

# REPERTOIRE TIPS – Nordic Clarinet Concertos

## KALEVI AHO

### Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra (2005)

2222/3221.barhn/perc/hp/str Dur: 30'

A powerful concerto that grips the listener from beginning to end. It covers a vast emotional range, from melancholy beauty right through to wild intensity. Woven into Aho's personal, distinctive idiom are lots of solo display elements. Premiered by Martin Fröst and the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vänskä.



## DANIEL BÖRTZ

### Clarinet Concerto – Songs and Light (1998)

2232/2421/timp.2perc/str Dur: 27'

Number three in a series of four solo concertos with "Songs" as a title in common. The first movement's rapid and dizzying interplay between light and shade leads over to the central feature of the concerto, movement two – Largo espressivo – which from its darkness radiates long beams of light toward the concluding movement. The third movement is a driving, fast Presto energico permeated with bright light. Premiered by Kjell Fagéus and the Malmö Symphony Orchestra.



## ANDERS ELIASSON

### Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra – Sette Passagie (1992)

2222/3220/str Dur: 23'

In this concerto the clarinet leads the listener through 'seven passages' (emotional states); from 'spirited' to 'floating', 'agitated', 'calm', 'threatening', 'dismal' and 'fickle'. The music is both easily accessible and deeply intricate and the orchestra allows for a wide palette of colours. Commissioned for Håkan Rosengren by the Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra.



## KIMMO HAKOLA

### Clarinet Concerto (2001)

2222/2221/timp.perc/hp/str Dur: 40'

A showpiece that drives the audience to ecstasy and onto its feet. Hakola's boundless imagination has produced a wild mixture of hammering rhythms, romantic sentimentality and glittering timbres. The Klezmer dance in the finale caps the carnival mood. The Avanti! Chamber Orchestra and Kari Kriikku premiered this work in 2001.



## FREDRIK HÖGBERG

### Dancing with Silent Purpose (2008)

clarinet/strings/backtrack and video Dur: 11'

Something out of the ordinary. A multimedia concerto in four parts, and an attempt to develop the classical concert format by the addition of backtrack and film. The images and the electronic music are integrated into the web of the orchestra and the soloist, and this music really swings! Premiered by Martin Fröst and the Jönköping Sinfonietta in 2010.



## ROLF MARTINSSON

### Concert Fantastique – Clarinet Concerto No. 1 (2010)

2222/2210/timp.2perc/hp/str Dur: 24'

A dizzying experience in five parts. The first part is mobile and resolute. In the second the soloist plays only one note – but so much the longer notwithstanding – without taking a breath. Part three is the work's lyrical peak. Part four a giddy solo cadenza that leads over to the fifth and last part in an accelerated and whirling tempo. A joint commission for Martin Fröst from Malmö SO, City of Birmingham SO, Royal Stockholm PhO and the Norwegian Arctic PhO.



## KAI NIEMINEN

### Clarinet Concerto "Through Shadows I Can Hear Ancient Voices" (2002)

2222/2100/timp.perc/cel/str Dur: 28'

The middle movement represents the concerto at its most lyrical. The orchestral instruments are as 'shadows' to the soloist while at the same time they are in dialogue with the clarinet. The sound nevertheless remains translucent throughout, as is typical of Nieminen's music. A work dedicated to Mikko Raasakka, who premiered it with the Vaasa City Orchestra in 2002.



## JUHANI NUORVALA

### Clarinet Concerto (1998)

2212/2000/2perc/electric bass/str Dur: 23'

A sexy beat, cinematic twists and stirring soundscapes – this work has real hit potential and offers the soloist a tremendous chance to show off. Likened in musician circles to another "crossover" work, the Hakola Clarinet Concerto. A Tapiola Sinfonietta commission premiered in 1998 by Harri Mäki.



## EINOJUHANI RAUTAVAARA

### Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra

(2001–02)

2222/4221/timp.2perc/hp/str Dur: 26'

A work in which the soloist can be both brilliant and lyrical. The drama of the first and last movements is offset by an almost painfully beautiful middle movement that is like one long, melancholy sigh. Premiered by Richard Stoltzman and the National Symphony Orchestra conducted by Leonard Slatkin.



## HERMAN RECHBERGER

### Alovlar (Ehtirasli) / (Passionate) Flames

(2001)

Concerto for Clarinet (or bass clarinet), String Quartet, Frame-drum and String Orchestra (min 44322) Dur: 20'

An exotic concerto involving styles drawn from classical Azerbaijani music and a concertante group of clarinet, string quartet and frame-drum. The soloist is like a hypnotising snake-charmer while the vivid string figures characterise the movement of flames. Premiered by Mikko Raasakka and the Lahti Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Osmo Vänskä, in 2003.



## SVEN-DAVID SANDSTRÖM

### March Funèbre – Be still my Child

(2006)

2002/2000/str Dur: 20' (version for chamber orchestra),

2222/2220/2perc/str (version for orchestra) Dur: 20'

Text: Gunnar Ekelöf (English)

A remarkable work in that a poem, recited by the soloist, is integrated in the concerto. The soloist by turns reads verses from the poem and comments on the clarinet. The work concludes with a beautiful, purely instrumental epilogue in which the clarinet is allowed to come into full bloom. A joint commission for Martin Fröst from Turku PhO, Norwegian ChO, Amsterdam Sinfonietta, Swedish ChO and Orchestra Haydn.



## HARRI VUORI

### Concerto for Bass Clarinet and Orchestra

(2001)

2222/2210/2perc/pf/str Dur: 20'

The opening movement is a dream-like texture rich in colour and in this sense typical Vuori. The bass clarinet's ability to leap from high to low and its tremendously wide register tempted Vuori to score in some high, bright, shimmering planes of sound. Premiered by Marko Portin and the Hyvinkää Orchestra in 2001.

