



Jeremy Carpenter
& Miriam Treichl

Photo: Julia Falklin

Hakola's showstopper 🗨️

Hakola's work unfolds in an almost carnivalistic manner with one about-face after another. In the process, Kriikku is not just able to display what is in itself his unbelievably virtuosic technique; he is also a comedian with a clarinet and his neat, nimble dance steps. The impression is alternately of a lovesick Schlager, cool jazz or Balkan swing. A sort of folksy avant-garde that toys with the audience... The temperature hit the roof with the Gothenburg Symphony after this showstopper. *Dagens Nyheter* 8.10.

Kimmo Hakola: Clarinet Concerto

Gothenburg SO/Santtu-Matias Rouvali, sol. Kari Kriikku, 7.10.2022 Gothenburg, Sweden



Tobias Broström, Santtu-Matias Rouvali
and Kimmo Hakola

A truly great symphony

Broström's music is distinctly vertical, as with late-romantics such as Bruckner and Sibelius. To be sure, it gushes forth as if it were flowing matter, but continues to carry a lead weight, a relentless struggle to rise from the depths to reach its peak. And thus it speaks to us through an exquisitely delicate pattern of short melodic motifs that break out of the broadly dazzling harmonies. Motifs that harbour something mobilising, an evocative pathos, that makes this work not only a magnificent experience of beauty, but also a truly great symphony. *Dagens Nyheter* 8.10.

Tobias Broström: Symphony No. 1 – Albedo

World premiere: Gothenburg SO/Santtu-Matias Rouvali, 7. 10. 2022 Gothenburg Sweden

The Book of Life – A generous gift to humanity

Sven-David Sandström's musical testament is a beautiful, astoundingly generous gift to a humanity that has been kicked out of paradise and is now suffering the consequences. ...I enjoy it immensely when conductor Tobias Ringborg wrings out of Sandström's score the characteristic sweetness and a glorious modernistic harshness that we have not heard in his music for some time... It is sometimes masterly, and deeply moving throughout.

Dagens Nyheter 16.11.

Such fantastically beautiful and wild music Sven-David Sandström has composed! The wealth of invention when he sets Noah's Ark to music, the fragrance of Puccini in the romantic verses between "the Man" and "the Woman", the touch of Wagner's daughters of the Rhine when Miriam and her two friends, filled with joy, strum on their tambourines. What brilliantly colourful weaves he has created for choir and orchestra...It rises to the sky like a volcanic eruption. *Expressen* 16.11.

Sven-David Sandström: The Book of Life (libretto: Niklas Rådström)

World premiere: Norrköping SO/Tobias Ringborg, The Eric Ericson Chamber Choir, The Norrköping Vocal Ensemble, sol. Miriam Treichl, Jeremy Carpenter, et al. 14.10.2022 Norrköping, Sweden



Innovative Infinite Bach 🗨️

Over the years Johan Ullén has emerged as something like a Stravinsky of our time in the sense that he utilises older material as content in some of his compositions in an innovative way... and now, in the recently released record album 'Infinite Bach', he thrives like a fish in water... He treats his material with just as much respect as he does with recreative fantasy... The work's golden lining is Christian Svarfvar's dazzlingly beautiful tone, versatile, expressive and emotionally emphatic rendition, which leaves nothing to be desired.

Johan Ullén: Infinite Bach – Bach re:composed

CD: London PO, Christian Svarfvar, violin, Johan Ullén, harpsichord/keyboards. (Rubicon RCD 1053)

Elegant and spellbinding Kortekangas song cycle 🗨️

Olli Kortekangas has entered into the observations and feelings of the lyrical 'I' of the poems with great sensitivity... The poems abound in contact points that have inspired him to write lyrical, nuanced and sometimes also playful orchestral images. He has conjured up an airy, colourful musical kaleidoscope and milieu for Tuuli Takala's supple, sparkling soprano to float and create spellbinding patterns in varying dynamic shades or sometime just on their own, as the orchestra falls silent. *Helsingin Sanomat* 1.12.

