



## Lyytikäinen, Koskelin & Linjama concerts

The Seinäjoki City Orchestra is putting on a concert of music by **Pasi Lyytikäinen** on 23 October. True to his own, interactive style, he will also be writing a new piece at local cafés allowing people to be involved in the creation process. The premiere of a new piano concerto is scheduled on 2. October.

**Olli Koskelin's** 70th birthday will be celebrated at the Helsinki Music Centre on 29 November with a program presenting six chamber works, five of them premieres. The concert will trace a single, intensive span with no longer pauses between the works.

The spotlight at a concert on 2 December will be on **Jyrki Linjama**, covering solo works and song cycles composed by him over four decades. The event will take the form of evensong at Tapiola Church in Espoo.



## Focus on Antti Auvinen

**Antti Auvinen** has been commissioned to write a *Percussion Concerto* for the Kuopio City Orchestra. **Jukka Untamala** will conduct the world premiere on 25 November, and the soloist will be **Mika Kallio**, whose magical, richly-varied world of gongs will occupy pride of place. The jubilee concert celebrates the 250th anniversary of the City of Kuopio. Auvinen has written a new suite for orchestra, actors and video aimed at schoolchildren. Titled *Ämminkäiset (Awelings)*, it is based on the children's book by **Tuomas Kärkkäinen**. The first concert on 31 January 2026 is directed by **Cécile Orblin**.

## NORDIC HIGHLIGHTS 3/2025

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Tä l a b S us ä h isalo, R obert C arroll  
Covep b M ika K ä esa nd M iina-Liisa V ärelä i n  
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## Award for Lara Poe

**Lara Poe** received the The Breakthrough of the Year award handed by the The Finnish Music Publishers in its annual award gala on 3. September. Poe's international career is growing rapidly. Over the past year, she has received significant commissions and collaborative projects with, among others, the BBC and the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra. New commissions for orchestral and stage works are on their way for next year.

## Veljo Tormis 95

The recent Tormis 95 Singing Contest attracted an impressive number of participants from around the world. The entrants submitted a video featuring **Veljo Tormis's** music. The aim of the contest was to celebrate the 95th anniversary of Tormis's birth, and it was organized by the Veljo Tormis Virtual Centre in cooperation with the Estonian Choral Association and cultural attachés. Awards went to the Junger Kammerchor Basel (for *Curse Upon Iron*), Taiwan Chamber Choir Müller (for *Litany to Thunder*) and Mikrokosmos. Alongside the awards ceremony in August there were concerts by the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir and the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra.

## Lotta Wennäkoski premieres

Several new works by **Lotta Wennäkoski** will soon see the light of day. The Concertgebouw Orchestra and the Finnish RSO have jointly commissioned a recorder concerto *Vents et lyres*, to be premiered in Amsterdam on 15 October. **Lucie Horsch** the soloist will have the exciting job of singing as well as playing. Wennäkoski has also written a new work for cello and organ (*Signes*) to be performed at an Hommage à **Kaija Saariaho** concert in Helsinki. *Alin* for double bass and ensemble was a commission from the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra. And last but not least: the London Philharmonic Orchestra will premiere a new orchestral work *Zelo* in March 2026. The commission was initiated by **Robin Ticciati**, who will conduct the premiere.

Lotta Wennäkoski and Adrian Rigopulos







Tobias Broström

## New works by Tobias Broström

At the initiative of conductor **Santtu-Matias Rouvali**, the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra has commissioned a *Second Symphony* by **Tobias Broström**, to be premiered on 27-28 May next year. The orchestra previously commissioned his *Symphony No. 1 – Albedo*, premiered in 2022 also under Rouvali's direction. Moreover, Broström will be rounding off the Jönköping Sinfonietta's season on 31 May with a new 30-minute work for chamber orchestra under the baton of **Johannes Gustavsson**.

