**Tora Augestad, Performer of the Year 2018**

Norwegian singer Tore Augestad receives the Norwegian Society of Composers’ “Performer of the Year” award for 2018. This is an annual award instituted by the Society in recognition of a performer or ensemble that has made an especial contribution to contemporary music during the past year, or over an extended period of time. The prize has been awarded each year since 1985.

On 14 December, the leader of the music committee, composer Gyrid Nordal Kaldestad, presented the award which consists of a plaque and 50 000 Norwegian kroner. In addition, the prizewinner is granted a further 50 000 kroner towards concerts and other activities that promote living, Norwegian composers.

**The committee’s statement:**

This year’s performer award goes to an artist who has made her mark both at a national and at an international level. For almost two decades she has been a leading advocate of contemporary music in Norway and abroad. As a performer she moves between genres, and contributes to uniting them.

This performer’s international career is greater than many in Norway are aware of. Yet despite her international success, she has a particular interest in the Norwegian music scene and is an active commissioner of new works. It should be mentioned that in 2017 she premiered no less than two and a half hours of new, Norwegian music!

Her ability to embrace such a wide range of styles and genres, and her contribution to bringing Norwegian music to an international audience, is unique. She is a fearless performer and displays a strong artistic voice in all the projects in which she is involved.

This year’s award winner is not only a leading performer; she also contributes to bringing Norwegian contemporary music to audiences outside Norway’s major cities through her involvement with the Hardanger Musikkfest, which she curates together with composer Therese Birkelund Ulvo.

The Norwegian Society of Composers hereby congratulates Tora Augestad as Performer of the Year 2018!

*The Norwegian Society of Composers, founded in 1917, is a professional organization for active composers. The Society promotes the use of Norwegian music within a wide range of styles and genres, and seeks to improve cultural-political conditions for composers in Norway. Protecting copyright law has been a key issue for the Society throughout its existence, enabling composers to create new music and earn a living from their work. The Norwegian Society of Composers is a member of the Council of Nordic Composers and the European Composer and Songwriter Alliance.*