

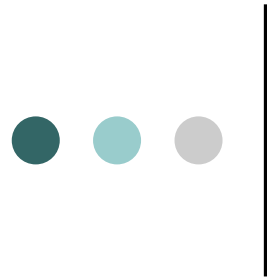


Performing Arts in Norway

with special focus on western Norway

Structures, institutions and international collaboration

Tone Stedal Haugland
senior adviser
Hordaland County Council
tone-stedal.haugland@post.hfk.no



NORWAY

- Approx. 4 million inhabitants
- Largest cities: Oslo 500 000, Bergen 250 000
+ Stavanger, Trondheim, Tromsø and Kristiansand
- Public administration in Norway has a structure with the following elements: Central government, county government(19) and municipal government(approx. 450)
- Not a member of the European Union, but through agreements we paid us into partisipation, and in the cultural programme we can participate on an equal basis.
- No formal regions according to political structures
– plans of it, but it failed a couple of years ago.
Informal regions as Vestlandet (western Norway, Østlandet (eastern Norway), Nord-Norge (northern Norway), etc.
There are lots of cooperation on f.i. culture and arts between the counties in the same areas.
The (informal) regions stronger the last 10 – 15 years.
- Locally – globally, not necessarily via the national level.



National tendencies in the field of culture and arts

- Increasing numbers of artist in the different genres – partly because of education abroad.
- There is not work for all of them, so the number of freelancers has increased strongly, and esp. in the field of stage performing.
The number of independent ensembles has tripled since the beginning of the nineties.
- The independent ensembles are highly important and have often very good international relations, and work very closely to international partners. But have very often an uncertain financial situation.
- Institutions/actors/festivals throughout the country have often their shared founding from state level, county and municipality. Also private founding/sponsors



The western part of Norway – Hordaland and Bergen

- Western region – and 2.largest city; the activity and quality of the performing arts have increased substantially.

Very active in the EU cultural programme and others international cooperations.

- The institutions/artists find their international partners
- Bergen as a European City of culture 2000 started a new area of international cooperation.



National structures for founding of culture and arts activities

- Kulturdepartementet/ Department of Culture

“Kulturløftet “ / The cultural initiative – political aim on culture: 1% of the total budget for culture

National policies – art for art sake – but also a strong social value – equality, volunteer work, cultural education for children. Which has also increased the possibilities for artist to live of their work (Den kulturelle skolesekken/The Cultural Rucksack)

Amateur/ volunteer work within the cultural sector is important, and often the local authorities focus on that part of the cultural life.

We divide between professional and amateur/volunteer sector, but often it is a mix, i.e.in festivals.

- Kulturrådet/Norsk kulturfond/ Norwegian Arts Council (www.kulturrad.no)

- Norwegian Arts Council is a national contact point for the EU cultural programme. They have a list on their websites about former projects – some in Norwegian and some in English. Follow their links on to ”EUs kulturprogram” + ”prosjektbanken”.

The cultural fond ;

- Support innovative, creative art
- To stimulate new forms of artistic expression
- To stimulate new ways of diffusion the arts and culture

- Statens kunstnerstipend/ National artist grants

- Fond for lyd og bilde/ Grant for Sound and Picture

- Arrangementsstøtte / Grants for support of performances/concerts

- Department for foreign affairs/ embassies



National institutions for culture and arts

- Rikskonsertene (www.rikskonsertene.no) (The national touring concerts)
- Riksteateret (www.riksteateret.no – only in norwegian) (National touring theatre, since 1949)
- Nasjonalteateret, Oslo (The National Theatre)
- Den nasjonale scene, Bergen (The National Stage)
- Den norske opera og ballett, Oslo (The Norwegian Opera and Ballet) (www.operaen.no)
- Philharmonic orchestras in Oslo, Bergen, (+ Stavanger og Trondheim)
- Norsk barokkorkester, Oslo (www.nbo.no)



Other important national actors

- **Danse- og teatersentrum (centre for dance and theatre)**
(www.danseogteatersentrum.no)
The Norwegian Association for Performing Arts.
On their website you can find information on the organisation and its work, their members and collaborators.
- **Black Box theatre, Oslo** (www.blackbox.no)
- **Verdensteateret, Oslo** + (www.verdensteatret.com)
- **MIC (music information centre)** (www.mic.no)
- **Music Export Norway** (www.musicexportnorway.no)
- **Norsk Jazzforum** (www.jazzforum.no) – membership org. Links to regional jazzcentres and local clubs
- **Norsk rockforbund** (www.norskrockforbund.no) Org. for organizers/venues
- **Den norske folkemusikkscena** (www.folkemusikkscena.no) Traditional/folk music
- **Norsk musikkråd/The Council for Music Organisations in Norway**
(www.musikk.no) Established in 1976 by seven music organisations. Today there are regional Councils for Music Organisations in almost all counties. Local councils are established in 150 communities.



Festivals

increasing number of festivals – esp. music

i.e.

