

“**Staffan Mårtensson** has gold in his clarinet” (Expressen). “His playing is powerful, yet wonderfully sensitive” (Svenska Dagbladet). These are words from leading Swedish newspapers, describing the artistry of one of Scandinavia’s most versatile clarinetists.

Swedish clarinetist Staffan Mårtensson’s solo repertoire ranges from classical and romantic masterpieces to dazzling contemporary works. Staffan has performed since the early 1990’s with German, French, Swiss, Dutch, Czech and Scandinavian orchestras. His love for chamber music is essential to his musicianship; he performs regularly at Swedish and international chamber music festivals. In recent years he has returned to his jazz roots and is often heard on the Swedish jazz scene. His daily work circles around the Royal Swedish Opera, where he is Principal Clarinet since 2001.

His education includes studies at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm with Sölve Kingstedt, at the Rotterdam Conservatory with Walter Boeykens and at the Banff Centre for the Arts, Canada. In 1990 he was the winner of a national soloist competition organized by the National Swedish State Concert Agency. The same year he won second prize at the Tromp Muziek Concours in Eindhoven, The Netherlands.

Staffan has given master-classes in major academies and colleges in Germany, France, Russia, the Czech Republic, Estonia and Ukraine. Collaborations with composers such as Sven-David Sandström, Karin Bartosch-Edström, Jonas Forssell (Sweden), Atli Ingólfsson (Iceland) and Roland Freisitzer (Austria) have resulted in premieres of numerous works.

A prominent recording artist, Staffan Mårtensson won a Swedish Grammy 2006 in the category Classical Soloist of the Year, with the CD *Clarinetto con forza*, which was also nominated for the Cannes/MIDEM in 2007. His discography of about a dozen CD’s includes works by Mozart, Copland, Brahms, Schumann as well as contemporary Swedish and international composers and experimental jazz.

Staffan’s unceasing creative energy also goes into festival organising. He is the artistic director of the prestigious Summer Night Concerts at the Nationalmuseum of Stockholm and the Östergötland Music Days.

Staffan Mårtensson is an official artist of Buffet Crampon and Vandoren. He plays a Buffet Crampon R13 Vintage clarinet, and Vandoren V12 reeds.