

## Slag & Stryg

Slag & Stryg consists of Olga Witte (p), Oda Dynes (cel), Niels Præstholt (b), Christian Windfeld (d) and Thomas Eiler (d). The special constellation full of fantastic experimental musicians, this quintet takes the audience on a colorful trip between the composed and the improvised, between staccato notes and long strokes, between beautiful melodies and noisy wildness, between interlocking patterns and intense solo expressions. The ensemble shows precisely the motivation for Olga Witte being granted the honorary award Gaffelprisen: "Olga's commitment, drive and curiosity have taken both her and jazz far and wide. She is one of today's musicians and arrangers who are bringing jazz forward."

Musical director and composer Olga Witte writes music that combines experimental jazz, contemporary compositional music and practices from Balinese gamelan, a music form she has studied in long-term music ethnology fieldwork over the past 20 years. The piece 'Dichotomies' is, among other things, built on some of the insights she gained in her thesis from AU on Balinese gamelan, egliaty and hierarchy, but other dichotomies are also addressed – a large form that includes both a circle and a triangle, the relationship between circle and tangent, the precisely notated and the free, the graphic notation and various framework sentences.

**Christian Windfeld** ([www.christianwindfeld.com](http://www.christianwindfeld.com)) is an improviser, composer, percussionist and holds an advanced postgraduate diploma from RAMA. He tours in Europe, America and Australia, is on more than 30 releases, e.g. two solo albums, and is part of the State Arts Foundation "The Young Elite".

**Oda Dynes** ([www.odadynes.com](http://www.odadynes.com)) is a cellist and composer and studies the advanced postgraduate diploma at RMC. Her music is highly praised, recently awarded the Carl Nielsen and Anne Marie Carl-Nielsen talent award and a nomination by the Danish Music Awards.

**Olga Witte** ([www.olgawitte.dk](http://www.olgawitte.dk)) is a composer, jazz pianist, church organist and music ethnologist. She is a trained composer with an advanced postgraduate diploma from RAMA, she holds a working grant from the State Arts Foundation, and in February 2024 received Denmark's oldest honorary jazz award, Gaffelprisen.

**Niels Præstholt** ([www.nielspraestholm.dk](http://www.nielspraestholm.dk)) is a bass player and composer, graduated from RMC and has toured with great musicians such as Lee Konitz and Kenny Drew. He is a composer and initiator of several exciting projects, such as Embla and Art Ensemble Syd.

**Thomas Eiler** is a solo trained drummer from the Jutland Conservatory of Music. He is a central musician on the avant-garde and jazz scene and participates in, among other things, in the band SVIN, Slowburn and Dancer, first mentioned a part of State Arts Foundation "The Young Artistic Elite".

The piece Dichotomies can be seen and heard here at the ensemble's first performance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QkZfQJ99pbk>



Photos: Hreinn Guðlaugsson