

## Cooperation with Helena Tulve

Fennica Gehrman has signed a publishing agreement with **Helena Tulve** (b. 1972), now established as one of Estonia's leading composers. Works by her have been widely performed in international forums and commissioned by ensembles such as the Netherlands Chamber Choir, Munich Chamber Orchestra, Uppsala Chamber Orchestra, Gaudeamus Music Week, Bang on a Can, Theatre of Voices and Helsinki Chamber Choir. Her commission for organ and cello in memory of **Kaija Saariaho** was recently heard at the Helsinki Music Centre. The publishing agreement covers the orchestral *Signs and Signals* 🎧, *Wandr'ing Bark* 🎧 and *Pulse, Ebb and Flow* for bass flute and piano. Composed in 2024, the 12-minute *Wandr'ing Bark* was commissioned by the Estonian Festival Orchestra and **Paavo Järvi**, and its next performance will be by the Orchestre de Paris in February 2026.



Helena Tulve

## Fennica acquires Uusinta's catalogue

Fennica Gehrman has acquired the Uusinta Publishing Company's catalogue as from 1 January 2026. It consists of some 200 works by contemporary Finnish composers such as **Outi Tarkiainen**, **Sebastian Fagerlund**, **Ralf Gothóni** and **Osmo-Tapio Räihälä**.

During its 25 years of existence, Uusinta (meaning "replay" and "newest") created a valued and compact catalogue mainly of chamber works. Pedagogical music also played an important role alongside music of today and modern Finnish classics of the 20th century. Composer **Lauri Toivio** has been the primus motor of Uusinta and the editor and graphic designer of its publications.

## NORDIC HIGHLIGHTS 4/2025

NEWSLETTER FROM GEHRMANS MUSIKFÖRLAG & FENNICA GEHRMAN

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## New commission for Lara Poe

**Lara Poe** has been commissioned by the Naantali Music Festival and the Oulu and Lahti Symphony Orchestras to write a new work for orchestra. It will be performed at three venues and premiered in Oulu on Europe Day, 9 May 2026 (Oulu is the 2026 European Capital of Culture). Naantali will follow on 6 June and later Lahti.

Lara Poe is a young composer whose music has attracted exceptional international attention in the past few years. The Finnish RSO focused on her works in the 2024/25 season and her *Songs from the Countryside* 🎧 was heard at the Proms in 2024.

## Rhythm & reverie with Juhani Nuorvala

**Juhani Nuorvala's** music has been presented at several occasions this year. The Time of Music festival in Viitasaari programmed his *Concertino* 🎧 for saxophone and tape – a work which has become a veritable hit in its different variations for clarinet, trumpet, cello or kantele. In September, it was also heard at the Avanti! Club alongside other Nuorvala's works, such as *Ein Ballhaus in Berlin* 🎧 (a suite for viola and harp). This six-movement piece was premiered by **Jussi Tuhkanen** and **Päivi Severeide** in July. It is from the music written for Michael Baran's stage play, and the last movement is based on the song 'Das Modell' by Kraftwerk. (See: Reviews).

## New composer portraits on film

Gehrman will launch a series of video interviews on YouTube with numerous composers starting in January 2026. First on the list is 83-year-old **Daniel Börtz** with over 140 works in the Gehrman catalogue, whose creative flow was awakened when at the age of eight he heard Mahler on the radio. **Marie Samuelsson** and **Rolf Martinsson** follow – one a sound enthusiast and the other a master of orchestration. Martinsson's former student **Benjamin Staern** explains how tones appear to him as colours – and how the colours, in turn, give rise to tones. Other names on the list include **Matthew Peterson**, **Emmy Lindström**, **Tobias Broström**, **Mats Larsson-Gothe** and the 90-year-old piano pedagogue **Åse Söderqvist-Spering**, among many others.



