

Concerto Copenhagen & Lars Ulrik Mortensen

For more than three decades, Concerto Copenhagen (CoCo) has been among Europe's leading period-instrument ensembles. Founded in 1991, the orchestra has developed under the artistic direction of Lars Ulrik Mortensen into an internationally acclaimed ensemble that combines historical performance practice with artistic curiosity and stylistic freshness. With uncompromising musicality, attention to detail, and the courage to design unconventional programmes, CoCo builds bridges between past and present and brings music from the Baroque, Classical, and early Romantic periods to life with renewed vibrancy.

The ensemble performs regularly in major concert halls and at renowned festivals throughout Europe, North America, and Asia. In February 2025, Concerto Copenhagen made its debut at Carnegie Hall in New York with a highly praised programme of works by Muffat, Handel, and Bach. Recent interdisciplinary projects have also been significant, such as *Bach LIGHT* in Paris with the Hofesh Shechter Company, which offered a striking new encounter with Bach's musical universe through a powerful interplay of dance, theatre, and music.

CoCo collaborates frequently with the Royal Danish Opera in Copenhagen. Their most recent joint production was Antonio Vivaldi's *Griselda* at the Gamle Scene in 2025, which received enthusiastic acclaim from both audiences and critics and once again highlighted CoCo's exceptional expertise in the operatic repertoire.

Since 1999, Danish harpsichordist and conductor Lars Ulrik Mortensen has served as CoCo's artistic director. He is regarded as a leading figure in Europe's early-music scene. After studying at the Royal Danish Academy of Music and with Trevor Pinnock in London, he began his career as harpsichordist with London Baroque and Collegium Musicum 90. Today, he is a sought-after conductor and teacher worldwide, holding positions at institutions such as the Mozarteum University Salzburg, the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, and the Juilliard School in New York. In 2007, he was awarded the Léonie Sonning Music Prize, Denmark's highest musical honour.

Under Mortensen's leadership, CoCo has developed an artistic identity that unites historical awareness with contemporary relevance. Whether in festive oratorios, expressive opera productions, or experimental concert formats, Mortensen and his ensemble demonstrate that early music is not a museum piece, but a vivid and immediate experience. With a repertoire that spans European masterworks as well as rediscoveries from the Nordic region, CoCo embodies musical openness and artistic responsibility. Its musicians belong to the international elite of historical performance practice and, through their long-standing collaboration, shape the ensemble's unmistakable sound.