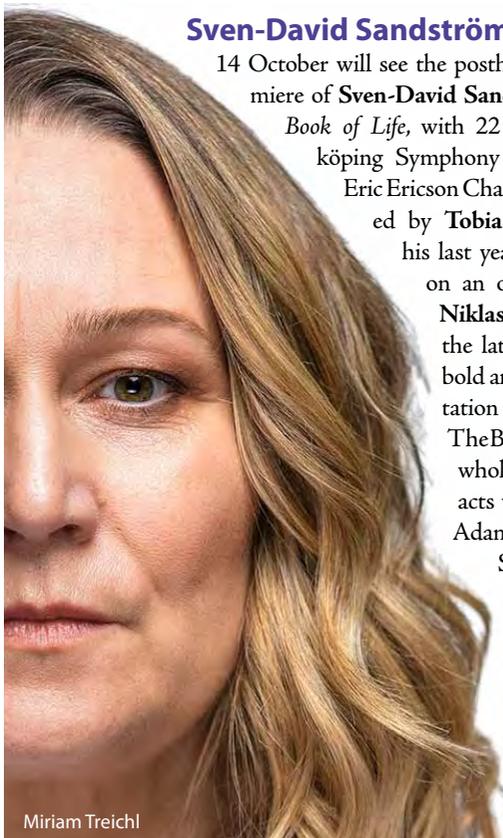
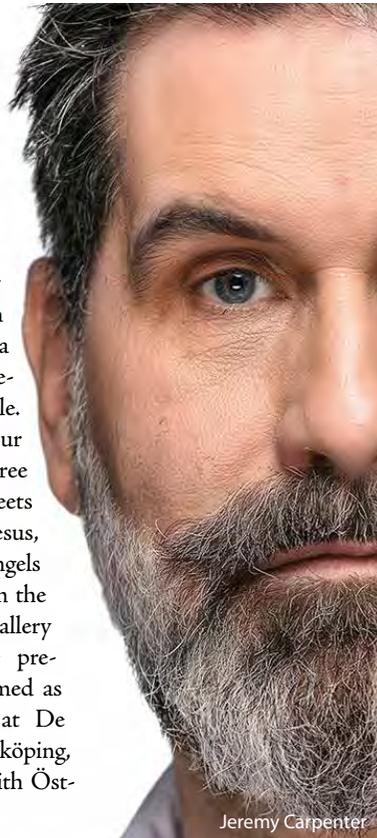


## Sven-David Sandström's last opera

14 October will see the posthumous world premiere of **Sven-David Sandström's** opera *The Book of Life*, with 22 soloists, the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra and the Eric Ericson Chamber Choir conducted by **Tobias Ringborg**. During his last year Sandström worked on an opera to a libretto by **Niklas Rådström**, based on the latter's novel *The Book*, a bold and visionary re-interpretation of the books of the Bible. *The Book of Life* is a four-hour whole-evening opera in three acts where the audience meets Adam and Eve, Moses, Jesus, Sarah, the three archangels and many more from the Bible's abounding gallery of characters. The premiere will be performed as semi-concert opera at De Geerhallen in Norrköping, in collaboration with Östgötateatern.



Miriam Treichl



Jeremy Carpenter

## Rare Nordgren opera to be staged

The opera *Den svarte munken* (The Black Monk) by **Pehr Henrik Nordgren** is to be staged at the Helsinki Contemporary Opera Festival on 3 & 4 September, having previously being postponed by the Covid pandemic. It is a rare opera and has never before been heard in Helsinki. Nordgren wrote the libretto himself after the mystic short story by **Anton Chekhov**. Both the conductor, **Teemu Hämäläinen**, and the stage director, **Ville Saukkonen**, are excited to be staging such a significant work.

Photo: Mats Becker



Photo: Aino Jams

## Helvi Leiviskä anniversary

This year marks the 120th anniversary of the birth of **Helvi Leiviskä**. Fennica Gehrman has published some sought-after chamber works by her, including the *Piano Quartet* and *Piano Trio* (See: Repertoire tips) and dug some other pieces out of the archives. Revised editions of her orchestral works have also been made available, and a few can be heard in autumn 2022: the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra will perform Leiviskä's *Sinfonia Brevis* on 21 September with **Dalia Stasevska** conducting, and the Lahti Symphony Orchestra under **Anna-Maria Helsing** will play her *Second Symphony* on 6 December.

Photo: Gunnar Helgeson



## Damström awarded Teosto Prize

On 19 May **Cecilia Damström** was awarded one of Scandinavia's largest music prizes, the Teosto Prize, for her work *ICE* for symphony orchestra. The jury describes Damström as "without bias updating contemporary classical music to the world of the 2020s." *ICE* takes up "how it feels when the ice melts in the age of climate change" and was written on commission from the Lahti Symphony Orchestra (the

city of Lahti was the environmental capital of Europe 2021). Damström's new orchestral piece *Wasteland* is scheduled to be premiered on 1 September in connection with the season's opening at Norrlandsoperan in Umeå. The work is a joint commission by the Norrlandsoperan Symphony, the Gävle Symphony and the Tampere Philharmonic.

