



KALEVI AHO
Letter to the Netherworld/Kirje tuolle puolen' (2018) Dur: 12'
 Pehr Henrik Nordgren in memoriam for strings 55432

Dedicated to the memory of fellow-composer Nordgren, Letter to the Netherworld is a musical question-and-answer in which the violins put questions to the low strings and the rich viola tones act as catalysts. The result is beautiful, moving music.



TOBIAS BROSTRÖM
Mirage (2013/2016) Dur: 5'

Mirage is an arrangement for string orchestra of a movement from Broström's String Quartet No. 1. The

opening trills of the violins against the natural overtones in the viola and cello give the piece a magical, shimmering character, like a vibrating light over the horizon – like a mirage. The violins' trills then change into a whirling rhythmical accompaniment. The melodic element is found throughout the piece in the viola and the cello. The music is continually in motion and doesn't come to a stop until the very end, when it ebbs away and concludes in a quiet pizzicato.



CECILIA DAMSTRÖM
Infirmus (2015) Dur: 7'

Infirmus is the Latin word for ill or weak, and this piece is dedicated to all those who suffer from chronic illnesses. And one can indeed feel the pain in Damström's striking piece, which is full of glissandi, achingly high strings, rapid runs and playing "sul ponticello". In this piece we can also find a quotation from her earlier choral composition on the theme "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me"?



ANDERS ELIASSON
Sinfonia per archi (2001) Dur: 35'

The sorrowfully singing Sinfonia per archi consists of a long continuous movement that ranges from the most

delicate tenderness and achingly beautiful melodic lines, to dramatic outbursts. A twenty-minute-long opening Adagio turns into a restless, slightly jerky and onrushing Allegro that leads to a Lento, in which the character of the beginning returns. The work ends on a bright, pure, open chord that imparts a feeling of release and hope.



TOMMIE HAGLUND
Serenata per Diotima (2014/2015) Dur: 14'

Serenata per Diotima is dedicated to Haglund's first grandchild. He has told how

looking into the little girl's eyes inspired him while composing. The music is characterised by an uncanny beauty, emotional directness and intimacy. There is a melancholy shimmer over the fluid string texture. And here there are also recurrent lyrical, cantabile and dizzily beautiful interjections from a solo violin.



MIHKEL KEREM
String Sextet 'Restless Night' (2004) Dur: 30'
Laudatio (2011) Dur: 10'

"Anyone who believes traditional tonality to be no longer capable of expressing anything more than timeworn clichés should listen to Kerem's work," wrote Fanfare. Kerem, himself a violinist, has written idiomatic and hauntingly beautiful music for strings. The idea of the String Sextet was connected to Schönberg's Verklärte Nacht so that the two pieces could be performed together. The mood goes from calm to agitated and finds peace at the end with a long, meditative stretch in D Major.



ROLF MARTINSSON
Kalliope (2003) Dur: 27'

In the highly expressive nine-movement work Kalliope, Martinsson lets the

Muses of Greek mythology come forth, each in a movement of her own. The movements are divided into three groups of three so that the tempi and the Muses' different characters are contrasted and varied as much as possible throughout the work. The characters fluctuate between the harsh and the more romantic, between tranquility and rhythmic tension.



JUHANI NUORVALA
Varationes ex "Bene quondam" (2017) Dur: 24'

Eight variations on Bene quondam dociles in the medieval Pia Cantiones collection. The solo viola binds the movements together and the theme passes through different eras, musical cultures and styles. Here again Nuorvala handles his material with real skill. Shifting rhythms, archaic tones, toe-curling sounds, beautiful flageolet notes and gamelan allusions, hints of tango and rock – all these can be found in this relaxed, enjoyable piece.



VELI-MATTI PUUMALA
Rime (2013) Dur: 24'
 for strings 55432
Memorial Fragment (2008) Dur: 13'
 for violin obligato and strings 54432

Like many of these 'tips', both pieces were premiered by the Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra. Rime alludes to the frosty autumn fields of Central Ostrobothnia. The thread running through is a folk melody noted down by Toivo Kuula. The Memorial Fragment is subtitled "In memory of P.H. Nordgren" and quotes a piece by him that engages in dialogue with Puumala's own idiom. Breathtaking, quiet moments are often a mystical fundamental element of Puumala's works.



HARRI VUORI
To Fly, to Fly / Lento (2015) Dur: 10'
 for 18 strings 44442

Sakari Oramo conducted the premiere of this work in 2015.

It pictures the polyphony of swans on the wing: The composer wrote: "In summer 2014, four swans landed on the lake by my summer cottage. My attention was immediately caught by their joint song using the first four notes of a major scale, at times slightly extending their melody up or down. I was also impressed by the strange hypnotic rhythm of their singing."