



### CECILIA DAMSTRÖM

**Dumma Kungen (The Silly King) (2016–17)** Dur: 65'

Libretto: Monica Vikström-Jokela (Swe)

Children's opera for boy soprano, coloratura soprano, 2S, Mz, T, B, children's choir & chamber orchestra: 1010-0100-01-pf-acc-str (min 11011)

The Silly King is a fairy tale opera about xenophobia, power abuse, and about daring to embrace what is new and foreign. The self-centered King of My Land passes whatever laws he chooses, one more stupid than the other. When a large number of foreigners from Flatland arrives with the newly built railway, the King tries every trick to stop them. He is annoyed as he can't control the Flatlanders that speak and sing in a language he does not understand. The Silly King was awarded the Aino Prize 2018 (The Children's Opera of the Year).



### KIMMO HAKOLA

**Mara and Katti (2011)** Dur: 55'

Libretto: Johanna Jokipaltio (Fin)

Children's opera for 4 soloists, descant choir and ensemble: cl, hp, pf, acc, via Hakola's opera provides plenty of food for the imagination. The action-packed story is about Mara, who meets a singing cat called Katti. During their journey, they encounter the rat king, languish in prison and escape on a scooter. Hakola's virtuosic music switches from one genre to another and creates a musical adventure in which entertainment, humour and sophistication go hand in hand.



### ARMAS JÄRNEFELT

**Miranda (1901)** Dur: 15'

for narrator and orchestra: 2121-2210-03/(4)-str

Text: Jalmar Finne (Fin) after Z. Topelius

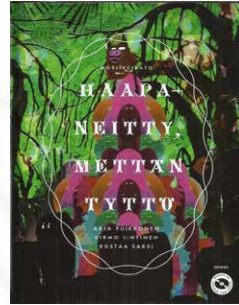
This musical fairytale or "melodrama" was discovered hidden in the archives of the Finnish National Library and recently published for the first time. Järnefelt's music enlivens Topelius's epic about a princess and her suitors. The seven movements, each of a different nature, reflect the events and the characters' psychology. The music has panache, force, a lilting waltz-like quality and a touch of oriental mystery.

### KIRMO LINTINEN

**Haapaneitty, Mettäntyttö / Skogens dotter, aspens ande (2007)** Dur: 30'

A musical tale for narrator and ensemble: fl, ob, string quintet  
Text: Arja Puikkonen (Fin), transl. Paula Roselius (Swe)

Lintinen's stirring idiom joins an exciting story by Puikkonen in a breath-taking adventure in a forest of myths and legends where the leading character meets goblins and gnomes. The music alternates with narration, but sometimes the two overlap, thus raising the intensity. The characters are transported along on delightful themes, dances and short motifs.



### KARIN REHNOVIST

**Sötskolan/Beauty School/Die Schönheitsfalle (1999)** Dur: 60'

Libretto: Kerstin Perski (Swe/Ger/Eng/Nor)

A horror opera for children from 10 years

2S, 1 Mz, 1 Bar & ensemble: fl, cl, tbn, hp, vln, vla, vlc.

The Beauty School is about the constant demands on children to please the adult world with their behaviour and looks. Bella refuses to be her mother's sweet little girl. She ends up in a nightmarish fantasy world where the countess Mammalia is going to teach her how to be sweet and nice. However, she soon finds out that all the sweet and nice girls are sooner or later offered up to the Vampire! Rehnqvist builds up a musical thriller atmosphere that is challenging with its blend of harsh and shrill dissonances, lovely melodious sections and humour.



### ROOPE MÄENPÄÄ

**Hyönteissinfonia/Insect Symphony (2021)** Dur: 30'

for two narrators (adult, child) and orchestra: 2221-2201-02-str

Text: Roope Mäenpää (Fin/Swe/Eng)

A delightful and ambitious orchestral work with an important ecological message. The narration, in the form of a dialogue, sets out to explore nature and the miraculous world of little organisms. The music is melodic, as befits a piece for the whole family, and in many places calls to mind the speed and colour of film music. Lovely illustrations by Emmi Nieminen add to the experience.

**Hipinäaasi apinahiisi (2019–20)** Dur: 30'

A musical fairytale

for narrator and orchestra: 2221-2201-02-str

Text: Ville Hytönen (Fin)

The fresh, gently anarchistic musical fairytale based on a popular children's book by Hytönen is about two lonely animals that become friends. It is also a fascinating journey of discovery in the sound world of an orchestra, introducing the stylistic devices of contemporary music in between more traditional ones.

### CHRISTOFFER NOBIN

**Hion om natten (Hion at Night) (2014)** Dur: 65'

Libretto: Henrik Ståhl (Swe)

Children's opera for S, Mz, T, actor, choir, orchestra: 3333-4331-11-str.

This is a sad, beautiful, warm, and compelling tale about the little village Hion, where the ruler Michael has decreed that no one should stay awake at night. But the girl Signa is not like the others. One night she is still up when everyone else is lying in their beds. She opens the door and peeks out, and suddenly, everything is changed. Nobin has let the music develop out of the story. It is full of drama, and there are melodies here that linger in one's memory long after the end of the performance.



### SATU SIMOLA

**The Mouse/Hiiri (2012)** Dur: 25'

for narrator and orchestra: 2222-2210-11-pf-str or 2fl-pf-str or ensemble

Text: Satu Simola (Fin/Swe/Eng/Chinese)

This musical adventure is a perfect family concert. It tells of a timid mouse that lives in a machine it has built to protect it from the world. One day, a bird lands on the machine and the mouse has to choose between loneliness and friendship. The charming music is supported by narration and pictures. Available in a choice of languages.



### BENJAMIN STAERN

**Snödrottningen/The Snow Queen/Die Schneekönigin (2016)**

Dur: 70'

Libretto: Anelia Kadieva Jonsson after H.C. Andersen (Swe/Ger/Eng)

Family opera for 11 soloists, children's chorus and orchestra: 2222-2220-02-hp-pf-str

The Snow Queen is based on H.C. Andersen's well-known fairy tale about Gerda, who ventures out to save her friend Kai after he has been abducted by the Snow Queen. The evil and the goodness are easily recognizable in the music, depicted with sharp dissonances and noise, or in major/minor harmonies. The music is congenial with the tale, it is full of flashes of wit and swarming with musical references. It is an opera replete with excitement, humour and a heart-warming message, friendship's victory over evil. The libretto is now also available in German and English.