



Photo: Hans Linden

## New works by Daniel Börtz

Daniel Börtz will turn 80 in 2023, a year that will include the first performances of his *Sinfonia 14* for string orchestra with Music Vitae on 10 February in Växjö, and on 11 February during the Lund Contemporary Music Festival. Malin Broman will be both the violin and viola soloist in the world premiere of Börtz's *Double Concerto for One* on 23 March, together with the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra conducted by Simon Crawford-Phillips. Keep a lookout for more performances in our website calendar.

## The Phantom Carriage

On 9 February Victor Sjöström's silent film classic *The Phantom Carriage* (Körkarlen) from 1921, based on a novel by Selma Lagerlöf, will be shown at Karlstad Congress & Culture Centre with music by Mats Larsson Gothe. The Wermland Opera Orchestra will perform the new version for chamber orchestra under the direction of David Björkman. The symphonic version was premiered by the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and Karen Kamensek during the Gothenburg Film Festival in 2018.

## NORDIC HIGHLIGHTS 3/2022

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## #swedishchoralmusic 2022 – for equality

We can now present works nos 3 and 4 in our series "#swedishchoralmusic 2022 – for equality". Birgitta Flick's *Nocturne* is a dreamy and songful setting for three-part treble choir of Swedish-Finnish poet Edith Södergran's nature-inspired text. Linda Alexandersson's setting of Karin Boye's *Önskenatt* (*Wish-Night*), for three choirs in the treble register, depicts a starry night sky as well as the feelings of hope, comfort and trust that the poem conveys. Birgitta Flick is a jazz saxophonist and composer living in Berlin, whose musical interest lies in the borderland between composition and improvisation. Malmö-based Linda Alexandersson, is a composer, arranger and conductor and also works as a choir teacher at Lund's School of the Arts. You can now find the two works on YouTube. (See: New publications)



Birgitta Flick



Linda Alexandersson



Photo: Linde Adalde

## New Žibuoklė Martinaitytė album receives top acclaim

Ondine has released a new CD including three recent works by Žibuoklė Martinaitytė for string orchestra: *Nunc fluens. Nunc stans*, *Ex Tenebris Lux* and *Sielunmaisema*. The Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra is conducted by Karolis Variakojis. Martinaitytė's previous disc, *Saudade*, received critical acclaim, resulting in increased interest worldwide, and the new CD is equally praised. It was a five-star Editor's Choice in Limelight Magazine, which wrote: "Martinaitytė wows with new works for string orchestra. This is extraordinary music with a harmonic language all her own: powerful, minimal while immense and unutterably beautiful." (See Reviews).

## Martinsson premieres

Rolf Martinsson's music is heard around Europe and in the USA during the 22/23 season. In July the song cycle *Ich denke Dein...* received its UK premiere with the Philharmonia Orchestra and soprano Elizabeth Llewellyn at the Three Choirs Festival. Manfred Honeck will lead the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in the concert overture *Open Mind* on 28-30 October. *Hommage an Clara*, (a tribute to Clara Schumann) will get its Finnish premiere with the Tapiola Sinfonietta on 12 January, and its Spanish premiere on 9 March with the Balearic Symphony Orchestra, both with Lisa Larsson as the soprano soloist. She will also perform in the world premiere of the German version of Martinsson's *St. Luke Passion* together with the Bach Collegium Zürich on 25 March. Felix Klieser is once again the soloist in the horn concerto *Soundscape* with the La Verdi Orchestra in Milan on 3 March and on 6 April with the Norrlandsoperan Symphony Orchestra in Umeå. Both are national premieres.



Photo: Louise Martinsson

## Arias for Young Voices

*Arias for Young Voices*, a series of four volumes, (soprano, mezzo/alto, tenor and baritone/bass), has now been completed. It is the result of the experienced and dedicated work of **Barbro Marklund**, Professor of Singing at the Norwegian Academy of Music. The anthology provides a complete platform to launch classical singing studies. Each volume contains 20 opera arias and 10 sacred arias from the early days of opera to the 21st century – specially selected for the needs of young voices. It serves as a useful source for concerts and auditions, as well as the entrance to the joyous path of becoming a professional singer. (See: New publications)



Photo: Eija Tervo  
Photo: Gergor Hohenberg  
Photo: Kata Tuberman

## 50 years of the Colourstrings method

50 years have passed this year since **Géza** and **Csaba Szilvay** invented their Colourstrings method. It all began at the East Helsinki Music Institute, was made famous by a TV programme about young fiddlers and has since spread worldwide and into other realms of music teaching. The violin method has won particular acclaim around the world. The last part was issued in February 2022, and the full, extensive publication series accompanies the player right from the very first steps up to professional study. The Colourstrings method has raised a host of internationally celebrated artists, including **Pekka** and **Jaakko Kuusisto**, **Sakari Oramo**, **Jan-Erik Gustafsson** and **Réka Szilvay**.

Géza Szilvay teaching Minifiddlers.

Photo: International Minifiddlers



## Fennica Gehrman anniversary

Fennica Gehrman will be 20 in October 2022. One of Finland's biggest music publishers, it was established to take charge of the valuable classical music catalogue of Edition Fazer, which was restored to Finnish ownership after being bought back from Warner/Chappell in 2007. Fennica Gehrman keeps actively abreast of the times, publishing works by contemporary composers and making a wide selection of works available for purchase and hire. In honour of the anniversary year, it is publishing a collection of new commissioned works for violin and piano. They will also be presented in a concert.

## Awards for Auvinen, Rantala and Staern

On 5 September, two composers published by Fennica Gehrman received awards from the Finnish Music Publishers Association: **Antti Auvinen** was chosen as Classical Composer of the Year and **Iiro Rantala** as Crossover Composer of the Year. Auvinen's guitar concerto *Andalusian Panzerwagen Jazz* and Rantala's opera *Die Zaubermelodika* (The Magic Melodica) were especially highlighted during the gala ceremony.

**Benjamin Staern** was awarded the Carin Malmlöf-Forssling Composer Prize 2022, by the Royal Swedish Academy of Music, for his "versatile and ingenious artistry comprising everything from *The Threat of War* to *Pippi Lifts the Horse*". The prize was handed out in connection with the Hugo Alfvén Day on 2 July.

## Winnipeg to focus on Kalevi Aho

The Winnipeg New Music Festival will focus on music by **Kalevi Aho** in 2023. The programme will include his *Double Bassoon Concerto* featuring **Bram von Sambeek** and **Katie Brooks**, the *Symphonic Dances* for orchestra, and a new commission: a short orchestral fanfare conducted by Music Director **Daniel Raiskin**. Chamber music will also feature at the Canadian festival running from 26 January to 3 February 2023, with the composer present.



Photo: Henna Salminen



Photo: Marko Mäkinen

## Exciting Klami ballet on stage

The Alpo Aaltokoski Company is staging **Uuno Klami**'s enchanting *Pyörteitä* (Whirls) at the new Dance House Helsinki on 20–22 October. The missing parts of Klami's three-act ballet have been completed by **Kalevi Aho**. The ballet was last produced in 2012. A feast of music, costumes and dance, it brings the world of the ancient Kalevala epic up to the present day.