Ultima, Oslo – (www.ultima.no), contemporary music

Risør kammermusikkfest/Risør festival of Chamber music,

(www.kammermusikkfest.no) **Risør**

Olavsfestdagene, (www.olavsfestdagene.no), **Trondheim**

Bergen International festival / Festspillene i Bergen (www.fib.no)

Festspillene i Nord-Norge, (www.festspillnn.no) **Harstad**

Nattjazz, (www.nattjazz.no) **Bergen**

Moldejazz, (www.moldejazz.no) **Molde**

Kongsberg jazzfestival (www.kongsberg-jazzfestival.no – have websites also in French)

All mentioned above has international artists, and there are a lots of festivals in the pop/rock genre throughout the country.



THE ROLE OF THE NORWEGIAN STATE IN WORK ON CULTURE ABROAD

Responsibility for international collaboration divided between the **Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. The Ministry of Culture responsible for Nordic cultural collaboration and for dissemination of foreign culture in Norway.

- The Press, Culture and Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for presentation and dissemination of Norwegian culture abroad. The PCI office has a budget about budget of 60 million Norwegian kroner.
- * The Ministry has at its disposal a global network of stations in other countries, and is a central feature in practical dissemination in the fields of press, culture and information. The PCI has a specific policy of delegating resources to embassies and various specialist bodies. The foreign stations are delegated funding resources for visits by the press and experts in the area of art and culture.
- Specialist sub-committees:
The mandate of the Music Information Centre (MIC) is to promote use of Norwegian music at home and abroad. MIC oversees the specialist sub-committee for music, and administers the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' travel fund for professional musicians abroad.
- The sub-committee for stage art comes under the *Danse- og Teatersentrum* (the Dance and Theatre Centre).



The city of Bergen

Vision:

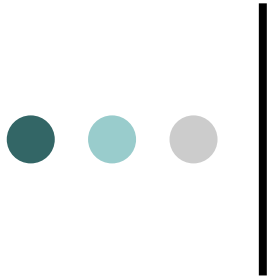
Bergen, European City of Culture, is to be one of the foremost Nordic arenas for innovation, courage, openness and creativity.

Principal aims:

Bergen, City of Culture, is to be further reinforced as a national artistic centre for international contact and exchange across national boundaries and borders of genre.

Establish closer contacts with those regions, cities and artistic and cultural circles that have the greatest influence of artistic and cultural activity in Bergen, especially France, Germany and the United Kingdom.





BERGEN

- Active member in **Eurocities**;

Heightened awareness of the arts and culture as a force in social development in various cities and areas in Europe, such as Bilbao, Barcelona, Newcastle/Gateshead and Glasgow. Urban and regional development building processes in Europe demonstrate how local and national identity has grown against a backdrop of globalisation. The identity and cultural differences are now being launched as a phenomenon in Europe, thus becoming a cohesive element in an attempt to draw attention to Europe as a community.

-member of the **Union of Baltic Cities**, network consisting of over one hundred cities in the Baltic countries.

- Bergen is also a member of the **Hanseatic League** and of **Les Rencontres**, an international organisation for European cities and regions working to ensure that the cultural dimension is present in, and has an integral role at all levels of decision making.

- **Twinning**: Gothenburg, Åbo/Turku, Århus and Reykjavik, Seattle and Newcastle.



Hordaland county www.hordaland.no

- 500 000 inh. Administration located in Bergen

Hordaland County Council responsible for county policies within the following fields: Secondary education, cultural affairs, communications, dental health, economic development and regional planning

- **International activities in Hordaland County Council**

- Hordaland County Council's international vision is; "Western-Norway – a creative, including and wealth producing region of Europe". The main instruments of cooperation are:

- Cooperating regions:

 - [Orkney Islands, Scotland/Ecosse](#)

 - [Cardiff ville et région, Wales/Pays de Gales](#)

 - [Kaunas, Lithuania/Lituanie](#)

 - [Basse-Normandie, France](#)

- En outre, le conseil régional a une coopération importante avec:

 - [Freistaat Thüringen, Germany/Allemagne](#)

 - [Edinburgh, Scotland/Ecosse](#)

- European organisations

 - [Assembly of European Regions](#) (AER)

 - [Conference on Peripheral and maritime Regions](#) (CPMR) including [the North Sea Commission](#) (NSC)

 - [Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation](#) (BSSSC)

- International Projects/European programs:

 - [Youth in action](#)

 - [Lifelong Learning Program](#), with a special emphasis on the [Leonardo da Vinci](#) sector program

 - Interreg – EU's program for interregional cooperation, where Hordaland can participate in sub-programs IVB: [North Sea Program](#), [Northern Periphery Program](#) and the [Baltic Sea Program](#) as well as [IVC: Interregional cooperation](#)

 - Hordaland County Council is also the [national contact point](#) for the North Sea Program

- **The West Norway Office in Brussels** owned by 3 counties and 13 municipalities on the west coast of Norway. The office works to promote West Norway's interests in Brussels, as well as to provide information and guidance to the members.



OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION in Bergen/ Hordaland

- A wide range of disciplines and genres are represented among Bergen's artists, institutions and festivals. Bergen has established, high profile organizations and festivals with international reputations and a high level of artistic quality
- Two national, government-funded institutions, Norway's only national contemporary dance company and one of two national art academies, are located in Bergen
- Internationally aware and well informed artists, institutions and audiences
- Artistic milieus characterized by energy, boldness and risk-taking
- Marked political focus on the arts sector and recognition of the arts as an important factor in city and business development
- A high level of ambition and corresponding increase in resources needed at arts institutions. Smaller entities are underfinanced, resulting in undesirable artistic compromises
- Insufficient number of production facilities and flexible venues in all disciplines
- Insufficient public funds available in relation to the number of grant applicants
- Difficult for artists to make a living outside established institutions



MUSIC: ENSEMBLES, FESTIVALS AND INSTITUTIONS in Bergen/Hordaland

- **BERGEN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL/Festspillene i Bergen:** Bergen's biggest and most important arts festival (www.fib.no)
- **BERGEN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** (www.harmonien.no) One of two national orchestras
- **BIT20 ENSEMBLE** (www.bit20.no) Consisting of 15 musicians, BIT20 is regarded as one of the foremost Nordic contemporary music ensembles.
- **BOREALIS** (www.borealisfestival.no) Festival of contemporary music, sound art and related artistic expressions
- **WEST NORWAY JAZZ CENTER/ Vestnorsk Jazzsenter** (www.vnjs.no – only in norwegian, but links to more english sites, f.i. www.bergenjazzforum.no): One of five regional competence and production centers for jazz
- **NATTJAZZ** Annual festival of traditional and contemporary jazz and «world music» (www.nattjazz.no)
- **BRÅK** (www.brak.no) Interest organization and competence centre for rhythmic music
- **BERGENFEST** (www.bergenfest.no) Annual festival featuring established international artists and new bands
- **HOLE IN THE SKY** (www.holeinthesky.no) Internationally renowned metal-music festival
- **THE NEW OPERA/Den Nye Opera** is a professional, regional opera combining resources from existing opera companies and other performing arts institutions(www.dno.no)
- **VOSSA JAZZ**(www.vossajazz.no – only in norwegian) festival in Voss, an hours drive from Bergen. national and international artists in jazz and
- Osafestivalen -

Increasing numbers of music festivals in different parts of the county.



Stage art(theatre and dance) -

INSTITUTIONS AND FESTIVALS in Hordaland:

Three levels of theater and dance production in Bergen:

Publicly financed large institutions, smaller independent institutions, companies and partners, and commercial private theaters.

DEN NATIONALE SCENE/The National Stage (www.dns.no): One of three national theatres

CARTE BLANCHE Norway's only national company for contemporary dance (www.cartablanca.no)

HORDALAND TEATER Focuses in particular on theatre for children/ young people and puppetry (www.hordaland-teater.no - only in norwegian)

BIT TEATERGARASJEN/Bergen International theatre (www.bit-teatergarasjen.no);

One of three programming and producing venues for theatre and dance, and the foremost venue and resource center for Norwegian and international contemporary theater and dance

Oktoberdans and Meteor festivals: BIT's alternating biennales. Oktoberdans is Norway's most important and internationally recognized festival of contemporary dance, while Meteor focuses on cutting-edge contemporary theater. Information on BITs webpages.

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Other theatre- and dance companies linked to Bergen/Hordaland:

Jo Strømgen kompani

(www.jskompani.no)

Winter guests – Alan Lucien Øyen

(www.winterguests.com)

Transiteateret

(www.transiteatret.com)

Dukkenikkerne

(www.dukkenikkerne.no)

(only in norwegian)

NONcompany

(www.noncompany.no)

Baktruppen

(www.baktruppen.org)





Other facts about international cooperation between the art of Hordaland

- Hordaland County Council and the Region of Basse-Normandie have a written agreement and three years actionplan. Culture and arts are important themes in this agreement and plan.
- Export and import of Hordaland art are about equal. Music and stage arts active.
- Top ten countries to collaborate with: UK, Sweden, Denmark, US, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, France, Belgium, Island/ Canada.
- Those involved in stage art, including BIT and Jo Strømgren Kompani, participate in Informal European Theatre Meeting, which is a network for cultural organisations.
- BIT (Bergen international theatre) is moreover an active participant in Junge Hunde and Baltic Circle.
- BIT20 Ensemble participated and was involved in the inception of Court-Circuit(France) og Ensemble Recherche (Germany)
- The New Opera is a member of New Op, a network consisting of organisations committed to the modern operatic format.
- In the field of jazz, West Norway Jazz Centre and other jazzfestivals in the county are strongly involved with Europe Jazz Network(www.europejazz.net)
- *Recidencies in the western part of Norway – [www. airwestnorway.no](http://www.airwestnorway.no)*