

REPERTOIRE TIPS

Works for string orchestra – *with passion*



ANDERS ELIASSON
Ein schneller Blick... ein kurzes
Aufscheinen (2003) 
Dur: 17'

This is a fine example of Eliasson's exquisite string writing. The title is not a quote but a distinctive feature of the work. The music begins with a minimalist and frenetically repetitive rhythmical energy which is followed by a more melancholy Tranquillo section. The concluding Presto has an almost fiddler-like drive. Commissioned by Camerata Roman.



MIKKO HEINIÖ
Minne (1996)
Dur: 18'

Heiniö's *Minne* features both rhythmic fireworks and lyrical moments. It consists of three movements each different in character. Hovering in the background of *Martellato* are rhythm and blues; *Cantabile* is marked by expressive, singing polyphony and *Animato* is a quick, throbbing dance. Premiered by the Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra and Juha Kangas.



PAAVO HEININEN
Sinfonietta Op. 66i (1996/2000)
Dur: 19'

The *Sinfonietta* is in four movements (*Sonata*, *Scherzo*, *Elegia* and *Ricercata*), all waltzes. Together they trace a symphonic arch. *Dance* is strongly present throughout Heininén's big opus 66 embracing over 40 works for string or chamber orchestra. Commissioned by the Lapland Chamber Orchestra.



ROLF MARTINSSON
A. S. in Memoriam (1999/2001)
Op 50a (version for 15 strings 5-4-3-2-1)
Op 50b (version for large string orchestra)
Dur: 12'

A. S. in Memoriam was composed in memory of Arnold Schönberg and his *Verklärte Nacht*. Martinsson has sought to mirror the vocabulary, gesture and musical characters present in Schönberg's music. It is Martinsson's most frequently performed work and was premiered by the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra under Neeme Järvi.



PEHR HENRIK NORDGREN
Transe-Choral (1985)
15 strings (5-4-3-2-1) Dur: 33'

A work in two broad sections, the idea being for the listener to mentally prepare for the second by listening to the silence after the first. Its painful chorale themes ultimately lead to a radiant, almost sacred, trance-like final motif. Premiered by the Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra and Juha Kangas.



JUHANI NUORVALA
Sinfonietta (1997/98) 
Dur: 19'

The *Sinfonietta* is a string-orchestra version of Nuorvala's Second String Quartet. The opening *Andante* movement at times creates a

romantically soaring world of sound. The dream-like *Tranquillo* leads to a dancing closing movement bursting with life and drive. A Tapiola Sinfonietta commission premiered in 1998.



MARIE SAMUELSSON
Rotations (1997/2003) 
Dur: 14'

The sound idea of *Rotations* was born when Samuelsson was composing in her country house. The rain was pouring down onto her tin roof, so heavily that it flowed into her music. She could not concentrate on anything else but that dripping sound which is present in the work right from the start: pizzicato-dripping strings in the high registers that play percussive counter-rhythms. Commissioned by Musica Vitae.



ALBERT SCHNELZER
Emperor Akbar (2010)
Dur: 12'

As always Schnelzer gives the listener an imaginative experience. Inspired by the complex character of Akbar the Great, the music starts brutally with the Emperor chopping the head off a young rebel, after which rhythmical and violent passages alternates with more contemplative and serene scenes. A string-orchestral version of Schnelzer's Second String Quartet. Premiered by the Tromsø Chamber Orchestra.



BENJAMIN STAERN
Cross Draught (Tvårdrag) (2007) 
Dur: 8'

In Staern's energetic and vigorous string piece the orchestra is divided into two groups placed opposite each other. Melodic lines, chords, rhythms and grooves are thrown from one group to the other creating a musical cross draught. Commissioned by the Malmö Opera Orchestra.



VELJO TORMIS
Reminiscentiae (2009)

Rather than a suite as such, this is a sort of "rendezvous of reminiscences". It consists of choral works transcribed for string orchestra that can be performed separately or in combination. Among them are the four-movement *Nature Pictures* (*Looduspildid*) and Tormis's hypnotically primitive *St. John's Day Songs* (*Jaanilaulud*), the sustained, singing melodies of which are just right for strings.



ERKKI-SVEN TÜÜR
Action-Passion-Illusion (1994) 
Dur: 15'

The rhythmically syncopated opening is indeed an action-packed start to this popular work with *Passion*, a meditative middle movement, at its heart. It sets off in a low register on the double basses and cellos and gradually expands into a chorale-like, intensive outburst. The Tallinn Chamber Orchestra premiered the work with Tõnu Kaljuste.