

LEMPI
KUORO

A NEW TONE /

VUSSI SOINTU

LEMPIKUORO'S DEBUT CONCERT ONLINE

CONDUCTOR - JULIA LAINEMA

Dec 10th, 2020

PROGRAMME

Cyrellus Kreek <i>(1889–1962)</i>	Taaveti laul nr. 141 1923
Carlo Gesualdo <i>(1566–1613)</i>	O vos omnes 1603
Juhani Komulainen <i>(1953–)</i>	Le Panneau – The Panel (Fantaisies Décoratives I) 1996
Lotta Wennäkoski <i>(1970–)</i>	Uusi sointu 1996
Olivier Messiaen <i>(1908–1992)</i>	O sacrum convivium 1937
Benjamin Britten <i>(1913–1976)</i>	Advance Democracy 1938
Caroline Shaw <i>(1982–)</i>	Her Beacon-Hand Beckons (To the Hands III) 2016
Einojuhani Rautavaara <i>(1928–2016)</i>	Lähtö 1975
Jean Sibelius <i>(1865–1957)</i>	Oi Lempi, sun valtas ääretön on 1897
Toivo Kuula <i>(1883–1918)</i>	Auringon noustessa 1910

WELCOME to Lempikuoro's debut concert *Uusi sointu – A New Tone!* The pieces of this concert all follow the theme of “music that resonates in the soul”. They are important songs for the choir, ones that the singers enjoy and that are also significant to the conductor, Julia Lainema. Some of the pieces speak with their topicality while others create imagery and soundscapes that let your thoughts fly.

The first piece of the concert is conducted by **Lauri Marjamäki**, the choir's vice-conductor who also led the choir after its founding. Estonian composer Cyrillus Kreek's *Taaveti laul nr. 141* is captivating. The text and tone language weave into a beautiful and atmospheric whole.

Late Renaissance composer Carlo Gesualdo's *O vos omnes* oozes pain and grief. The spiritual text bends into a personal outburst of emotion: “Is there any sorrow like my sorrow?” The unique harmonic changes and use of chromatics is characteristic to Gesualdo's tone language. The disson-

ating sorrow is close to tangible in character. *Le Panneau*, composed by Finnish composer Juhani Komulainen to Oscar Wilde's text, is the first part of the two works' series *Fantaisies Décoratives*. The text is full of delicious colours, all from jade green to raven black. The red and white leaves fall and flutter, and the sun twirls like a dragon. The music paints metaphors and colours with skilled strokes. The atmosphere is mysterious and enigmatic, and the line between reality and imagination a blur.

Finnish Lotta Wennäkoski's *Uusi sointu / A New Tone* is a delicate depiction of love. Wennäkoski captures love's doubtfulness in alternating whispers, speech and singing. Poet Kaarlo Sarkia's text is moving and figures of speech original. The concluding phrase “A new song from you I make, In you to life I yet awake.” is, in its simplicity, heart-rending. Olivier Messiaen's *O sacrum convivium*, on the other hand, composes a simultaneously ecstatic and transcendental mood. The piece is an audio caress of warm, soft harmonies.

Music is never separate from the world surrounding it, and many composers use their works to address current topics. Societal themes are addressed and stances taken by both British composer Benjamin Britten and American Caroline Shaw. *Advance Democracy*, composed in 1938, was commissioned from Britten as a propaganda piece promoting democracy. There is still today an ever-strong need to defend democracy as world events this year have demonstrated. Shaw's work *Her Beacon-Hand Beckons* is part of the six-part *To the Hands* series commissioned by The Crossing Choir along with Dietrich Buxtehude's *Ad Manus*. Shaw's work deals with interpersonal communication and conflict, the refugee situation, and our responsibilities in international and local crises. The text to *Her Beacon-Hand Beckons* includes excerpts from Emma Lazarus' poem *The New Colossus*, engraved on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty. A hand is

outstretched to offer security and comfort to those seeking refuge. After Britten and Shaw, Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara's *Departure* leads us with a steady gallop towards freedom looming in the horizon.

The seventh part of Jean Sibelius' promotional cantata is Lempikuoro's namesake – "lempi" is a Finnish synonym for love. "O Love, your realm is limitless" the text proclaims and then intoxicates the listener with joyful moments and youthful bliss. The concert ends with Toivo Kuula's beloved *Auringon noustessa / As the Sun Rises*. Above the city rooftops peeks the sun, the beginning of something new, a new chord, a new tone. The story of Lempikuoro has begun!