## New York premiere for Steam-punk Blizzard

**Daniel Nelson's** *Steampunk Blizzard* will be performed at three concerts on 18-20 February 2026 with the New York Philharmonic under the direction of **Santtu-Matias Rouvali**. *Steampunk Blizzard* was originally commissioned by Orchestre Nationale d'île de France and has come to be Nelson's most frequently performed orchestral piece. He describes the work himself as "a steam engine ballet in a snowstorm."

## Matthew Peterson's The Wanderers

As part of his residency with Dalasinfoniettan **Matthew Peterson** has composed *Symphony No. 2 – The Wanderers*, a 50-minute work for choir and orchestra. In the symphony he weaves together texts about the challenges of life with fragments of poems by **Dan Andersson**, **Gustaf Fröding** and **Erik Axel Karlfeldt**, in his own English translations. It is a winding journey through a changing musical landscape. The work will be premiered by the Swedish Radio Choir and Dalasinfoniettan on 21 March at Berwaldhallen in Stockholm under the direction of **Claire Levacher**.

Photo: Mats Lundqvist

## Mikko Heiniö news

**Mikko Heiniö** has written a new Trio for soprano, guitar and accordion entitled *Shedding My Skin*. The poems by **Eira Stenberg** have been translated into English by **Jaakko Mäntyjärvi**. The world premiere is scheduled for 26 November at the Turku Guitar Festival with **Kaisa Kraft**, soprano, **Patrik Klemola**, guitar, and **Mikko Luoma**, accordion. The next premiere will be at the Katedraali Soi festival in February 2026, when the festival celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary: *Domklang* for wind orchestra and organ will be performed by **Markku Hietaharju** and the Navy Band, conducted by **Jarkko Aaltonen**. Next in the pipeline for Heiniö is a concerto for oboe, clarinet and chamber choir.



Filiz Erat Edhlund

## Gehrmans Musikförlag honored

On 17 June the Swedish Government's Music Export Prize was awarded, with a special honorable mention given to Gehrman's Musikförlag. "With over 130 years of experience and a steadfast faith in contemporary music, Gehrman's is not only a historical name – but a living export motor for Swedish art music in our time", wrote the jury. "It is a great honour to receive the citation", says Gehrman's CEO **Filiz Erat Edhlund**. "Over the last few years, we have intensified the work of promoting our composers' music internationally, and it is therefore especially gratifying to receive proof that our efforts are making an impact. Swedish music has a good reputation, and we are proud to contribute to its reaching new listeners and musicians the world over".

Photo: Ville Juurikka



Cecilia Damström

## Damström's exciting spring

**Cecilia Damström** is looking forward to an exciting spring. In addition to the premiere of her Sámi opera *Ovllá* at the Oulu City Theatre in January, her orchestral work *ICE* will receive its London premiere at the Barbican with the BBC Symphony Orchestra under **Sakari Oramo** on 30 January. *ICE* will also be performed for the first time in Sweden by the Uppsala Chamber Orchestra conducted by **Paul Mägi** in May. Furthermore, her Violin Concerto *Earth Songs* will have its Canadian premiere in April with the Hamilton Philharmonic and conductor **James Kahane**, featuring **Linda Suolahti** as soloist.



Halvor Haug

## Halvor Haug in memoriam

The Norwegian composer **Halvor Haug** passed away on 3 June, at the age of 73. With his five symphonies, symphonic pictures and chamber works he was a central figure in Norwegian contemporary music. Haug described himself as a "modern romanticist". His roots were in the Nordic symphonic tradition, but he created his own expression characterized by strong emotions, drama, intellect and mystique. Nature was important to him, which was also reflected in his music. *Insignia* was inspired by the dramatic scenery of Lofoten; one can hear the lament of the pine trees in *Song of the Pines* (*Furuenes Sang*), and in *Symphony No. 3 – The Inscrutable Life* (*Det uutgrunnelige livet*) the focus is on a prerecorded nightingale as a symbol for the mystery of life. Halvor Haug bequeaths a rich and deeply personal musical legacy.

Photo: Johan Bergmark

