr.: Jarle Størløkken)

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