Julia Lainema

Artistic director and conductor of Lempikuoro



LEMPIKUORO

Lempichoir* is a Helsinki-based mixed choir founded by experienced singers in the autumn of 2019. Lempi brings together singers with an infinite love towards choral music and the joy of working together. The repertoire of this 30-member choir is a curious build on classical choral music from the Renaissance to the present day, with occasional visits to experimental waters. In the spring of 2020, Lempikuoro chose Julia Lainema as its first artistic director. Lempikuoro practices on Thursday evenings in Ruskeasuo, Helsinki.

**Free translation to English: ‘The Beloved Choir’
– Lempi refers to both “favourite” and “love” in Finnish*

www.lempikuoro.fi



JULIA LAINEMA

Choir conductor and music pedagogue Julia Lainema is currently studying choral conducting, her second master's degree at the Sibelius Academy, with Professor Nils Schweckendiek. In 2016, she graduated from Sibelius Academy with a master's degree in music education. In addition to Lempichoir, Lainema is the director of Pohjalaisten Osakuntien Laulajien (The Singers of the Ostrobothnian Students' Associations) and the Sibbo Vocal Ensemble. In addition to her own choirs, Lainema has also been involved in projects and concerts with other choirs, such as with the choir of the University of Turku in the spring of 2020. She has also organised various choral music events, such as the mini-festival "Varaslähtö Tampereen Säveleen" in spring 2019.

www.julialainema.com

KREEK: TAAVETI LAUL NR. 141 / DAVID'S SONG NO. 141

Issand, ma hüüan Su poole,
kuule mind, oh Issand!
Kuule mu palve häält,
kui ma su poole hüüan.
Olgu mu palve kui suitsetamise rohi
Su palge ees, mu kätte ülestõstmine
kui õhtune ohver.
Kuule sa mind!

*Lord, I cry unto thee:
make haste unto me!
Give ear unto my voice,
when I cry unto thee.
Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense;
and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
Lord, I cry unto thee:
make haste unto me!*

Old testament, psalm 141, A Psalm of David



GESUALDO: O VOS OMNES

O vos omnes, qui transitis per viam,
attendite et videte si est dolor
sicut dolor meus.

Old testament, Book of Lamentations 1:12

*O all ye that pass by the way, attend and see:
If there be any sorrow like my sorrow.
Attend, all ye people, and see my sorrow:
If there be any sorrow like my sorrow.*



KOMULAINEN: LE PANNEAU – THE PANEL

Under the rose-tree's dancing shade
There stands a little ivory girl,
Pulling the leaves of pink and pearl
With pale green nails of polished jade.

The red leaves fall upon the mould,
The white leaves flutter, one by one,
Down to a blue bowl where the sun,
Like a great dragon, writhes in gold.

The white leaves float upon the air,
The red leaves flutter idly down,
Some fall upon her yellow gown,
And some upon her raven hair.

She takes an amber lute and sings,
And as she sings a silver crane
Begins his scarlet neck to strain,
And flap his burnished metal wings.


She takes a lute of amber bright,
And from the thicket where he lies
Her lover, with his almond eyes,
Watches her movements in delight.

And now she gives a cry of fear,
And tiny tears begin to start:
A thorn has wounded with its dart
The pink-veined sea-shell of her ear.

And now she laughs a merry note:
There has fallen a petal of the rose
Just where the yellow satin shows
The blue-veined flower of her throat.

With pale green nails of polished jade,
Pulling the leaves of pink and pearl,
There stands a little ivory girl
Under the rose-tree's dancing shade.

Oscar Wilde



WENNÄKOSKI: UUSI SOINTU / A NEW TONE

Mihinkä, armas, kuljenkaan,
sun kuvas kulkee myötä.
Sen seurakseni päivin saan,
se luonani on yötä.
Sa aamun sineen liverrys
oot kiurun, pimenevään
taas iltaan tähden välkähdys
ja talveen sade kevään.

Saa lehteen sydämeni puu,
sen kukat aukee kesään,
kun oksille sen laskeuu
sun silmäis linnut pesään.
Valoisan kuulee sävelvuon
nyt sielu, onnen soinnun.
Sinusta uuden laulun luon,
sinussa eloon toinnun.

Kaarlo Sarkia

*Anywhere I go dear
Your image follows.
It keeps company by day,
Stays beside me by night.
To the morning blue you are
The twitter of a lark, to the dark
Evening the sparkle of a star
And to winter the spring rain.*

*It makes my heart tree bud
And flower towards summer,
On its branches descend
Your eyes' birds to nest.
A bright flow of tones now
my soul hears, a chord of bliss.
A new song from you I make,
In you to life I yet awake.*

Elissa Shaw

MESSIAEN: O SACRUM CONVIVIUM

O sacrum convivium!
in quo Christus sumitur:
recolitur memoria passionis eius:
mens impletur gratia.
Sacrum, sacrum, sacrum.

