

## Ringve Museum

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*Ringve Museum, The main building*

collection consists of around 25000 sheet music prints, an extensive collection of photographs, pianola rolls, polyphon records, various phonograms.

Ringve Museum is located in Trondheim, Norway, and houses Norway's National museum of music and musical instruments with collections from the whole world, totalling around 1800 items. About 700 of these are so called classical European instruments besides European- and

non-European traditional instruments. In addition to this the

sheet music prints, an extensive collection of photographs, pianola rolls, polyphon records, phonograph rolls, and various phonograms.



*Ringve Museum, The Museum at the*

The Museum's keyboard instrument collection includes an unsigned Italian virginal from around the 1600, a spinet from ca 1700, a large selection of clavichords from the 1700s, a harpsichord by Jacob Kirckman from 1767, hammer pianos signed J.A. Stein 1783 and Conrad Graf 1826 and a harp

piano by Chr. Dietz from around 1870. Important instruments from the collection of classic wind instruments are the alto recorder by J.B. Gahn around 1700, a clarinet quartet by Bilton, London around 1840. Other key instruments are string instruments like the violin by H&A Amati 1612, viola d'amore by Eberle, Prag 1755, viola da gamba from the workshop of Tielke, Hamburg around 1700 and electronic instruments like a Subharchord II synthesizer from 1968 etc.



Traditional Norwegian instruments make up a large section of the collection and include for example hardanger fiddles from the 17- and 1800s, Norwegian zithers, so-called "langeleik", from various parts of the country and a rich selection of instruments used at the mountain farm, for hunting, at important ceremonies etc.

*Ringve Museum, Main building, the Beethoven room*

All continents of the world are represented with traditional instruments from for example Africa, Latin-America, Oceania and Asia. Amongst these, important collections come from Tibet, India and different countries of Eastern Europe.



The exhibition has two parts. The Museum in the Manor House has been kept very much like it was when it opened in 1952 by Victoria Bachke. This part can only be visited with one of the museum guides. The well preserved interiors from the 1880s are the setting for a chronological

*Ringve Museum, A guide plays the clavichord*

tour of parts of the European classical music history. The various rooms are named after famous composers, and the guide demonstrates a selection of keyboard instruments with music appropriate for that time.

Due to climatic conditions this building is only available during the summer months.

The Museum in the Barn opened in 1999 and presents some of the many various phenomena of music history such as the development of the public musical life through the musical societies, the private music making in the homes of the middle- and upper classes in the 1800s, the introduction of a new era with the invention of the piano 300 years ago, the growth of jazz in the 1920s and -30s and the first decade of rock- and pop music represented for one by a Rock- Ola jukebox from 1948 and a Gibson Les Paul guitar from 1952. Further, the exhibition demonstrates how sound is made, even up to the electronic instruments of today.

The barn also houses a museum shop as well as a small 300 m2 concert hall which was built in 1960 by converting the stables on the ground floor.

In addition to the instrument exhibitions, the only professional workshop for conservation of musical instruments in Norway is located at Ringve Museum. Here extensive analyses are made, and conservation and documentation carried out. Research within an international network of related institutions all over the world is part of the work.

The founder of Ringve Museum, Victoria Bachke, has a colourful history. She was born in Russia but married the Norwegian Christian Bachke who lived at the Manor of Ringve. After her husband's death in 1946, Victoria started collecting musical instruments and this would develop into the museum collection. She had an impressive network of acquaintances, built up during her frequent travels, often in company with her sister Valentine, an opera singer. The collecting was done painstakingly by travelling around the world, and many histories flourish around the various deals that Victoria broke. One of the most famous stories is on the so-called "Versailles cembalo", on display in the museum today. The 18th-century cembalo was acquired in Paris from the widow of the French professor in music, Paul Bertold. Originally it came from a castle in Switzerland

but had been used, during a period, in Versailles for concerts. Many of the instruments came as a result of time-consuming negotiations in which Victoria used all her charm, bargaining and persuasion abilities - all according to the myths and rumours that have developed around this founder of the Museum.

More information can be found at the website of the museum, at [www.ringve.no](http://www.ringve.no).