Olli Kortekangas: Songs of Meena for soprano and orchestra

World premiere: Helsinki PO/Osmo Vänskä, sol. Tuuli Takala, 30.11. 2022 Helsinki, Finland



Photo: Jonni Hakala

Tuuli Takala

Alex Freeman and Nils Schweckendiek



Photo: Helsinki Music Centre Choir

Masterly, inspired choral symphony

Alex Freeman seems to be totally at home in an orchestral milieu and his instrumentation is full of expression and fantasy with delicious wind arabesques, double-bass flageolets and an innovative use of percussion as an ear-perking element... The tonal language caught the text's shifting nuances to perfection. *Hufvudstadsbladet* 15.11.

Alex Freeman: Ghost Light (Choral Symphony)

World premiere: Helsinki PO, Helsinki Music Centre Choir/Nils Schweckendiek, 11.11.2022

Freeman has done some fresh takes on romantic nature scenes. Ghost Light for is rewarding for the singers, with catchy, tonal melodies, broad, warm timbres, colourful harmonies, unisons, ecstatic nature painting, striking build-ups.

Helsingin Sanomat 15.11.



Double and Triple Concertos

Kalevi Aho's orchestration, whether it be for small or large forces, shows a masterful understanding of the color palette each instrument affords.... Lovers of Sibelius and Rautavaara should find Aho's music equally thrilling – he is surely one of the finest living composers today. *Classic Review* 12/2021

The combination of cor anglais and horn is most delightful, with a hint of modality, at times quasi-improvisational, and highly virtuosic for the cor anglais in particular... The Triple Concerto is a brilliantly inspired and superbly crafted work...one of the best contemporary concertos. *Klassik Heute* 2–2022

Kalevi Aho: Double Concerto for Cor Anglais and Harp, Triple Concerto for Violin, Cello and Piano

CD: Antwerp SO/Olari Elts, sol. Dimitri Mestdag (cor anglais), Anneleen Lenaerts, (harp), Storioni Trio (BIS 2426)



Matthew Whittall

Photo: Maarit Myrberg

Martinaitytė's mesmerizing sound world

Mesmerizing might be the best way to describe these three recently composed sonic landscapes for string orchestra...the music's slow, subtle, detailed unfolding and frequent luminescence are unique. *Stereophile*, Sept 2022

This is music that gets one in the gut as much as in the head...The performance and recording are everything a composer could dream of: committed, imaginative and with a palpable sense of excitement which I found infectious. *Musicweb-international*, June 2022

Žibuoklė Martinaitytė: Ex tenebris lux, Nunc fluens. Nunc stans, Sielunmaisema

CD: Lithuanian CO/Karolis Variakojis (Ondine 1403-2)

Shimmering music by Whittall

The work shimmers and shines meditatively... Against this background Whittall picks out motifs from Sibelius's choral song in different "lights". *Helsingin Sanomat* 15.10.

Whittall cleverly integrates the little Sibelius Christmas carol with a magically shimmering, shivering world of sound in which the large orchestra gives the calm, at times gently hazy horizons their ultimate fullness and substance. *Hufvudstadsbladet* 15.10.

Matthew Whittall: Silence Speaks (Hiljaisuus puhuu)

World premiere: Helsinki PO/Susanna Mälkki, 14.10.2022



Žibuoklė Martinaitytė

Photo: D. Manzejev



Camilla Tilling

Photo: Anne Hjertberg

Powerful and emotional Chaplin Songs

Nelson fears neither modern rhythms nor romanticism with broad strokes of the brush... soprano Camilla Tilling's solo voice emerges like a shimmering golden thread in the vocal texture. The orchestral section that follows is dramatic, with tolling bell sounds. Later it becomes both mechanical and contemplative, and yet it eventually just comes to an end in something hopeful and bright... Nelson's work is, to be sure, like Chaplin's speech, a paean to the democratic values... The Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Choir turn this speech into music that is both powerful and emotional, with an interplay of intricate rhythms. *Dagens Nyheter* 23.10.

With his experience from opera Nelson has got an eye for effective musical dramaturgy. The alternation between ethereal delicacy and rhythmical force points to this; as do also the recurrent material and the gestures that create an assured large-scale form. *Svenska Dagbladet* 23.10.

Daniel Nelson: Chaplin Songs

World premiere: Swedish Radio SO & Choir/Andrew Manze, soloist Camilla Tilling, soprano, 21.10.2022 Stockholm, Sweden