

## **Carl Pontén, Sweden, Biography**

Pianist Carl Pontén is today considered one of the most active and well-known musicians and promoters of Swedish culture on an international scale.

Having concluded his studies with Tore Almgren in Stockholm and with Radoslav Kvapil in Praga, Carl Pontén moved to Italy, thanks to a scholarship received from the Italian Institute of Culture in Stockholm, where he studied with M<sup>o</sup> Pietro Rigacci in Florence and with M<sup>o</sup> Dario di Rosa in Trieste.

Subsequently he perfected his skills with Prof. Andrzej Jasinski at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. Pianist Carl Pontén has performed in important halls in many countries in the world: U.S.A., Colombia, Cuba, Israel, Guatemala, Spain, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Iceland, Holland, Belgium, Luxemburg and Czech Republic, often also recording for radio stations and television. He has performed in numerous chamber music formations in collaboration with world known artists.

Since 1994 he is the artistic director of one of the most important festivals in Sweden, the *Julita International Chamber Music Festival*, which during the passed years has invited artists from more than 20 different countries.

In Sweden he has been invited by prestigious concert organizers among which the *Foundation of the Nobel Prize*, the *Nydahl Collection Museum* of Stockholm in occasion of its opening, and the *Royal Academy of Stockholm*.

Carl Pontén has held numerous courses and master classes at the Musikhochschule Karlsruhe in Germany, in Belo Horizonte Brazil, and at the Academy of Music in Sarajevo, Bosnia among others.

In 2002 he founded the "Swedish International Duo Competition" in collaborating with the *Royal Academy of Stockholm*. The competition is sponsored by the producer of strings Thomastik Infeld in Vienna, and is today considered one of the leading international competitions for duos.