



Photo: Marie Veien

Cecilia Damström

## Explosive Damström

In Damström's idiom there is explosive power... the energetic and dramatic character of this work makes it a listener-friendly experience and leaves a mark... The music is dynamic and colourful with strong contrasts. The handling of the orchestra is impressive and reminds that the symphony orchestra can be a fantastic "instrument" in skilful hands.

*Karjalainen 27.2.*

**Cecilia Damström: Nixus**

World premiere: Joensuu CO/Eero Lehtimäki, 26.02.2021 Joensuu Winter Festival, Finland

## Pettersson's remarkable 12<sup>th</sup>

The Twelfth has many points in common with other Pettersson symphonies: music of extreme intensity cast into a single, enormous movement... Differences are quite apparent, too: the urgent, fast-moving opening for violins, and the triumphant, roof-raising close (instead of fading quietly, all energy spent). And then there is the choir, that dominates proceedings for much of the work, driven on by Neruda's searingly powerful poems... Lindberg's is now the third Twelfth to appear, the best-recorded of them and, I think, the best-sung, magnificently supported by the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra... A fabulous account of a remarkable work.

*Gramophone January 2021*

**Allan Pettersson: Symphony No. 12** 🎧

CD: Norrköping SO, Swedish Radio Choir, Eric Ericson Chamber Choir/Christian Lindberg (BIS-2450)

## Beautiful, glittering Omaggio a Smilla

A work for string orchestra, violin and trumpet that is interesting, sounds great and even has some surprises. Voices flash in and out, as do the shadows... The prophetic yet soft trumpet tone brings the hazy outlines into focus. Koskinen has composed some fine, spectral, glittering webs of sound that open out like a fan.

*Keskipohjanmaa 1.2.*

**Juha T. Koskinen: Omaggio a Smilla**

Ostrobothnian CO/Tomas Djupsjöbacka, sol. Annemarie Åström, violin, Jukka-Pekka Peltoniemi, trumpet, 29.1.2021 Kaustinen Chamber Music Festival, Finland

## Eklund's dramatically charged symphonies

The three symphonies on this CD are dramatically charged, expressive and the writing for orchestra is virtuosic... I often come to think of Shostakovich here; not that Eklund imitates his Russian colleague, but his sound world corresponds to a certain extent with the latter's harsh woodwinds and heavy brass... The Norrköping Symphony Orchestra is brilliant, as usual, in the fine sound recording... This CD from CPO whets the appetite, and there is good reason to ask ourselves why we don't get to hear more of Hans Eklund in the concert halls. *Capriccio 09.12.*

**Hans Eklund: Symphonies Nos. 3, 5 & 11** 🎧

CD: Norrköping SO/Hermann Bäumer (CPO 5550872)

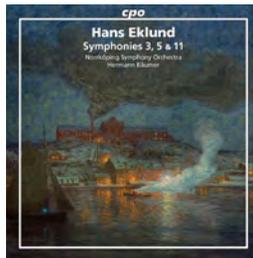


Photo: Sara Vuorjoki/Music Finland

Jukka Linkola

## Linkola's Bass Concerto scores success in Spain

A jazzy feel permeates the first movement... In the finale Linkola puts the soloist's technical ability to the test. Vuolanne takes his double bass to that heaven of string instruments that usually is reserved for the violin... The work poses considerable technical challenges, which the soloist masters for the ultimate purpose for the profession: making music and moving whoever hears it. *El Pais 13.2.*

**Jukka Linkola: Bass Concerto**

European premiere: Orquesta Sinfónica de Galicia/Dima Slobodeniouk, sol. Risto Vuolanne, 12.2.2021 Coruña, Spain

## A thrilling concerto by Aho

This disc is an absolute must for all those who love the music of one of our greatest living composers; and it should prove attractive, too, for those who welcome the excitement of two approachable and comprehensible pieces of modern music. *MusicWeb International Oct. 2020*

The percussionist must navigate the variety of instruments, moving from one technique to another as the piece progresses while the orchestra sounds supply backdrop. The result is thrilling... The piece has become a standard repertoire item because of its astonishing demands on percussion players.

*American Record Guide Jan-Feb 2021*

**Kalevi Aho: Sieidi (Concerto for Percussion and Orchestra), Symphony No. 5** 🎧

CD: Lahti SO/Dima Slobodeniouk, sol. Colin Currie (BIS SACD-2336)

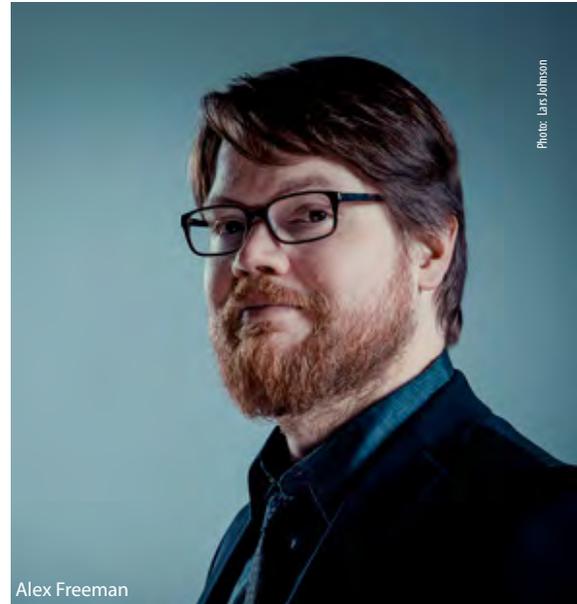


Photo: Lars Johnson

Alex Freeman

## Freeman's impressive Requiem

Anyone loving contemporary a cappella choral music will appreciate the Requiem 'Under the Arching Heavens' by the Finnish-American composer Alexander Freeman. The Helsinki Chamber Choir has recorded the impressive work for BIS. The largely tonal Requiem is built around the Latin liturgy of the Mass for the Dead in a highly individual tonal language with solo interludes in the choral singing... The performances are of the highest quality.

*Pizzicato.lu January 2021*

The choral Requiem is a work of subtle introspection, universal mourning and a brilliant feel for rich hues... Freeman joins here company with Rautavaara... *Helsingin Sanomat 13.1.*

**Alex Freeman: Requiem "Under the Arching Heavens", A Wilderness of Sea** 🎧

CD: Helsinki Chamber Choir/Nils Schwegendiek (BIS-2592)

## Sophisticated timbres

**Maija Hynninen's** oboe concerto *Incandescence* got its first hearing. The soloist, Kyeong Ham, co-principal oboe in the Finnish RSO, traced expressive graphic lines on Hynninen's sophisticated and sensitive play of timbres. *Helsingin Sanomat 12.2.*

**Maija Hynninen: Oboe concerto 'Incandescence'**



World premiere: Finnish RSO/Anna-Maria Helsing, sol. Kyeong Ham, 10.2.2021 Helsinki, Finland (Muisca nova Festival)



Photo: Maarit Kyösti

Finnish RSO