



Photo: Markus Gäder



Thomas Jennefelt

Thomas Jennefelt turns 70

Turning 70 on 24 April, **Thomas Jennefelt** has since 1977 garnered international recognition as a leading choral composer, marked by pieces like the agitating *Warning to the Rich*. Notable works also include the expressive *Dichterliebe*, the meditative a cappella suite *Villarosa Sequences*  and *Dann entstrahlt...*, which expresses hope for peace. Jennefelt's music is distinguished by its pathos, creativity, and exploration of the expressive potential of the human voice. Among his recent works is the captivating *Sieben Liebeslieder*  for soprano and piano, to texts by **Else Lasker Schöler**, released on CD in 2022 (Etcetera KTC 1765).

Focus on Nordgren


This year marks the 80th anniversary of the birth of **Pehr Henrik Nordgren**, so music by him will be on the programme for many concerts. Among others, the Helsinki Philharmonic and the Kaustinen Chamber Music Week presented his works (See: Reviews). Nordgren (1944–2008) is perhaps best known for his string orchestra pieces. Several of these are a result of his collaboration with the Ostrbothnian Chamber Orchestra and conductor **Juha Kangas**. Among them is *Portraits of Country Fiddlers*  – an incredibly successful homage to folk music. Nordgren's impressive chamber opera *Den svarte munken* (The Black Monk) was revived and performed in Helsinki in 2022.

Photo: Maarit Kyösti


Kortekangas premieres

The Saimaa Sinfonietta has commissioned **Olli Kortekangas** to write a *Guitar Concerto* to be premiered in Lappeenranta on 14 November with **Janne Malinen** as the soloist. Other Kortekangas works in the pipeline include *Piir* (Border), a blend of poetry and music to be performed in European cities with a mutual border. The first will be *Valga*, on the border between Estonia and Latvia, on 7 May. A new opera by Kortekangas – *Isfåglarna* to a libretto by **Johan Bargum** – is also to be premiered this year, in Kokkola on 25 October. Olli Kortekangas will be celebrating his 70th birthday on 16 May next year.



Olli Kortekangas

Lotta Wennäkoski news

Lotta Wennäkoski is one of the two Composers in Residence at the 2024 Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival alongside with **Sebastian Fagerlund**. The programme will include several works by Wennäkoski at festival concerts, among them a *Violin Duo* commissioned by the festival and premiered by **Minna Pensola** and **Antti Tikkanen** on 24 July. The two Wennäkoski CDs released last year have been veritable hits both in Finland and abroad (See: Reviews). The National Public Radio, the primary public radio broadcaster in the US, named her disc on its list of top 10 classical recordings  of the year.

Daniel Nelson's I Am Monster

Daniel Nelson's new song cycle *I Am Monster* will have its premiere with soprano **Johanna Wallroth** and the Swedish Chamber Orchestra on 10 October in Örebro. The songs are based on the Jewish Lilith myth. With the aid of an AI text generator, Daniel Nelson has made it possible for Lilith to be viewed from the perspective of three other "monsters": **Lewis Carroll's** Alice, **Mary Shelley's** Frankenstein and **William Shakespeare's** Shylock. Also included here is a setting of a poem by **John Clare**. The work was commissioned by the Swedish Radio P2.

Pacho Flores & Tuomas Turriago

The premiere of **Tuomas Turriago's** *Trumpet Concerto* is scheduled for 5 April, at the Tampere Hall. It has been commissioned by the Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra and Venezuelan **Pacho Flores**, a star trumpeter who records on the Deutsche Grammophon label and has twice been the winner of a Latin Grammy. Lasting 20 minutes, the concerto is a Latino, jazz and contemporary classic hybrid and treats the listener to some exciting Turriago soundworlds. The dancing finale has a big solo cadenza for percussion and trumpet of the sort familiar from Latino music.





