

Einojuhani Rautavaara

Centenary in 2028

Selected Works for Orchestra

Cantus arcticus (1972) 19'

2.2.2.2-2.1.0-timp.perc-harp-cel-strings-tape

Rautavaara's influential and beloved concerto for birds and orchestra incorporates taped arctic birdsong. The constant flowing dialogue between the musicians and nature creates a unique and iconic electroacoustic piece.

Symphony No.7 (Angel of Light) (1994) 38'

2.2.2-2-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(2)-harp-strings

Rautavaara described the angels of his seminal seventh symphony as "not figures out of any children's fairy tale; instead, they reside in the age-old tradition of humankind". The symphony wanders dreamily through beauty, anguish and rapidly changing textures, before reaching tranquillity in its hymnlike finale.

Isle of Bliss (1995) 20'

2.2.2.2-2.1.1.0-timp.perc-harp-strings

This beautiful fantasia is inspired by Finnish poet Aleksis Kivi, in particular his idea of a peaceful island haven that he called Lintukoto ("bird haven"). The music is bright and carefree, but there is also an air of mystery, reflecting Kivi's poetry: "no answer is sought, none found."

Symphony No.8 (The Journey) (1999) 27'

2.picc.2.corA.2.bcl.2.dbn-4.4.3.1-timp.perc-2harp-strings

Rautavaara's sweeping final symphony reflects both a journey through ever-changing landscapes, as well as the journey through life. The work features a signature rising fourth motif that runs throughout all the movements, and culminates in a majestic fortissimo.

Autumn Gardens (1999) 28'

2.2.2.2-2.0.0.0-perc-strings

Rautavaara drew comparison between composers and gardeners: "both are observers and overseers of organic growth rather than builders or assemblers of ready parts and elements". In this three-movement work, Rautavaara depicts a free-growing wild garden, radiant autumnal colours, and the dying splendour of summer.

Manhattan Trilogy (2004) 18'

3.3.3.3-4.3.3.1-2harp.perc(3)-strings

Composed for the Juilliard School orchestra, *Manhattan Trilogy* reflects on Rautavaara's student years in the US. The three movements depict hopeful daydreams, sudden nightmares of doubt, and the breaking dawn of a young composer discovering his sense of self.

Book of Visions (2004) 36'

2.picc.2.corA.2.bcl.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(2/3)-2harp-strings

Book of Visions is in four evocative movements: tales of "Night", "Fire", "Love" and "Fate". Consciously or coincidentally, these are reflective of Rautavaara's own life: his childhood fascination with night, his memories of Helsinki burning in wartime, his own personal love story, and the ill-health he experienced around the time of writing the final movement, "A Tale of Fate".

A Tapestry of Life (20007) 30'

3.3.3.3-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(3)-2harp-strings

This set of four contrasting vignettes can be performed as the complete work, individually or spaced across a programme. The movements include "Stars Swarming", inspired by an Edith Södergran poem about falling stars, and the dreamy and songlike "Halcyon Days".

Into the heart of light (2011) 15'

strings

Rautavaara wrote five Cantos for string orchestra over a fifty year period, each one a multi-layered single movement. *Canto V's* subtitle reflects how he viewed his compositional process: beginning with small sketches, the gradual emergence and brightening of melodies, and finally the achievement of "the heart of light".

In the Beginning (2015) 7'

2.2.2.2-4.2.2.0-timp.perc(1)-harp-strings

Despite its title, *In the Beginning* was one of Rautavaara's final works. This brooding and intricate overture is a perfect concert opener, its abrupt ending leaving the audience eager for more.

Selected Works for Soloist & Orchestra

Piano Concerto No.3 "Gift of Dreams" (1989) 27'

solo piano 2.2.2.2-4.2.2.0-timp.perc(2)-harp-strings

This concerto was written for Vladimir Ashkenazy to play-conduct, and has continued to be performed by a number of different soloists. The music is complex, rhythmic and full of heightened drama, but also contains moments of joy.

Clarinet Concerto (2001) 26'

solo clarinet 2.2.2.2-4.2.2.1-timp.perc-harp-strings

The concerto's turbulent opening movement introduces the soloist and orchestra in conflict with one another, eventually cooling with the clarinet's cadenza. The beautiful second movement provides a brief respite to the drama, before the virtuosic finale returns to the unresolved tension of the beginning.

Incantations (2008) 23'

solo percussion 2.2.2.2-2.3.2.0-timp.perc-strings

Rautavaara prioritises melody in this popular percussion concerto that was premiered by Colin Currie. The solo part is rippling and fast moving, dominated by marimba and vibraphone, incorporating a glorious range of colours whilst reflecting its ritualistic title.

Towards the Horizon (2008-9) 20'

solo cello 2.2.2.2-4.2.0.0-timp.perc-strings

This one-movement cello concerto contains a rousing theme, which is introduced by the soloist and developed in a series of variations. The work is concluded in a searingly high moment for the cello alone, as if approaching a distant horizon.

Rubáiyát (2014) 18'

solo baritone 2.2.2.0-0.0.0.0-timp.perc-strings

Rubáiyát sets the translated poetry of 11th century Persian philosopher Omar Khayyam and is available for baritone with piano or orchestral accompaniment. The five songs are performed attacca, but interspersed with lush interludes.

Deux Sérénades (2016/2018) 14'

Sérénade pour mon amour: solo violin & strings

Sérénade pour la vie: solo violin & 2.2.2.2-4.0.0.0-strings

Rautavaara's final composition is comprised of two searingly beautiful and expressive serenades. The first is scored for solo violin and string orchestra, whilst the second expands the accompaniment to include winds and horns, in an orchestration completed posthumously by Kalevi Aho.

Selected Works for Chorus & Orchestra

On the Last Frontier (1998) 24'

3.2.3.3-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(2)-harp-strings

On the Last Frontier for chorus and orchestra sets text from Edgar Allan Poe's sea adventure story *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym*. Premiered during the celebrations of Rautavaara's 70th birthday, this epic work meditates on the twilight of existence, which Rautavaara described as "full of interesting creatures and wonders, [with] secrets still to be unravelled".

"It is my belief that music is great if, at some moment, the listener catches 'a glimpse of eternity through the window of time'... This, to my mind, is the only true justification for art. All else is of secondary importance."

Einojuhani Rautavaara

October 2028 marks the centenary of Einojuhani Rautavaara, one of the most prominent Finnish composers of all time. His prolific output included numerous symphonies, concertos and choral works, and encompassed both modernism and mystical romanticism.

Works up to 2003 are published by Fennica Gehrman.
Works from 2003 are published worldwide by Boosey & Hawkes.



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