



Lotta Wennäkoski

Busy year for Lotta Wennäkoski

Lotta Wennäkoski's busy year continues. The BBC Symphony Orchestra and violinist **Ilya Gringolts** will premiere her violin concerto *Prosoidia* at the Barbican on 3 November with **Eva Ollikainen** conducting. The Lahti and the Norrlandsoperan Symphony Orchestras are the other commissioners.

A new work for clarinet and orchestra, *Ele*, will receive its world premiere in Finland on 29 September with clarinetist **Lauri Sallinen** and the Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra (co-commissioned by Musica Vitae).

Lotta is also Composer-in-Residence at the Oremansgaard chamber music festival in Denmark on 26–29 July. And last but not least: her exciting *Jong* for juggler and orchestra is to be performed on 4. August at the Classical Tahoe Festival, USA by **Frank Olivier**, juggler and the Classical Tahoe Orchestra conducted by **Ruth Reinhardt**.

Benjamin Staern & Side by Side

The premiere of **Benjamin Staern's** *A Streak of Sea* (*En strimma hav*) for choir and orchestra will be one of the highlights when the international music camp Side by Side by El Sistema Sweden celebrates its 10-year jubilee in Gothenburg. Over 2000 young musicians and singers from the four corners of the earth, side by side with the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and Vocal Ensemble will participate in the festival concerts at Scandinavium on 20 June.

NORDIC HIGHLIGHTS 2/2023
NEWSLETTER FROM GEHRMANS MUSIKFÖRLAG & FENNICA GEHRMAN

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Recent works by Tiina Myllärinen

Tiina Myllärinen's exciting, large inter-art work *Pinnan alla* (*Bubbling Under*) to a text by **Henriikka Tavi** will have three performances at Our Festival in Finland on 22–25 July. Scored for four singers and five instrumentalists, this work is an acoustic maze in which people walk through different constructions during the performance.

Myllärinen's string quartet (*Bad*) *Dreams Come True* commissioned by the Uusinta Ensemble and the Sea Lapland String Quartet has been performed three times by Uusinta. After the world premiere in 2022 it was also heard at the Musica Nova festival in Helsinki and the Oberstdorf International Festival Forum of contemporary music in Germany during this spring.



Tiina Myllärinen

Jonas Valfridsson
and the Jönköping Sinfonietta

Valfridsson residency

Jonas Valfridsson will be composer-in-residence with the Jönköping Sinfonietta for the 2023/24 season. This includes the commission of the song cycle *Ärit*, for tenor **Rickard Söderberg**. Audiences will also get to hear two works inspired by the artist **John Bauer's** fairy-tale paintings: the *John Bauer Overture* and the monumental *John Bauer Suite 1918* for choir and orchestra, as well as other works by Valfridsson.

On the occasion of author **Stig Dagerman's** centenary celebration this year, Jonas Valfridsson has written an extended work for reciter and orchestra on commission from the Gävle Symphony Orchestra. The work, entitled *Varför älska vi att sjunka* (*Why do we love to sink?*), is scheduled to be premiered on 5 October under the direction of **Tobias Ringborg**.

Damström profile composer in Korsholm

Cecilia Damström is this year's profile composer at the Korsholm Music Festival in Finland. During the festival, audiences can listen to her *Epitaph* for piano, *Groove* for flute and accordion, *Aveo* for cello, the string quartet *Letters*, the string trio *Nisus* and the string orchestra piece, *Fretus*. In addition, there will be a performance of Damström's children's opera *Vickan & Väinö*.



Cecilia Damström



VoNo Vocal Ensemble

Söderqvist's Crossroads on film

Ann-Sofi Söderqvist's *Crossroads* for six-part choir a cappella has been filmed in an innovative interpretation by the vocal ensemble VoNo. "At the crossroads our choice is clear – who are you?", asks author **Malin Hülphers**. Söderqvist's work is a tribute to the human. It

creates a sonorous and rhythmic fabric culminating in a tender, unison "We are mankind". *Crossroads* was commissioned by **Lone Larsen** and VoNo for their performance "I am Like Many".

News from Fennica Gehrman

Fennica Gehrman is moving to new premises in the centre of Helsinki in June–July 2023. The move will cause some delays in deliveries as the office may be temporarily closed.

Jari Eskola is to take up the position of Director of the Kuopio Music Centre as of 1 August 2023, having been Publishing Manager at Fennica Gehrman since 2018. A specialist in music for winds, he has, among other things, been developing Fennica's digital distribution. Fennica Gehrman is seeking a new Publishing Manager for its managerial team.

Schnelzer's Aksak and Ciphers

Albert Schnelzer has composed a new work, *Aksak and Ciphers*, on commission from O/Modernt, RUSK Festival, Uppsala Chamber Soloists and Dalasinfoniettan. The work is based on musical ciphers from **Johannes Brahms**, **Clara Schumann** and members of Schnelzer's own family, and is also inspired by folk music from the Balkans. It exists in three different versions (string sextet, string orchestra and chamber orchestra). The premiere will take place on 15 June with O/Modernt Chamber Orchestra under the direction of **Hugo Ticciati**. More performances are coming up in season 23/24.

Larsson Gothe commissions

Mats Larsson Gothe has just finished work on his *Symphony No. 4*, composed for the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, planned to be premiered in the 2024/25 season. Next on the agenda is a *Cello Concerto* for **Torleif Thedéen** and the Stockholm Royal Philharmonic.

On 29 August, during the Baltic Sea Festival in Stockholm, his choral piece *The Pigeons* will receive its first performance by the Swedish Radio Choir under **Kaspars Putnins**. In August we can look forward to the release of Larsson Gothe's string orchestra piece *Lied von der Erde* with the Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra and leader **Malin Broman** on the label Alba.



Antti Auvinen news

Antti Auvinen's new *Flute Concerto* is to premiere at the Summer Sounds festival in Porvoo of the Avanti! Chamber Orchestra on 30 June, with **Bjørnar Habbestad** as the soloist. Auvinen's previous concerto *Andalusian Panzerwagen Jazz* for guitar and orchestra now exists in three versions. The most recent was tailored for the Finnish Baroque Orchestra, which will be taking it on its European tour in summer 2023. **Petri Kumela** will be the soloist, playing a period guitar. A disc of the guitar concerto is scheduled for release in the autumn.

Anssi Karttunen will be the soloist in Auvinen's new work for cello and video to receive its first performance at the EstOvest Festival (Contemporary Cello Week) in Turin in October.

Antti Auvinen



Lara Poe

Lara Poe's song cycle

American Finn **Lara Poe** has composed a new song cycle co-commissioned by the Lahti and Oulu Symphony Orchestras. The work for mezzo-soprano and orchestra is based on poems by **L. Onerva** and the soloist is **Virpi Räisänen**. The world premiere is scheduled for 12 October 2023 in Lahti and the following week it will be heard in Oulu. Lara Poe is a young, cosmopolitan composer whose music has been receiving growing interest in recent years.