

10 Fresh Concert Starters



KALEVI AHO

Minea (2008)

4444/6431/timp.3perc/hp/pf.cel/str
(16-14-12-10-8) Dur: 18'

One great, intensive crescendo exploiting the orchestra's timbres to the full. The subheading Concertante music for orchestra lives up to its promise: the various instrumental sections all have a chance to show off as the volume and tempo are gradually stepped up. The percussion instruments and Arabian rhythms lend additional spice. Commissioned by the Minnesota Orchestra and Osmo Vänskä.



TOBIAS BROSTRÖM

Transit Underground (2007)

2222/4231/timp.2perc/str Dur: 10'

A concert opener with a decidedly urban feel. It starts out with stealthy pizzicatos in the double bass taken from the underground, and finishes polyrhythmically with brass, percussion and strings from the pulsating and clamorous big city. Commissioned by the Gävle Symphony Orchestra and Robin Ticciati.



JÖRGEN DAFGÅRD

Through Fire and Water (2008-2009)

4454/6441/timp.3perc/hp/str Dur: 13'

A large orchestral palette is used in this work that can be described as a symphonic poem. A solo clarinet presents an optimistic, slightly naïve theme, which after an ordeal by fire comes in contact with the complementary element, water. The theme later emerges again with greater strength and maturity in a powerful conclusion. Commissioned by the Malmö Symphony Orchestra.



KIMMO HAKOLA

Le nuage d'Oort (2009)

3332/4331/timp.3perc/hp/pf/cel/str Dur: 10'

A work premiered in 2009 along with other additions by contemporary composers to Holst's classic *The Planets*. Glitteringly beautiful and ominous tones alternate in *Le nuage d'Oort*. Lasting about 10 minutes, it ends on a hypnotically soft and stunning pianissimo. Premiered by the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra and John Storgårds.



MIKKO HEINIÖ

Maestoso (2008)

3333/4331/hp/timp.3perc/str Dur: 9'

Heiniö's recent orchestral work *Maestoso* is subtitled *Variations of a Fragment* by Eric XIV. It was composed as a work in its own right in summer 2008 while Heiniö was awaiting the completion of the libretto for his new opera *Eric XIV*. He later used it, slightly altered, as the overture to the opera. The Tampere Philharmonic is to premiere it on 7 October 2011 with Hannu Lintu conducting.



JYRKI LINJAMA

Allerheiligentag II (2009)

2222/2200/timp/str Dur: 16'

Linjama's symphonic meditation *Allerheiligentag II* begins tenderly and softly. Linjama himself speaks of the general sensitivity of his music, its obvious mimosa-like quality which is evident in this lyrical work commissioned by the Sinfonia Finlandia Jyväskylä.



ROLF MARTINSSON

Open Mind (2005)

2222/4230/timp.2perc/str Dur: 10'

Martinsson wants to expose the listener's "open mind" to tonality, virtuosity and quick, sweeping tempos, but also to spontaneity, joy, energy and vitality. Indeed, he is quite successful in this striking and colourful concert overture. The work was written on commission from the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra to be the opening work at the Baltic Sea Festival in 2005.



VELI-MATTI PUUMALA

Memorial Fragment (2008)

In memory of P. H. Nordgren
violin obligato and string orchestra Dur: 13'

Puumala's music is crystal clear. The violin obligato at times acquires sacral tones, like in *The Thinker* in Nordgren's *Portraits of Country Fiddlers*. At the premiere the orchestra was scattered around Kaustinen Church and the leader moved from one section to another. Commissioned by the Kaustinen Chamber Music Festival and premiered by the Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra and Juha Kangas.



ALBERT SCHNELZER

A Freak in Burbank (2008)

2222/2200/timp.perc/str Dur: 9'

Albert Schnelzer conjures up a magical world where whirling woodwinds and energetic, pressing strings succeed one another. A witty, lavishly orchestrated and highly imaginative piece inspired by a book about film director Tim Burton. Commissioned by the Stockholm Chamber Orchestra.



BENJAMIN STAERN

Jubilate (2009)

3333/4331/timp.3perc/hp/str Dur: 8'

This piece delivers on what the title promises with exultant fanfares and an explosion of sonorities. But there is also room for beautiful, lyrical passages. The title *Jubilate* refers to people who shout with joy and rapture, but also the opposite: the threatening and screaming mob. Commissioned by the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra.