



Photo: Merja Ollikainen

Laura Mikkola

Mesmerizing *Martinaitytè* piece – pure sonic magic

The evening's absorbing centerpiece, *Chiaroscuro Trilogy* was heard in its captivating Finnish premiere. ...*Martinaitytè's* scoring fuses stillness and movement together into almost tangible scenery of celestial events, as expressed by the slowly rotating musical setting. Captivatingly performed, the central movement is pure sonic magic... Hopefully there are many more performances of the *Martinaitytè* oeuvre ahead soon. jarijuhanikallio@wordpress.com 17.6.

Žibuokle *Martinaitytè*: Chiaroscuro Trilogy for piano and string orchestra
Finnish premiere: St. Michel Strings/Okko Kamu, sol. Laura Mikkola, pf, 15.6.2023 Iitti, Finland (Iitti Music Festival)

Cecilia Damström's colourful and witty work

The texture of the music is colourful and witty avant-garde... *Science Frictions* radically renews the cantata genre, but at the same time stays within its limits. With her work, Damström has claimed her place as one of our leading young modernists. The piece is a refreshing experience and makes you want to hear it again. *Amfion* 22.3.

Damström's musical language and Rinne's text material, which includes nine different languages, emphasise playfulness and inventiveness, language games and paradoxes, and a balanced dialogue between the soloist and the choir... *Science Frictions'* rich soundscape and the varied characters of the sections contain, in miniature, all the wonder and anguish of science – from the pressure and thumping of arguing with logics to the mysterious harmony of the spheres of the second and sixth movements, peering beyond empiricism. *Helsingin Sanomat* 26.5.

Cecilia Damström: *Science Frictions*

World premiere: Academic Choral Society, Helsinki University SO/ Aku Sorensen, sol. David Hackston, counter ten, 20.3. and 26.5.2023, Helsinki, Finland



Rickard Söderberg

Photo: Esa Sjöström

Something artistically genuinely different

Occasionally, one comes across with something artistically genuinely different. This was precisely the case with *Pinnan alla* (*Bubbling Under*). ...It steps out of traditional categories, combining elements of opera, concert setting, spatial and conceptual art, yielding to thought-provoking multimodal journey...The subject matter of *Bubbling Under* is the Saimaa ringed seal, a highly endangered freshwater species...An absorbing journey, juxtaposing folk-tales and seal hunting accounts with contemporary environmental takes on the matter. Presented in the manner of extended meditation, *Bubbling Under* does not teach nor preach, and this is exactly why the piece is so profoundly compelling. jarijuhanikallio@wordpress.com 25.7.

Tiina Myllärinen: *Pinnan alla* (*Bubbling Under*) for 4 singers and ensemble

World premiere: Meri Metsomäki, Eleriin Müüripeal, sopr, Martti Anttila, ten, Jussi Linnanmäki, bass & ensemble
22.7.2023 Kerava, Finland (Our Festival/Meidän festivaali)



Kai Nieminen

Enchanting guitar CD

The disc features some of Nieminen's most recent works... Music constructed like this is a pleasure to listen to; it shows respect for the listener but is strongly present... Nieminen has released an album of the most spell-binding music that encompasses itself in a magic circle. *Yle.fi* 3.6.

Works for guitar

CD: Kai Nieminen, gtr (Pifink JJVCD-257 "Tales from the Past – Night and Dreams")

Shimmering and beautiful *Árit*

The first part of Jonas Valfridsson's "*Árit*" is shimmering and beautiful. The text and the music are fused in a wondrous way, the orchestra delivers and Söderberg sings with forceful intensity. Awesome! *Jönköpingsposten* 27.8.

Jonas Valfridsson: *Árit*, part one

World premiere: Jönköping Sinfonietta/Daniela Musca, sol. Rickard Söderberg, ten, 27.8.2023 Jönköping, Sweden



Photo: Eila Nekton

Daniel Nelson

The Ghost Machine Treatise – effective and addictive

It is quite effective, and in a very positive way. You are confronted with sounds that you never expected to hear like this. It is utterly crazy and addictive, you just want to hear more. *Kultura-Extra* 6.8.

