

Gehrmans 130th anniversary

Gehrmans Musikförlag celebrates its 130th anniversary by paying tribute to the future generations of composers, performers and music lovers – the children! The anniversary concert on 22 October will be held in collaboration with the Grammy awarded children's music group Ensemble Yria whose books can be found in our webshop at gehrmans.se. Also watch their YouTube Channel! 📺



Ensemble Yria

Staern's portrait album

The Gävle Symphony Orchestra has recorded a portrait album containing **Benjamin Staern's** breakthrough work *The Threat of War*, the prize-winning clarinet concerto *Worried Souls* and his first symphony, *Polar Vortex*. **Karin Dornbusch** is the clarinet soloist, and the orchestra is conducted by **Emil Eliasson**. The album will be released in the spring of 2024 on Swedish Society Discofil.

Children's Lied

A composition competition running until the end of 2023 will be producing new children's Lied repertoire by contemporary composers. The competition will culminate in a national event and concert in Helsinki in November 2024, and Fennica Gehrman will be offering publishing agreements for the works in the finals. Fennica Gehrman has already published two popular collections of Children's Lied (Lasten Lied) by **Saara-Maija Strandman** and **Marjukka Eskelinen**.

Two Helvi Leiviskä discs 🎧

Two new CDs are proof of the growing rekindling of interest in the music of Finnish composer **Helvi Leiviskä** (1902–1982). A brand new release by the Weimar Staatskapelle includes her *Symphony No. 1* and her *Piano Concerto Op. 7* 🎧. The soloist in the concerto is **Oliver Triendl** and the orchestra is conducted by **Ari Rasilainen**. BIS Records is to release a CD of Leiviskä's orchestral music in December: *Suite for Orchestra No. 2*, *Symphony No. 2* and *Sinfonia Brevis* performed by the Lahti Symphony Orchestra conducted by **Dalia Stasevska**.

Jennah Vainio premiere

Jennah Vainio's orchestral *Sylvia's Lullaby* is to be premiered in a concert given by the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra on 20 October. The piece was inspired by the *Pauper's Lullaby* (1907) by **Robert Kajanus**, the subject of which was one to which Vainio could relate because of her orphaned grandmother. *Sylvia's Lullaby* is part of the *Helsinki Variations* series for which works were commissioned from 12 Finnish composers, among them **Matthew Whittall** (*Silence Speaks*), **Lotta Wennäkoski** (*Of Footprints and Light*), **Seppo Pohjola** (*Roots*), **Antti Auvinen** (*Stabat Tiger Mater*) and **Kimmo Hakola** (*Wake!*).



Jacob Mühlrad

Mühlrad on tour

Jacob Mühlrad's new shorter version of the orchestral work *REMS* had its premiere on 24 August with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra and conductor **Mathias Pintscher** during the Suntory Hall Summer Festival. The Swedish Chamber Orchestra under the baton of **Martin Fröst** will include *REMS* on their European tour in October. The tour will be rounded off with a portrait concert on 28 October in Stockholm also including the choral works *Ay Li Lu*, *Kaddish* and *Time* performed by Vokalharmonin and **Fredrik Malmberg**. For the concert **Alexander Wessely** has created sculptures and light projections reflecting Mühlrad's music.

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NEWSLETTER FROM GEHRMANS MUSIKFÖRLAG & FENNICA GEHRMAN

Editors: Henna Salmela, Kristina Fryklöf

Translations: Jaakko Mäntyjärvi, Susan Sinisalo, Robert Carroll

Cover photos: Géza Szilvay (Minifiddlers.org), Jonas Valfridsson (Lars Kroon), Ensemble Yria

Design: Tenhelp Oy

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Jennah Vainio



Iiro Rantala's Veneziana

Iiro Rantala's *Veneziana* is a real showstopper: it is a new 50-minute work with drama, wit, melodic richness and fun which charms the audience by presenting surprises round every musical corner. Iiro pays tribute to the city of Venice and composers such as Monteverdi, Vivaldi, Mozart, Prokofiev and Sibelius, connecting them to the story of the city with an irresistible imagination and twist (See: Reviews). Scored for wind and string quintets and piano, *Veneziana* was premiered in February 2023 by members of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and has since had several hearings. It was recorded by ACT and the score has been published by Fennica Gehrman.

New commissions for Kortekangas and Martinaitytė

The Lappeenranta and Mikkeli orchestras are together commissioning a *Guitar Concerto* from **Olli Kortekangas** to be performed in the autumn 2024 season. The soloist will be **Janne Malinen** and the combined orchestra (Saimaa Sinfonietta) will be conducted by **Erkki Lasonpalo**.



Žibuokle Martinaitytė is writing a new work for violin and string orchestra for performance by the three commissioning orchestras from different countries. The head commissioner is the Lithuanian National Philharmonic and the others are O/Modern from Sweden and the Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra from Finland. The solo violinist at the premiere in Kokkola, Finland on 8 March 2024 will be **Hugo Ticiati**, who initiated this project.

Martinaitytė was recently interviewed for SoundLives at NewMusicBox, USA. Listen here to the podcast by **Frank J. Oteri**.



Damström's Extinctions

Cecilia Damström has composed a new 20-minute work on commission from the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra. The theme of the work is mass extinction, the one we are confronted with today, and the five previous ones. "The piece explores the creation of life on earth, its evolutions and extinctions through different sound worlds", says Damström. *Extinctions* will have its world premiere in Helsinki on 26 January under the direction of **Chloé Dufresne**.

Myllärinen, Peterson and Larsson Gothe awarded

Tiina Myllärinen was awarded at the Finnish Music Publishers Association's anniversary gala on 1. September in Helsinki. Myllärinen received a prize for her work *(Bad) Dreams come true* for string quartet in the small-scale work category.



On 1 July **Matthew Peterson** received the Carin Mamlöf Forssling Composer Prize for his rich and original artistry. "Peterson is an artist who is inspired by what is close to him and arrives at a music that affords scope to both performer and listener, a music that seems to continue sounding even in silence", says the jury.



Mats Larsson Gothe was awarded the Royal Swedish Opera Chorus's Prize for his opera *The Promise (Löftet)*. Larsson Gothe has in an exceptional and artistic manner raised the opera chorus to new heights and let it shine in everything from the most delicate a cappella sections to more dramatic traditional choral passages.



Newly discovered work by Ingvar Lidholm

The Eric Ericson Chamber Choir will premiere a newly discovered choral work by **Ingvar Lidholm** on 18 October. It is *Five Haiku Poems* by **Tomas Tranströmer** that Lidholm set to music in September 1999. The songs will be published by Gehrman in connection with the first performance. The concert will also feature **Kristin Warfvinge's** *Une charogne (A Carcass)*, the sixth choral piece in the series #swedishchoralmusic 22/23. This setting of Baudelaire's poem, for mezzo-soprano and mixed choir, is a musical attempt to capture the essence of the text's depiction of a rotting carcass – at the same time gruesome and beautiful.