O sacrum convivium!
in quo Christus sumitur:
mens impletur gratia
et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur.
Alleluia.

Medieval antiphon

*O sacred banquet!
in which Christ is received,
the memory of his Passion is renewed,
the mind is filled with grace,
Sacred, sacred, sacred.*

*O sacred banquet!
in which Christ is received,
the mind is filled with grace,
and a pledge of future glory to us is given.
Alleluia.*

BRITTEN: ADVANCE DEMOCRACY

Across the darkened city
The frosty searchlights creep
Alert for the first marauder
To steal upon our sleep.

We see the sudden headlines
Float on the muttering tide,
We hear them warn and threaten
And wonder what they hide.

There are whispers across tables,
Talks in a shutter'd room.
The price on which they bargain
Will be a people's doom.

There's a roar of war in the factories
And idle hands on the street,
And Europe held in nightmare
By the thud of marching feet.

Now sinks the sun of surety,
The shadows growing tall

Of the big bosses plotting
Their biggest coup of all.

Is there no strength to save us?
No power we can trust,
Before our lives and liberties
Are powder'd into dust.

Time to arise Democracy
Time to rise up and cry
That what our fathers fought for
We'll not allow to die.

Time to decide.
Time to resolve divisions,
Time to renew our pride,
Time to burst our house of glass.

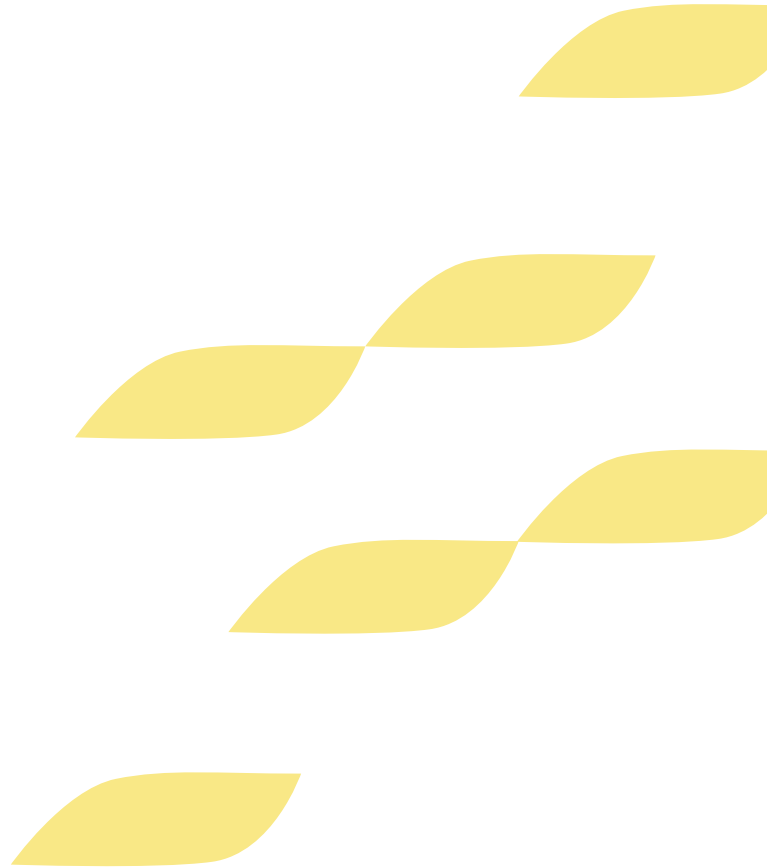
Rise as a single being
In one resolve arrayed:
Life shall be for the people
That's by the people made.

Randall Swingler

SHAW: HER BEACON-HAND BECKONS

Her beacon-hand beckons: give
give to me
those yearning to breathe free
tempest-tossed they cannot see what lies beyond
the olive tree
whose branch was lost amid the pleas
for mercy, mercy
give
give to me
your tired fighters fleeing flying from the
from the
from
i will be your refuge
i will be your refuge
i will be
i will be
we will be
we will
we will be your refuge

*Caroline Shaw loosely from the sonnet of Emma Lazarus The New
Colossus (1883), engraved on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty*



RAUTAVAARA: LÄHTÖ / DEPARTURE

Jonakin aamuna, jonakin kevätaamuna
auringon kohotessa taivaalle
nousen ratsuni selkään.
Ruumiini nukkuu,
henkeni ei kuule askeleitani
eikä hevoseni kavioitten riemuitsevaa töminää.

Ratsun selkään nousee ahdistettu,
piinattu, tuhat kertaa rangaistu,
mutta murtumaton,
ikuisesti elävä.

Minä yksin tunnen tämän aamun salaisuuden.
Minun kutsuani yksin hevoseni tottelee.
Minä yksin näen lunastuksen tien.