Pacho Flores

Photo: Juan Martínez

NORDIC HIGHLIGHTS 1/2024

NEWSLETTER FROM GEHRMANS MUSIKFÖRLAG & FENNICA GEHRMAN

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Helsinki Women's Orchestra and Sundblad-Halme in 1939

Works by Heidi Sundblad-Halme

Fennica Gehrman has published some hidden treasures by women composers as a result of the HUOM project (History's Unheard Orchestral Music) by the Helsinki Philharmonic. Some orchestral works by **Heidi Sundblad-Halme** (1903–1973) are now available, including her delicate *Elégie* for strings, *Au*

théâtre des marionettes Op. 16 and *Suite*, Op. 11 as well as some pieces for voice and piano. Her orchestral suite *Pan* is in preparation. Sundblad-Halme was a composer, teacher and conductor especially known as the founder and long-time conductor of the Helsinki Women's Orchestra.

New composer – Emmy Lindström

Gehrmans has initiated a collaboration with composer **Emmy Lindström** (b. 1984), starting with two of her acclaimed orchestral works. The clarinet concerto *At the Hills of Hampstead Heath* 🎧 has since its premiere in 2017 been performed regularly by soloist **Emil Jonason** around Europe and in the USA. Lindström's 21-movement *The Lost Clown* (2018) 🎧, commissioned by the Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra, mirrors Schoenberg's 'Pierrot Lunaire'. There is also a suite for wind ensemble available. Described as emotionally charged with a hint of humour, Lindström's music explores neo-Romantic styles while venturing into completely new sonic territories. At present she is working on a commission for the Swedish RSO. Emmy Lindström will be composer-in-residence at the 2024 Rusk festival on 19–23 November in Jakobstad.

Allan Pettersson edition box 🎧

For the first time, a boxed set of CDs brings together the complete works of **Allan Pettersson**, including his seventeen symphonies, chamber music, vocal works and previously unpublished works performed here by some of the Nordic countries' leading musicians and orchestras. Also included are 4 DVDs presenting the composer, some of his works and musicians who knew him. (BIS SACD 9062).



Koskelin chamber music

Alba has released a CD of chamber music by **Olli Koskelin**. The album named *Presentness* consist of five solos and one duo vitalised by the players' attention to fine detail (See: New CDs). Among the pieces are *then when A-go* for guitar 🎧 and *Animal II* for bass clarinet 🎧. In addition to composing, Olli Koskelin (b. 1955) has clocked up a long career as a teacher at the Theatre Academy and the Aalto University.

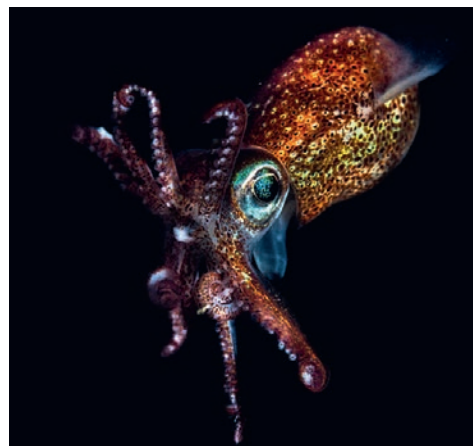


Photo: Joakim Odelberg

Nordic – A Fragile Hope 🎧

The environmental project 'Nordic – A Fragile Hope', had its premiere at the Gothenburg Concert Hall on 21 February. It was a spectacular concert experience where nature photographer **Joakim Odelberg's** film projections covered the walls and the ceilings, surrounding the audience with ocean pictures from Svalbard in the north to Denmark in the south. To accompany this, the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra under the direction of **Christian Karlsen** played newly written music by five Nordic composers: **Mats Larsson Gothe**, **Outi Tarkiainen**, **Daniel Bjarnason**, **Miho Hazama** and **Maja S. K. Ratkje**. In connection with the premiere, the music was also released on an album (Nilento NILCD 2401).



Photo: Erika Hammarberg

Erika Hammarberg awarded

Erika Hammarberg will receive the 2024 Allmänna Sängen & Anders Wall Composition Award for her choral work *En sådan kväll* (Such an Evening), to a text by **Solveig von Schoultz**. The jury describes the piece as "highly expressive, written in a romantic manner, and blending very well with the text. The composer has a deep understanding of choral sound and techniques." Hammarberg navigates musically between classical and jazz, teaches composition, and is the artistic director of the Elaria Orchestra big band. As part of the prize the work is published by Gehrmans, and will be premiered by Allmänna Sängen in Uppsala on 4 May. Read more about [ASAWCA – competition for female composers](#).

Photo: Andreas Sander



Emmy Lindström