Daniel Börtz from the video portrait

## Listening to Eternity – Haglund biography

Aram Yardumian's book *Listening to Eternity* about composer **Tommie Haglund** has now been published in English by the Swedenborg Foundation in the USA. The book takes the reader on a journey through the life and creative process of one of Sweden's most prominent composers. Haglund's introspective and sophisticated music has moved audiences the world over. Through intimate conversations Yardumian sketches a vivid portrait of an artist whose music is deeply interwoven with his spiritual experiences and personal ordeals.



Juhani Nuorvala

Photo: Robin Lindberg (Avanti!)





## Awards to Nelson, Rehnqvist and Kauppi

The Royal Swedish Academy of Music's Christ Johnson Prize 2025 was awarded to **Daniel Nelson** for *Chaplin Songs* (for soprano, mixed choir, and orchestra), praised for its perceptive setting of Charlie Chaplin's speech from *The Great Dictator*, giving renewed force to its humanistic call for peace.

**Karin Rehnqvist** received the Art Music Prize of the Year for her *Take the Milky Way*, described as "a battle song about hope in which cosmic clusters, folk music features and timeless sonorities create their own musical galaxy". Written for mixed choir, baroque orchestra, and "audience ad libitum", the piece invites listeners to participate.

To mark its 75th anniversary, the Rosenborg Gehrman's Foundation for Swedish Music awarded a jubilee grant to the young composer **Eskil Kauppi** (b. 2001). After studies in Stockholm and Malmö, he has explored varied musical expression in close collaboration with leading soloists and ensembles. The Foundation highlights his strong sense of style, instrumentation, and interplay as promising signs for the future.



## Wessman's viola album in Paris

Young viola player **Ellen Herler** and her piano partner **Ella Gardini** will present music by **Harri Wessman** at the 50th international Viola Congress in January in Paris. *Ellen's Viola Album* was chosen for the programme from an overwhelming number of proposals. The collection consists of nine pieces for viola and piano, intended for young musicians. In Paris the composer will introduce this fluid and melodic music, highlighting its particular pedagogical features – unusual meters, glissandi, effects, and harmonies not often found in standard teaching practice – while also providing context for the pieces.

## Emmy Lindström premiere

**Emmy Lindström's** violin concerto *November Night in Jakobstad* will be premiered on 29 January 2026. The work is written for violinist **Malin Broman** on commission from the Nordic Chamber Orchestra and is based on events on a late and peculiar night in Jakobstad, when Lindström was composer-in-residence at the Rusk Festival in 2024. The Result is a musical thriller – as playful as it is suggestive.

Emmy Lindström



Photo: Andreas Sander



Stenhammar Quartet

## Marie Samuelsson at 70

The multiple prize-winning composer **Marie Samuelsson** celebrates her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on 15 February 2026. For more than four decades she has developed a consistent and bold artistry in which the music comprises chamber, choral, orchestral works and opera, sometimes featuring electroacoustic elements. Her works have been praised for their sensuality, innovative sonic beauty, and rhythmic energy. Her tone language assembles concrete sounds of nature, animals and the city in a musically adapted symbiosis with traditional instruments. Earlier this year she received the Rosenberg Prize "for an artistry that with its unique voice and sound fantasy has enriched the Swedish musical scene". During this autumn five of Samuelsson's chamber works, spanning 25 years, have been published by Gehrman's. (See: New publications).



Marie Samuelsson

## Award for Kalevi Aho disc

The disc of string quartets by **Kalevi Aho** has been awarded the prestigious Deutsche Schallplattenpreis 2025 as one of the best releases in the past year. The BIS-label disc features his first three string quartets performed by the Stenhammar Quartet. Aho's true inventiveness was given as one of the main reasons for the choice: "His colourful playfulness and clear command of form speak of a virtuosic craftsmanship and bind the performers together in a seamless entity. The result is a thoroughly intelligent and fresh token of love for the genre, and one with a Scandinavian-Nordic accent." The awards are selected by 32 music critics and journalists from Germany, Austria and Switzerland, and cover a wide range of musical genres.