While the orchestra creates the fitting ghostlike atmosphere, the Lithuanian soloist Martynas Levickis glides into various roles with his accordion. He dances in the foreground, spices *tuttis* with his interjections, communicates with the percussion or throws himself into a cadenza with frenetically fast runs. *Der Tagespiegel* 6.8.

Daniel Nelson: *The Ghost Machine Treatise* for solo accordion and orchestra

World premiere: Bundesjugendorchester/Clemens Schuldt, sol. Martynas Levickis, acc, 23.7.2023, Toblach, Italy



Photo: Maarit Kyöbarja

Lotta Wennäkoski

Wennäkoski CD receives praise

Flounce is a short, energetic and rhythmic orchestral piece written for the Last Night of the Proms. ... The harp is often associated with arpeggios and airy sounds, but in her harp concerto Sigla Wennäkoski brings out other qualities and, especially in the middle section, creates a dreamy nocturnal mood in which the music cautiously proceeds. ... But at the risk of being tedious, one cannot help noting yet again that Finland's status as a major musical power is as strong as ever. *Kulturdelen.com* 27.7.

Lotta Wennäkoski: Harp Concerto "Sigla", Flounce, Sedecim

CD: Finnish RSO/Nicholas Collon, sol. Sivan Magen (Ondine ODE-1420-2)

Luminous first performance

Performed with sensitive finesse, Flickereth was given a luminous first performance, one of inspired musicality and admirable fluency. Given its marvellous combination of elusiveness and instant allure, the score calls forth further outings, which, hopefully, have already been firmly etched on its trajectory.

jarjuhanikallio.wordpress.com 23.7.

Lotta Wennäkoski: Flickereth for string quartet
World premiere: Kamus Quartet, 23.7.2023 Järvenpää, Finland (Our Festival/Meidän festivaali)

iiro rantala VENEZIANA

Mitglieder
Berliner
Philharmoniker



ACT

Photo: Kaupo Kikkas



Hugo Ticcianti

Iiro Rantala's Venezia – pure pleasure

Resolutely inspired, joyful, complex, fleeting, and visionary... Rantala proves once again that he is one of the greatest European artists. It remains to be hoped that this album can be heard and accepted here in the USA because Iiro Rantala is one of those exceptional artists capable of bringing renewal and a source of inspiration to future generations. ... In the form of a kaleidoscope, we visit the composer's imagination, the poetic charm of the compositions charged with drawing emotions and memories. *Paris-move.com* 9.4.

Iiro Rantala: Venezia for chamber ensemble and piano

CD: Members of the Berlin Philharmonic, Iiro Rantala, pf (ACT 9971-2)

Irresistible drive in Albert Schnelzer's piece

It's a work by Albert Schnelzer, with Brahms and the names of his own family members interpolated into the composition. Music not at all as cryptic as its title, "Aksak and Ciphers", where "aksak" denotes halting rhythms. Catchy rhythms for a full-bodied string orchestra with slapping bass, stamping of feet and an irresistible drive, under the leadership of Hugo Ticcianti. *Dagens Nyheter* 16.6.

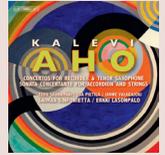
Albert Schnelzer: Aksak and Ciphers

World premiere: O/Modernt Chamber Orchestra/Hugo Ticcianti, 15.6.2023 Stockholm, Sweden (Festival O/Modernt)

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Concerto for Recorder and Orchestra, Concerto for Tenor Saxophone and Orchestra, Sonata Concertante for Accordion and Strings

Saimaa Sinfonietta/Erkki Lasonpalo, sol. Eero Saunamäki, rec, Esa Pietilä, sax, Janne Valkeajoki, acc
BIS-2646



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Little Quartet for Four Horns op. 185

KAI NIEMINEN
From Hidden Cities... Dreams of Gaudi

MATTHEW WHITTALL
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JUHANI NUORVALA
Summer!
The Golden Horns
Pifink JIVCD-25 ("Witches in the Air")

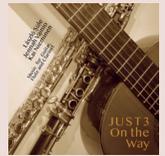


KAI NIEMINEN
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Kai Nieminen, guitar
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IIRO RANTALA
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SVEN-DAVID SANDSTRÖM
O salutaris hostia, Tantum ergo
Ora Singers/Suzi Digby
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