

HUGO ALFVÉN

Eight Songs for male choir (1933-1957)

Texts: H. Säterberg, S. Selander, G. Alexandersson, A. Henriksson, P. Jacobsen, G. Kallstenius, E. Blomberg, K. Hed (Swe/Eng/Ger)

Alfvén was a pioneer when it came to the repertoire for male choir. For 37 years he was the conductor of the internationally renowned male choir Orphei Drängar (OD). This collection of eight songs includes nature poetry as well as Nordic melancholy, humour and songs in folk idiom.



CHRISTIAN ENGQUIST

It Is So Peaceful Here Now (2012)

Dur: 8'55"

Text: Christian Engquist (Eng)

In this work the poet and the composer are one and the same. The work depicts in dreamy sonorities an apocalyptic landscape. Winner of the Svanholm Singers Composition Award 2012.



GABRIELLA GULLIN

Gläns över sjö och strand (Shine over Lake and Shore) (2018) Dur: 3'50"

Text: Viktor Rydberg (Swe)

A new setting of three verses of Viktor Rydberg's well-known Yuletide text, with a peaceful but passionate character.



PAAVO HEININEN

Neljä kehtolaulua (Four Lullabies) (1986) Dur: 10'

Texts: Solveig von Schoultz, Jouko Linjama, P. Heininen (Swe, Fin)

These pieces are subtitled 'For myself', 'For everyone', 'For the children' and 'For the cat'. They explore an exciting palette of the technical and expressive potential of male voices, ranging from harmonic densities to spatial hocketing.



MIKKO HEINIÖ

Tomumieli (Mind of Dust) (2002)

Dur: 6'30"

for male choir and two djembe drums
Text: Lassi Nummi (Fin)

Amen (2016) Dur: 7'

for male choir and tubular bell
Text: single word (Amen)

Tomumieli is an exotic voyage about the terracotta warriors in Xian with wonderful rhythmic complexities and elements of drama and suspense. Amen is a choral vocalise with a cathedral-like ring to it. There are shifting tonal planes woven together by a regular, booming D-flat on a tubular bell.



LARS KARLSSON

Body of a Woman (2002) Dur: ca 6'

Text: Pablo Neruda, transl. W.S. Merwin (Eng)

Karlsson became fascinated by Neruda's '20 Love Poems and a Song of Despair' and found this translation, which offered great potential for musical contrasts. The sensitive music does justice to the erotic text.



JOONAS KOKKONEN

Lehvilä puiden (1966) Dur: ca 2'

Text: Lassi Nummi (Fin)

This refined, serenade-like song honours the beauty of nature. Lasting two minutes, it is a setting of a poem by Nummi depicting the gentle wind stirring the leaves and branches of the forest.



OLLI KORTEKANGAS

Höstlig skärgård (2015) Dur: 7'

Text: Tomas Tranströmer (Swe)

Missa Silvestris (2018) Dur: 30'

for mezzo-soprano, male choir and organ
Text: Göran Stenius (Swe)

Kortekangas's music seeks to get between the lines of the poem. Höstlig skärgård was also a homage to Jean Sibelius, resulting in an emphasis on nature and Swedish lyrics. The Missa follows the structure of the Mass but with a very personal approach. Again, there is lots of nature imagery.



MATS LARSSON GOTHE

Solskenet (The Sunshine) (2016) Dur: 6'

for alto and male choir
Text: Gustaf Fröding (Swe)

The Sunshine is based on a late poem of Gustaf Fröding in which Larsson Gothe has attempted to interpret the musical sound in the words, typical of Fröding's late poetry. It is also an unusually bright poem to be taken from that difficult time in the poet's life, as if light has returned after a long period of struggle and anxiety.