## Alex Freeman at 50

**Alex Freeman** was 50 in April, and several choirs are celebrating him as a result. The Helsinki Chamber Choir will be giving three performances of *A Wilderness of Sea*; the Key Ensemble will sing his *Cathedral of Spring* and the Kaamos Choir has some choral works by him in its repertoire. Freeman has also received a commission from the Helsinki Music Centre Choir to celebrate its 10th anniversary. The new work *Ghost Light* is an expansive, 50-minute choral symphony which draws upon the ecstatic optimism and imagery in the poetry of **Walt Whitman** and others. **Nils Schweckendiek** conducts the premiere with the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra on 11 November 2022.

## NORDIC HIGHLIGHTS 2/2022

NEWSLETTER FROM GEHRMANS MUSIKFÖRLAG &amp; FENNICA GEHRMAN

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Click the sound and video symbols in the text.

Other material is available at

[www.gehrmans.se/highlights](http://www.gehrmans.se/highlights)[www.fennicagehrman.fi/highlights](http://www.fennicagehrman.fi/highlights)

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Olli Kortekangas



Kalevi Aho



Timo-Juhani Kyllönen

Photos: Hanna Salmela, Romain Etienne, Saira Vuorppi

## Summer festival highlights

The *Partita Concertante* for cello and instrumental ensemble by **Olli Kortekangas** was commissioned by the Naantali Music Festival for a premiere on 15 June. Also on the programme was Kortekangas's church opera *Ende und Beginn*. The festival will also be paying tribute to the late **Jaakko Kuusisto** with several performances of works by him.

At the Musica Kalevi Aho festival in Forssa, the Pori Sinfonietta conducted by **Tibor Bogányi** will play works by **Kalevi Aho** on 18 June. The programme will also include *Sateen aikaan* (Rain Time), performed by

**Virpi Räisänen** and the Kamus String Quartet. The solo pianist in the recent *Mysterium* quartet will be **Sonja Fräki**.

The monologue opera *Ilona Irti Op. 100* for soprano and instrumental ensemble (vl-vlc-pf) by **Timo-Juhani Kyllönen** (to the libretto by **Leena Lehtolainen**) is to be premiered at the Organ Night and Aria festival in Espoo on 18 August. The opera was commissioned by the festival and will be performed by **Aurora Marthens** and the Trio Roozeman.

## Chaplin Songs

**Daniel Nelson's** *Chaplin Songs* will be premiered on 21 October. The work is a 40-minute musical setting of the famous narrative in **Charlie Chaplin's** film 'The Great Dictator' from 1940 in which Chaplin raises his voice for peace and compassion, satirizing national borders, intolerance and leaders who abolish freedom – a text that is horribly relevant today. "I feel that his message of unity and freedom needs to be told over and over again. In times when the foundations of democracy are threatened by individuals as well as entire ideologies, this work is my way of retelling the message that Chaplin gave voice to: if we do not preserve democracy, we are all lost", says Nelson. **Andrew Manze** conducts the Swedish RSO and Choir in the premiere. The soloist is soprano **Camilla Tilling**. The work is a joint commission by the Swedish Radio, the Helsingborg and the Gävle Symphony Orchestras.

## Tobias Broström news



Photo: Nicklas Raab

**Tobias Broström** will be in focus at the Stockholm Concert Hall's Composer Weekend on 30 March-2 April 2023. There will be three orchestral concerts, including the premiere of a new opening piece. Participating orchestras are the Stockholm Philharmonic and the Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra, with the soloists **Håkan Hardenberger**, trumpet, **Karen Gomyo**, violin, and **Johan Bridger**, percussion. The festival is rounded off with chamber music, and the premiere of a new *Piano Quintet*. Already on 7 October it is time for the world premiere of Tobias Broström's *Symphony No. 1 – Albedo* at the Gothenburg Concert Hall. The Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra performs under the direction of **Santu-Matias Rouvali**.



Photo: Mika Kiri

## String quartet by Tiina Myllärinen

Two Finnish string quartets – the Sea Lapland String Quartet and the Uusinta Ensemble – have commissioned a new quartet from **Tiina Myllärinen**. The premiere is scheduled for the autumn 2022 season, at a concert by the Uusinta Ensemble, after which the work will tour with the Sea Lapland String Quartet and be heard at four concerts in spring 2023.

## #swedishchoralmusic 2022 – for equality



Anna Cederberg Orretag

Photo: Lars Sjögård

An external script committee has now selected six out of the many choral works that were sent in to Gehrman's Musikförlag and the Swedish Society of Composers' "Call for works by female and non-binary composers". Already now you can find the first two works on YouTube, **Anna Cederberg-Orretag's** *That Night of Falling Stars* (*Natten då stjärnorna föll*)



Marie Sandell

Photo: Jesper Sjoham

and **Marie Sandell's** *Indiffernt Fauna* (*Liknöjd fauna*), a humorous animal suite in five parts.