



Wennäkoski at the BBC premiere in London.

Photo: BBC/Mark Allan

Wennäkoski – a composer of exceptional talent

Prosoidia seemed tailor-made for Gringolts' mastery of the expressive qualities of his instrument, from the otherworldliness of harmonics to the rustic colours of folk song and the dark echo of Baroque refinement... The work shows Wennäkoski to be a composer of exceptional talent and it is dedicated to the memory of one of the people who nurtured that talent, Kaija Saariaho. *Bachtrack.com* 5.11.

Lotta Wennäkoski: Violin concerto "Prosoidia"

World premiere: BBC SO/Roderick Cox, sol. Ilya Gringolts, 3.11.2023 London, UK

More music like this!

The work had an ongoing choreography in which the soloist's gestures and facial expressions were closely marked in the score... A gripping story without words. The orchestra also contributed to the visual aspect. More like this! *Keskipohjanmaa* 2.10.

Lotta Wennäkoski: Ele for clarinet and orchestra

World premiere: Ostrobothnian CO/Dima Slobodeniouk, sol. Lauri Sallinen, 19.9.2023 Kokkola, Finland

A super piece

The music has something of the character of a symphonic poem, suggestive of a dreamscape. A mysterious atmospheric opening evoked a surreal woodland scene at dusk... It's a super piece and received a compelling reading from Söndergård and the orchestra on top form. *Edinburgh Music Review* 8.11.

Lotta Wennäkoski: Of Footprints and Light (Helsinki Variations)

Royal Scottish NO/Thomas Söndergård, 4.11.2023 Glasgow, UK



Diabolical Kratt

This suite from the ballet on the Nordic-Baltic myth of the devilish goblin springs into diabolical life with angular treatment of urgent melodies, all mined from Estonian folk sources... The last movement's procession of very distinctive moods, including the trenchant 'Dance of the Exorcists', is really something. *Gramophone* 10/2023

Eduard Tubin: Music for Strings, Suite from the ballet Kratt

CD: Estonian Festival Orchestra/Paavo Järvi (Alpha 1006 'Kratt')

A veritable bull's-eye

Irresistible positive energy... Vainio has tensed the overall span in a way that really works dramaturgically, the orchestration is effective – the percussions are particularly imaginative. The music has a palpably evocative underlying mood spiced in places with oriental hues... Sylvia's Lullaby is without question one of Vainio's most powerful works to date. *Hufvudstadsbladet* 21.10.

Jennah Vainio: Sylvia's Lullaby

World premiere: Helsinki PO/Ruth Reinhardt, 20.10.2023 Helsinki, Finland

Börtz is better than Mozart

Börtz lets his music support the text that is conveyed by both reciters and singers. The percussionists, especially, get their scope in the sinfonia in an effective way... Daniel Carlsson's high male voice in itself gives the music an almost mystical and strained quality... Tonight Börtz is better than Mozart. *Norrköpings Tidningar* 6.10.

Daniel Börtz: Sinfonia 13

Norrköping SO/Patrik Ringborg, sol. Daniel Carlsson, Johanna Rudstöm, Karl-Magnus Fredriksson etc, 5.10.2023 Norrköping, Sweden

Music for troubled times

It is no doubt possible in the first movement to speak of a kind of lyrical – or in any case singable – pessimism, where the music occasionally meanders along in the most languid lento. But both tempo and drama are intensified in this half-hour-long sinfonia. We could summarize by saying that it is troubled music for troubled times... Somehow the music channels sorrow over a world that refuses to be beautiful. *Dagens Nyheter* 23.11.

Daniel Börtz: Sinfonia 15

World premiere: Royal Stockholm PO/Ryan Bancroft, 22.11.2023 Stockholm, Sweden



Inspiring disc

Proceeding from its waltzing beginning, this robust symphony rich in character grows increasingly dramatic in the finale. A welcome come-back in a model performance. *Helsingin Sanomat* 19.11.

Helvi Leiviskä: Symphony No. 1, Piano Concerto

Staatskapelle Weimar/Ari Rasilainen, sol. Oliver Triendl (Hänssler HC23050)

REVIEWS



Jonas Valfridsson, Mattias Knave, Tobias Ringborg and the Gävle Symphony.

Overwhelming and shattering

It was, simply, overwhelming... Valfridsson's music brings out the text, gives it depth and intensity... a work and a performance that not only impressed but also deeply moved us. And Mattias Knave, what presence on the stage! The audience was totally captivated from the very first moment, and he had a voice that carried the text and gave it life and urgency.