ROLF MARTINSSON

Nattviol (Lesser Butterfly Orchid) (2007) Dur: 9'

Text: Carl Snoilsky (Swe)

When Martinsson was commissioned to write for Orphei drängar he was deeply inspired by Carl Snoilsky's moving, nature romantic and melancholy poem 'Nattviol', that also expresses the weary poet's desire for peace.



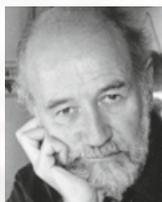
ARNE MELLNÄS

Havets sång (Song of the Sea) (1995)

Dur: 5'

Text: Tage Danielsson (Swe)

Humorous musical setting of a serious subject, the pollution of our seas. The song is collected from Mellnäs's choral suite, 'Kosmos: eleven songs for chorus about life, animals and nature'.



IDA MOBERG

Skogsrån (The Wood Nymph) (ca 1907)

Dur: 3'

Text: Gustaf Fröding (Swe)

The folktale-style text describes a beautiful but frightening wood nymph. The music by Moberg (1859-1947) is in ternary form with slower outer parts framing the livelier scherzo-like middle one. This piece scored success in a composing competition in 1907.



PER-HENNING OLSSON

Marionetterna (The Marionettes) (2000) Dur: 2'50"

Text: Bo Bergman (Swe)

A lively and rhythmically intricate setting to music of Bo Bergman's existential text, which was awarded at the Falun Quartet Singers' Composition Competition – Music for a New Era 2000.



PER GUNNAR PETERSSON

Tempus adest floridum (2016) Dur: 9'

for male choir and tenor solo

Text: Piaë Cantiones (Lat)

The piece is based on the well-known spring song in Piaë Cantiones. The composition combines the medieval character of the text and melody with a more contemporary tone language, at the same time as it reflects the original's energy and joy over the arrival of spring.



ESA PIETILÄ

Uirapuru (2017) Dur: 10'

for male choir and tenor saxophone

Text: single phrase (che-ke-ke-ke-chee)

This atmospheric piece takes you to the Amazonian jungle and the home of the musician wren, also known as the uirapuru. You hear clicking and squeaking jungle sounds and saxophone multiphonics.



HANNU POHJANNORO

Carmen de sole (Song of the Sun) (2005) Dur: 10'

for male choir and percussion
Text: Virgil (Lat)

The singers are divided into a double choir plus a quartet. The percussion adds sparkle to the atmospheric music, which at times proceeds mysteriously, at times proclaiming the text by the ancient Roman poet.



EINOJUHANI RAUTAVAARA

Four Romances from the opera Rasputin (2007) Dur: 15'

Text: Einojuhani Rautavaara (Fin/Eng)

Rautavaara arranged this set of melodic songs from his opera Rasputin, first for male choir, and in 2012 for mixed choir. They are delightfully melancholy and truly captivating. The texts are in Finnish; English translations are available on demand.



HERMAN RECHBERGER

Snake Charm (Käärmeenloitsu) (1983)

Dur: 8'

for six (or more) male voices with sound objects
Text: trad. (Fin)

This song is an exciting drama with instructions given in the score. The text is drawn from snake charms in different Finnish dialects. The various sound sources include sleigh bells, an empty beer can and a woodblock.



SVEN-DAVID SANDSTRÖM

Hear the Voice of the Bard (2009) Dur: 9'

for male choir, mezzo-soprano and organ
Text: William Blake (Eng)

The text is taken from Blake's Introduction to Songs of Experience. The music has a pronounced character of expansion: from the organ and the second basses' faint pianissimo to the powerful, glaring fortissimo chords. The mezzo part is more softly melodic and the choral texture, which is dominated by the harmonic development, also has more rhythmically pregnant sections.



GABRIEL WILCZKOWSKI

Den stora gästen (The Great Guest) (2015) Dur: 7'30"

Text: Eva-Stina Byggmästar (Swe)

Light and hope is a the recurrent theme in this setting of a poem by Byggmästar. It begins with a glowing sunrise from which a Gregorian chant emerges.

