

## Alf Richard Kraggerud - Violin



Alf Richard Kraggerud is one of the most successful and respected violin teachers originating from Scandinavia. His students have won numerous international prizes over the past twenty years. Several of his protégées presently enjoy extensive careers, performing with major orchestras, participating in prestigious festivals, as well as appearing frequently in the media, both nationally in Norway and abroad. Many of Mr. Kraggerud's achievements are undoubtedly founded on an unusually eclectic education and a wealth of experience from an early age (he taught his first pupils at 13). In 1992, after having completed his studies in pedagogy and violin with honors at the renowned *Barratt Due Institute of Music* (Oslo, Norway), he continued to study conducting in London (classes at the *Royal Academy* and *Morley College* with G. Hurst and L. Leonard respectively). After an interlude as 1<sup>st</sup> violinist in the *Norwegian Broadcasting Orchestra* and principal at the *Gjøvik Music School* (Norway), he assumed responsibilities for *Unge Talenter* the talent section (pre-school) of the *Barratt Due Institute of Music* (1999-2007), thus in large part being responsible for the academy achieving its current status as an institution at the international forefront of musical education. Presently, he is the co-director of *Barratt Due* following a period of performing his duties as principal of the *Razumovsky Academy* (London, England, 2007-2009).

One of Mr. Kraggerud's most towering accomplishments, and a further testimony to his many administrative skills, is arguably his being the founder, artistic director and developer of the *Valdres Sommersymfoni* in Norway (initiated in 1994). Today, a privately and government funded summer course in solo-, chamber- and orchestral playing (as well as conducting) with participants ranging from small children to young adults, this festival is one of the largest and uniquely productive of its kind. Utilizing his experience as a sought-after lecturer and instructor at prestigious venues (e.g. *Northwestern University*, Chicago, USA; *Mozarteum*, Salzburg, Austria; *Astona*, Switzerland), Mr. Kraggerud expertly combines play and ambition; the novice with the world famous; exchange and interaction; thereby producing a course of exceptional standard and global renown.