Arbetsbladet 6.10.

The monologue is powerful, like in a drama of Shakespeare... the music beautiful, harmonious and creates an atmosphere. *Gävle Dagblad* 6.10.

Jonas Valfridsson: Varför älska vi att sjunka (Why Do We Love to Sink?)

World premiere: Gävle SO/Tobias Ringborg, sol. Mattias Knave, actor, 5.10.2023 Gävle, Sweden



Jacob Mühlrad

Mühlrad's spiritualized concept concert

The religious rite feels close at hand... The thought strikes me that Jacob Mühlrad wants to show that music makes it possible to endure the truth, however unbearable it may be. Music, or art, makes the truth beautiful, and necessary. *Dagens Nyheter* 29.10.

Jacob Mühlrad: REMS, Nigun, Kaddish, Ay Li Lu etc
Swedish CO/Martin Fröst, Vokalharmonin/Fredrik Malmberg, Alexander Wessely, visual arts, Joel Lyssarides, pf, etc, 28.10.2023 Stockholm, Sweden

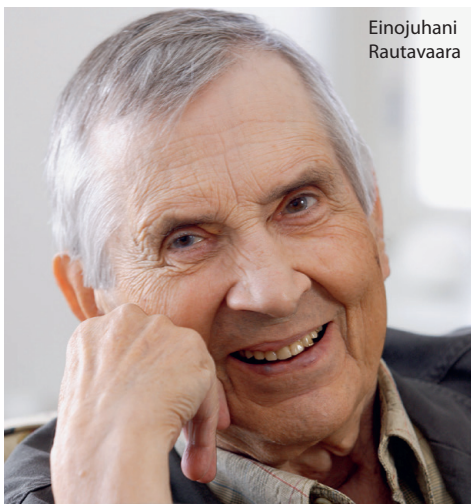
Mellifluous and charming

This third is mellifluous and charming.... By this time Rautavaara had settled into a neo-Romantic idiom which is both attractive in itself and also occasionally harks back to earlier composers. The first of the three movements opens meditatively with the piano entering with a gentle chordal theme – one thinks of Beethoven's fourth piano concerto.

Musicweb International 9/2023

Einojuhani Rautavaara: Piano Concerto No. 3 'Gift of Dreams'

CD: Lahti SO/Dalia Stasevska, sol. Olli Mustonen, piano (BIS-2532)



Einojuhani Rautavaara

PREMIERES

January – March 2024

KIRMO LINTINEN

La permanenza della memoria

Jyväskylä Sinfonia, Meta 4 Quartet

18.1. Jyväskylä, Finland

ROBERT SCHUMANN/ORCH: ROLF MARTINSSON

Kinderszenen for orchestra

Västerås Sinfonietta/Simon Crawford Phillips

18.1. Västerås, Sweden

KALEVI AHO

Sumussa for string quartet

Tempera Quartet

21.1. Kaustinen Chamber Music Week, Finland

Symphony No. 18

Mikkeli & Lappeenranta City Orchestras/Erkki Lasonpalo

18.2. Mikkeli, 9.2. Lappeenranta, Finland

ESA PIETILÄ

Kairos Ludus (Concerto for violin and tenor saxophone)

Jyväskylä Sinfonia/Maria Itkonen, sol. Pekka Kuusisto, vl, Esa Pietilä, sax

24.1. Jyväskylä, Finland

CECILIA DAMSTRÖM

Extinctions

Finnish Radio SO/Chloé Dufresne

26.1. Helsinki, Finland

Permafrost

Ostrobothnian CO/Jan Söderblom, sol. Sonja Vertainen, acc

16.2. Kakkola, Finland (Kakkola Winter Accordion Festival)

MATS LARSSON GOTHE

Submarea

Gothenburg SO/Christian Karlén

21.2. Gothenburg, Sweden (Nordic – A Fragile Hope)

ŽIBUOKLĖ MARTINAITYTĖ

Work for Violin and Strings

Ostrobothnian CO, sol. Hugo Ticiati

8.3. Kakkola, Finland



Seppo Pohjola

Wonderfully varied works

Each quartet has its own character, but they make a remarkably coherent whole. ...These wonderfully varied works confirm that Seppo Pohjola's contrapuntal, strongly expressive music is perfectly suited to the string quartet medium. I also think it is quite clear that the medium means much to him, and that more is likely to come. *MusicWeb International* 12.11.

Seppo Pohjola: String Quartets 5-7

CD: New Helsinki Quartet (Alba ABCD 470)