



Francois Leleux and Emmanuel Strosser

### Schnelzer premieres

Albert Schnelzer resumes his collaboration with oboist **François Leleux**. After the success with the oboe concerto *The Enchanter* comes the oboe sonata *The Puppeteer*, which Leleux premiered in Heidelberg on 24 September together with pianist **Emmanuel Strosser**. Also, in September we could listen to the premiere of Schnelzer's **Angels** for mixed choir and cello during the Nordic Church Music Symposium in Copenhagen. This is a choral suite in five movements to texts by **W. Blake, L. Hunt, P.L. Dunbar, E. Dickinson** and **A.B. Paterson**, commissioned by Petri Sångare and **Karin Oldgren**. The cello soloist at the premiere was **Mattias Rodrick**.

### Sven-David Sandström Society

The Sven-David Sandström Society (SDSS) has launched a website that serves as a centralised space to learn more about Sandström and his vast musical output. At [svendavidsandstrom.org](http://svendavidsandstrom.org) you will find a comprehensive catalogue of works with links to available scores, recordings, videos, interviews and more. The SDSS was established in September 2023 with the aim to promote the works and legacy of **Sven-David Sandström** who passed away in 2019.

## NORDIC HIGHLIGHTS 3/2024

NEWSLETTER FROM GEHRMANS MUSIKFÖRLAG & FENNICA GEHRMAN

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### Awards and nominations

**Matthew Whittall** and **Lotta Wennäkoski** were awarded Composer of the Year titles in the classical music category at the Finnish Music Publishers' gala on 5 September. The prize went to Whittall for his large-scale *Joy* for organ and orchestra that delighted audience and critics alike at its recent premiere by the Finnish RSO. Wennäkoski received her prize for a string quartet called *Flickereth*. Her violin concerto *Prosoidia* has been nominated as candidate for the Fondation Prince Pierre Music Composition Prize.

A CD of string quartets by **Seppo Pohjola** has been nominated for a Gramophone Award (Contemporary). His previous release of string quartets also won critical acclaim. The Finnish Kantele Association has paid tribute to **Juhani Nuorvala** for his active, varied and inspiring work to promote music for the Finnish folk instrument, the kantele.

### Matthew Peterson interviews

**Matthew Peterson's** residency with the Dalasinfoniettan, started on 6 September with the premiere of his striking concert opener *Vagabond*, an orchestral piece that reflects the composer's own personal and musical journey. In connection with the premiere the Dalasinfoniettan presented four personal interview films with Peterson that now can be viewed on YouTube.



Žibuokle Martinaitytė

### Žibuokle Martinaitytė commission

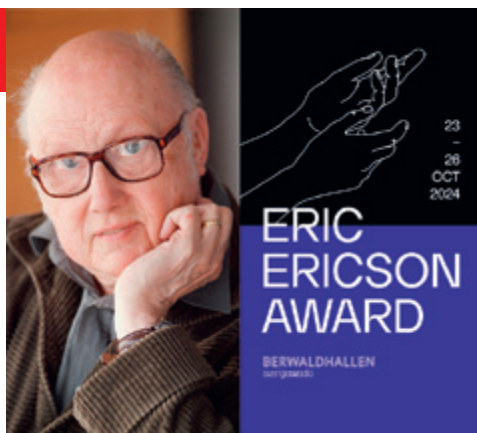
**Žibuokle Martinaitytė's** new work for violin and string orchestra entitled *EKAGGATA* will be performed by three orchestras. The commission was initiated by violinist and conductor **Hugo Ticcianti** and O/Modernt Chamber Orchestra in Sweden. The Lithuanian National Philharmonic will premiere the work in Vilnius, Lithuania on 25 October, during the Gaida festival, and the Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra will perform it in Kokkola, Finland on 7 March 2025. The title refers to the Pali Buddhist term meaning unification of the mind, a state of extreme stillness. According to the composer, unification is relevant not only to meditation practices, but to our world at large interpreted as an urgent need for reconciliation.



Jüri Reinvere

### Peer Gynt opera on stage in Germany

**Jüri Reinvere's** opera *Peer Gynt* will receive its German premiere at the Stadttheater Bremerhaven on 3 May 2025. Based on the famous play by **Henrik Ibsen**, the opera updates the story with a libretto written by the composer. Reinvere received international fame in 2012 with his first opera *Purge* (Puhdistus/Fegefeuer) based on the novel by **Sofi Oksanen**. *Peer Gynt* was soon after commissioned by the Norwegian National Opera and premiered in Oslo in 2014. It is now to be staged for the first time in its original German version. **Marc Niemann** will conduct the production directed by **Markus Tatzig**.



## Eric Ericson Award 2024

Eight young choral conductors are coming to Stockholm in October to participate in the prestigious Eric Ericson Award 2024. The semi-finalists were chosen from over ninety applicants worldwide, and represent Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, England, Spain, Portugal and Sweden. They will get to conduct the Swedish Radio Choir, the Eric Ericson Chamber Choir and St. Jacob's Chamber Choir in music by **Ingvar Lidholm**, **Nana Forte**, **Sven-David Sandström**, **Carl Unander-Scharin**, **Arne Mellnäs** and others. Among prominent former winners can be mentioned **Peter Dijkstra**, **Martina Batic** and **Krista Audere**. The winner gets the opportunity to work with several of Europe's leading Radio choirs, together with a prize sum of SEK 100,000, provided by the Rosenborg Gehrman's Foundation.



Karin Rehnqvist

## New Rehnqvist recordings in progress

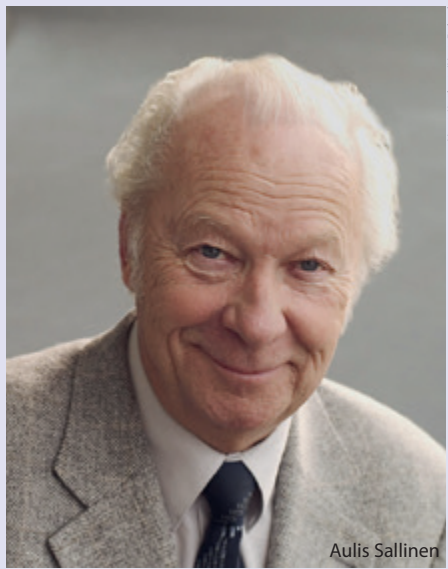
Karin Rehnqvist's "climate oratorio" *Silent Earth*, winner of the 2022 Nordic Council Music Prize, will be released this autumn by Footprint Records, featuring the Swedish Radio Choir and Symphony Orchestra, conducted by **Dima Slobodeniouk**. In spring 2025, *Songs Between Light and Darkness* with soprano **Berit Norbakken** and the ARcTic Sustain Ensemble will be issued by Euridice Förlag. Additionally, a new recording of the iconic *Timpanum Songs – Herding Calls* (1989) will be presented by LAWO Classics in autumn 2025, including singers **Ulrika Bodén**, **Berit Norbakken**, and percussionist **Rune André Halvorsen**.

## Aulis Sallinen at 90

**Aulis Sallinen** will turn 90 on 9 April 2025. He is one of Finland's most esteemed composers, whose large output includes instrumental and chamber music, concertos and symphonies. Fennica Gehrman has recently published some of his early works, such as the *Variations for Cello and Orchestra Op. 5*, and *Two Mythical Scenes Op.1*.

Sallinen is perhaps best known for his operas such as *The Red Line* (Punainen Viiva) and *The Horseman* (Ratsumies). Composed in 1975, *The Horseman* was one of the works launching the great Finnish opera boom, and its success has not faded. The next round of performances will begin at the Finnish National Opera on 9 May 2025.

Sallinen's long and internationally acclaimed career was recently acknowledged when he received the Finnish Music Publishers' Honorary Award on 5 September.



Aulis Sallinen

## Blomstedt & Berwald

At 97, **Herbert Blomstedt** continues his efforts to make **Franz Berwald's** (1796-1868) music known to the world. Berwald today ranks among Sweden's foremost composers but was largely neglected during his lifetime. Over the last few years Blomstedt has conducted Berwald's symphonies with the Gewandhaus Orchester, Bamberg SO, Oslo PO, Danish National SO, Tonhalle Orchester Zürich, Concertgebouw Orchestra et al. In September he led the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic in the tone painting *Minnen från norska fjällen* (Reminiscences of the Norwegian Mountains) and *Sinfonie Nr 2 – Capricieuse*. Future performances include *Sinfonie Nr 4 – Naïve* with the NHK Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo on 10-11 October and *Sinfonie Nr 2* with Orchestre de Paris in May 2025.



Berwald & Blomstedt



Antti Auvinen

## New works by Antti Auvinen

New works by **Antti Auvinen** are to premiere in autumn 2024. In November, the Sointi Big Band and the Helsinki Chamber Choir will be performing a work for choir and big band conducted by **Atso Almila** in Tampere, Helsinki and Kuopio. A double concerto commissioned by the Finnish Baroque Orchestra for soprano and recorder is scheduled for 10 October. Recent hearings have also included the *Overcrank Suite* for cello and video – an exciting coproduction by the EstOvest Festival-Polincontri Musica in collaboration with Politecnico di Torino-Biennale Tecnologia and Creative Dialogue France. The world premiere by **Anssi Karttunen** was in Italy on 30 October 2023. Another recent work is *Boundary Bourrée*, premiered by the Crash Ensemble at the 2024 Tampere Biennale and performed later also at the New Music Dublin festival.