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## Biographical Sketch

Kai Stensgaard, is internationally recognized as a leading concert marimba artist and composer from Denmark. KS is one of the pioneers in six mallet playing, and he has composed several works for six mallets. Among those a concerto for Marimba and Orchestra called "Concierto Mexicano" Many of his compositions and arrangements have been performed by marimba players all over the world. He has been giving concerts and clinics in Europe, USA, Taiwan, Japan, Puerto Rico, Argentina, Chile and Mexico.

He is the author of the method for six mallet playing called "The Six mallet Grip" and has published 7 CDs and a DVD displaying his compositions and personal marimba style. He also premiered many works for marimba, among those a concerto for marimba and orchestra "Ballet in Dark" by Martin Knakkegaard. This piece was later choreographed for performance on the stage by a dancer from the Royal Danish Ballet. Premiere of many his own works for marimba & Orchestra and marimba & Concert Band. The project "Marimbas on Tour" is a concert tour he has done several times in Denmark and Mexico together with Marimba Nandayapa, Mexico. These concerts had focus on the modern marimba and the traditional Mexican marimba.

His first CD "Marimba Classic", consisted of transcriptions of classical music for marimba. His second CD "Ballet in Dark" is a collection of newly composed marimba music, including a composition for marimba and symphony orchestra. by Martin Knakkegaard. His third CD "Singing Wood" is inspired by Central American folk music as well as displaying a wide range of Kai Stensgaard's performance repertoire. Among this repertoire are several pieces featuring the six-mallet grip, in which Kai Stensgaard is a specialist. In 2005 he has completed the "Concierto Mexicano" for marimba and Symphony Orchestra. On his fourth CD "Calabash" he is playing duo with the Danish saxophone player Jakob Mygind combining classical and jazz music. His fifth CD duo with pan flute player Charlotte Halberg with original compositions inspired by folklore music from all over the world. His sixth CD "Marimba Music by Kai Stensgaard" with works for 4 & 6 mallets and a recording of his concerto for marimba and Symf. Orch. "Concierto Mexicano" "Marimba in Concert" is his DVD with his compositions and an instruction in using 6 mallets.

In 2011, he and engenier Michael Hansen, invented a brand new mallet instrument called the Aluphone. It is a new instrument that can be used as a solo instrument in the same way as the marimba and the vibraphone. Composers have already started writing music for his new instrument, among those Anders Koppels Concerto for Aluphone & Orchestra. Kai Stensgaard is playing solo recitals using the Aluphone combined with the marimba.

Web:

[www.kaistensgaard.com](http://www.kaistensgaard.com) marimba solo  
[www.youtube.com/Kaizaii](http://www.youtube.com/Kaizaii)  
[www.twitter.com/kaistensgaard](http://www.twitter.com/kaistensgaard)  
[www.facebook.com/kai.stensgaard](http://www.facebook.com/kai.stensgaard)  
[www.aluphone.com](http://www.aluphone.com)

References:

2015 Marimba soloist with The Prince of Denmarks Brass Ensemble  
2015 Marimba soloist with Orch at International Percussion Festival in Vilnius, Litorania.  
2014 Marimba recital og masterclasses at Percussion Days Winterthur, Schweiz  
2014 Instructor at Ju Percussion Summer Camp, Taiwan.  
2014 Marimba soloist at 10<sup>th</sup> International Percussion Festival in Taipei, Taiwan.  
2013 Member of the marimba jury at the 11<sup>th</sup> Marimba Competition in Italy.

2012 Marimba soloist at 5<sup>th</sup> International Marimba Festival in Tabasco, Mexico.  
 2011 Six mallet clinic at the Royal College of Music, London, UK  
 2010 Marimba recital in Indianapolis at [www.marimba2010.org](http://www.marimba2010.org)  
 2009 Marimba recital og masterclasses in Santiago de Chile, Chile  
 2008 Marimba recitals og masterclasses in Valencia, Spain  
 2007 Marimba solo tour to Argentina  
 2006 World premier of "Concierto Mexicano" at Kutztown University, Pennsylvania, USA  
 2006 Recital at PASIC 2006 in Austin, Texas, USA [www.pasic.org](http://www.pasic.org)  
 2006 Marimba soloist at 6<sup>th</sup> International Marmba Festival in Chiapas, Mexico.  
 2005 Marimba recital and clinic tour in 6 states of USA  
 2005 Marimba Duo tour in Denmark with G.A.Vedela from Argentina  
 2004 Marimba solo & clinic in Patagonia, Argentina  
 2003 Marimba solo in Centro National de las Artes, Mexico City  
 2003 Masterclasses in Alicante, Spain  
 2002 Marimba solo tour in Mexico  
 2001 Marimba recital and clinic tour in 7 states of USA  
 2001 Marimba solo recital in Belgium at the First International Marimba Competition  
 2001 Marimba solo recital in the Purcell Room, Royal Festival Hall, London  
 2001 Marimba solo recitals in Mexico City  
 2001 Marimba soloist at 7<sup>th</sup>. Festival International Percussion, Puerto Rico  
 2000 Marimba soloist at 6<sup>th</sup>. Festival International Percusión, Puerto Rico  
 2000 Master class at San Juan Music Conservatorio, Puerto Rico  
 1999 Marimba soloist at 1<sup>st</sup>.International Marimba Festival in Chiapaz, Mexico  
 1999 Member of the jury in Mexican Solo Marimba Contest in Tuxtla Guitierrez, Mexico  
 1992 World premier of Knakkegaard's "Ballet in Dark" a concerto for marimba and symphony orchestra with the Aalborg Symphony Orchestra  
 1991 Marimba soloist at Scandinavian Percussion Festival, Stockholm arranged by "Kroumata Percussion Ensemble"  
 1991 Marimba soloist ved Deutsches Percussion Symposium, Hannover  
 1989 Nordjyllands Amts Music Award  
 1987 Study of percussion music in Bali  
 1986 Trip to Chiapas and Guatemala to study the origin of the marimba  
 1984-95 Professor of marimba and percussion at Nordjysk Music Conservatorium  
 1981-82 Marimba solo study with Leigh H. Stevens, New York City, USA  
 1979-80 Marimba study with Karen Ervin, California State University, USA