



Photo: Maria Gothe

Melancholy Autumn Diary

One special feature of instrumental music is that it can often create images inside the listener. "The Autumn Diary" is an excellent example of that... the often meditative music creates, at least for me, a distinct November feeling...an afternoon light of mixed grey shades, rain that falls gently on mouldering leaves and an occasional heavy squall...the piece exudes an unmistakable melancholy. It is multifaceted yet cohesive and makes a beautifully fitting opening to the evening. *Jönköpingsposten* 10.11.

Mats Larsson Gothe: The Autumn Diary 

Jönköping Sinfonietta/Ewa Strusinska, 9.11.2025 Jönköping, Sweden

Imaginative and ravishly played

Aho begins his concerto for alto flute and strings mysteriously, elegiacally, and lyrically before demanding virtuosity from the flute... Bezaly and the St. Michel Strings perform the concerto with incredible excitement. ... It is a great, imaginative, and consistently structured concerto, played ravishly.

The Moonlight Concerto is relatively calm, mysterious, exotic, and often enchantingly lyrical. The fifth movement, Canto, is unique in that it requires the violist to sing as well as play. A suspenseful and expressive performance makes this concert a special experience. *pizzicato.lu* 17.9.

Kalevi Aho: Concerto for Alto Flute and Strings, Double Concerto for Viola, Percussion and Orchestra (Moonlight Concerto)

CD: St. Michel Strings/Erkki Lasonpalo, Lahti SO/Anja Bihlmaier, sol. Sharon Bezaly, fl, Hiyoli Togawa, vla, Alexej Gerassimez, perc BIS SACD 2626

Auvinen, Kallio & Enter Gong

Antti Auvinen doesn't seem to be afraid of challenges. The most interesting part of the piece is where it should be: in Mika Kallio's way of finding timbres and rhythmic elements from his gong while maintaining the free and improvisational tone in his playing. *Savon Sanomat* 21.11.

Antti Auvinen: Enter Gong (Percussion Concerto)

World premiere: Kuopio CO/Jukka Untamala, sol. Mika Kallio, 20.11.2025 Kuopio, Finland

Nuorvala's kaleidoscope of sound

One can only be epigrammatic when commenting on Nuorvala's stunningly composed and many-formed sonic colours, rhythms, and sly commentary.

Finnish Music Quarterly Sept. 2025

The piece had the form of a six-movement suite and at least one waltz, one tango and one blues could be detected, all with a microtonal, surrealistic hue. The dreamy, introvert work was given a sensitive interpretation by Päivi Severeide and Jussi Tuhkanen. *Hufvudstadsbladet* 29.7.

Juhani Nuorvala: Ein Ballhaus in Berlin 

World premiere: Päivi Severeide, hp, Jussi Tuhkanen, vln, 26.7.2025 Järvenpää, Finland (Our Festival)

Composer who wants to get inside your head

Žibuoklė Martinaitytė writes multilayered music that she hopes will grant listeners the freedom to enter an altered state of mind... Listening to the composer's slow-moving scores, with their intricately woven layers, your mind can play tricks on you... Time winds down to a glacial pace, harmonies flash in and out of focus, scraps of melody float amid oases of shimmering light or sink in dark shadows. *NPR Music* 4.8.

Žibuoklė Martinaitytė: Aletheia, Saudade & other works 

CDs: Ondine 1447-2 "Aletheia", 1386-2 "Saudade", 1403-2 "Ex tenebris lux"



Photo: Ari-Matti Huotari



Pasi Lyytikäinen

Photo: Mikko Kaimi

Powerful, flowing and romantic

Lyytikäinen has written sonorous, deep-seated music, flowing streams of notes and opportunities for the pianist to demonstrate his skill... The piece has a Slavonic wistfulness in places, and instilled in the structurally robust flow are a feeling of release and the courage to speak out. The finale raises the pianist into a heroic world, and Marin accepts the challenge with every ounce of his virtuosity. *Savon Sanomat* 3.10.

Pasi Lyytikäinen: Piano Concerto "Romantic"

World premiere: Kuopio CO/Christian Karlsen, sol. Risto-Matti Marin, 2.10.2025 Kuopio, Finland



Photo: Ville Järnkall

Cecilia Damström

Damström's superb Tundo!

Tundo! Is an absolutely superb composition... Damström knows how to contrast a vivid, fervent harmonic language with forceful outbursts that extend all the way to the limits of existence... Hope and despair fought a continuous battle – in a manner that, under John Storgård's direction, was convincing, deeply moving and palpably direct. Tundo! fulfilled music's most sacred mission: it spoke of that for which there are no words. *Turun Sanomat* 21.11.

Cecilia Damström: Tundo! 🎧

Turku PO/John Storgårds, 20.11.2025 Turku, Finland



HUGO ALFVÉN | COMPLETE ORCHESTRAL SONGS
Göteborg Opera Orchestra | Patrik Ringborg
Kerstin Avemo | Sabina Bisholt | Tobias Westman | Karl-Magnus Fredriksson

Lovely songs by Alfvén

The tune Limu, limu, lima from the mountain farms in Dalarna alternates with The Forest Sleeps (Skogen sover) and I Long for You (Jag längtar dig). Among the best known in this song series is Saa tag mitt hjerte (So Take My Heart), a late work by Alfvén... All in all, a lovely collection of poetry set to music from another century. *Opus #133 October 2025*

Hugo Alfvén: Complete Orchestral Songs 🎧

CD: Göteborg Opera Orchestra/Patrik Ringborg, sol. Kerstin Avemo, Sabina Bisholt, Tobias Westman, Karl-Magnus Fredriksson (dB Productions DBCD 218)

Powerful choral work on our relationship with nature

This ten-movement work with a text by Robert Macfarlane grabs attention as much for its timeliness as for its range of expression, and its communicativeness is deep and layered. It intertwines global events with the local and the personal in ways that get to the heart of its subject matter both poetically and analytically... The culmination comes in the rapt enchantment of "Axis Mundi," which reaches past faith to the sacral beyond. The devotional and the ecstatic meet in a way perhaps only possible in choral music.

Rondo 21.11.

Matthew Whittall: The World Tree for mixed choir

World premiere: Helsinki Chamber Choir/ Nils Schweckendiek, 18.11.2025 Helsinki, Finland



Photo: Mark Kytharaj

Matthew Whittall

Lotta Wennäkoski and
Lucie Horsch



Photo: Henna Salmea

Captivating Wennäkoski concerto

The absolute highlight of the evening was Lotta Wennäkoski's Vents et Lyres... Horsch often literally enters into dialogue with the orchestra, a delightful spectacle. At times frenetic, exciting and spectacular, at others calming and soothing, but always with spirit, narrating the structure of this concerto with complete clarity and logic – a unique achievement in a world premiere. *De Nieuwe Muze* 16.10.

Wennäkoski's concerto fits the bill perfectly, challenging audience and soloist alike as a vast array of sound effects (often echoed in the orchestral parts) flew all around: multiphonics, jazzy 'wah-wahs', harsh staccato tonguing effects on the tenor, and didgeridoo-like sounds... to name a few. The very warm response from the hall will perhaps ensure the fate of this valuable and technically challenging addition to the recorder canon. *The Spidy Editor* 19.10.

Lotta Wennäkoski: Vents et lyres (Recorder Concerto) 🎧

World premiere: Concertgebouw Orchestra/Maxim Emelyanychev, sol. Lucie Horsch, 15.10.2025 Amsterdam, Netherlands

Kalevi Aho