Siis ylpeään juoksuun, uskoni kultainen ratsu.
Vain hetken kumisevat kaviot kattojen yllä.
Olen jo kaukana, vapautettu.

Toivo Pekkanen

*One morning, one spring morning,
The sun rising into the sky,
I mount my steed.
My body sleeps,
my spirit hears not my step
Nor the jubilant clatter of my horse's hooves.*

*Mounting the horse is an
Anguished, tormented soul,
A thousand times punished
Yet invincible, Immortal.*

*I alone know the secret this morning holds,
Mine alone is the command the horse obeys.
I alone see the path to redemption.*

*Gallop with pride, then, golden steed of my faith!
For a mere moment will these hooves be
Heard over the rooftops.
Soon I am far off, and free.*

Anonymous / Laudate Singers

SIBELIUS:

OI LEMPI, SUN VALTAS ÄÄRETÖN ON / O LOVE, YOUR REALM IS LIMITLESS

Oi Lempi, sun valtas ääretön on
Sa Luojan lepposa lapsi!
Kun mieli on seijas ja saastumaton
Ja viel' ei harmennut hapsi,
Sä syttyös syömmehen meidänkin
Ja auvoa rintahan anna
Ja meidät onnelan saarosihin
Sinä siivin silkkisin kann!

Tuolla väikkyy koivujen alla
Rannalla aaltojen suutelemalla,
Syntysuojani tuo kultainen.
Siellä aukes' silmäni ensin
Sieltä poies maailmaan lensin,
Salliessa siipien.
Oi, mi lempi on leppoisempi,
Kuin emon armahan altis lempi
Lämminnä kestävi lempi moinen.
Liehuvi, räiskyvi lempi toinen,
Usein seuraapi pettymys.

*O love, your realm is limitless
O carefree child of the Lord!
While our minds are clear and unsullied
And our hair has not yet turned grey,
You ignite a fire in our hearts
And give joy to our breasts
And lead us to the islands of happiness
On your wings of silk.*

*There, under the birch trees,
On the shoreline, kissed by rippling waves,
Glitters my beloved birthplace.
It was there that my eyes first opened,
It was from there that I flew away into the wide world
When my wings would carry me.
Oh, what kind of love could be more pleasant
Than a mother's freely-given love;
That sort of love always remains sincere –
Other types of love may burn brighter
But often end in disappointment.*

Oi Lempi, sun valtas ääretön on
Sa Luojan lempeän lapsi!
Kun mieli on seijas ja saastumaton
Ja viel' ei harmennut hapsi,
Sä syttyös syömmehen meidänkin
Ja auvoa rintahan anna
Ja meidät onnelan saarosihin
Sinä siivin silkkisin kann!

A. V. Koskimies

*O love, your realm is limitless
O tender child of the Lord!
While our minds are clear and unsullied
And our hair has not yet turned grey,
You ignite a fire in our hearts
And give joy to our breasts
And lead us to the islands of happiness
On your wings of silk.*

Anonymous



KUULA: AURINGON NOUSTESSA / AS THE SUN RISES



Nää, oi mun sieluni, auringon korkea nousu
ylitse kivisen kaupungin kattojen, katuin,
ylitse vuossatain valheen ja tuntien tuskan,
koittava kirkkaus!

Nää, oi mun sieluni, katoovan elämän autuus!
Niin kuin ääretön temppeli on se sun eessä,
alla sen holvien on ikiaikojen äänetön hartaus
mestarin hengen.

Nää, oi mun sieluni, yössäkin korkehin kirkkaus,
tuskassa tummien hetkien rauha ja riemu,
vuossatain valheessa, elämän valheessa valkein,
ijäisin totuus!

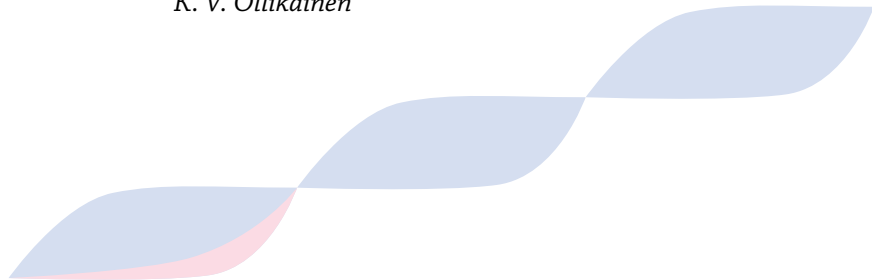
V. A. Koskenniemi

*See, O my soul, the high-soaring arc of the sunrise
Over the roofs and the streets of the stone-reared cities.
Over the lie of the ages, the agony of hours
See his glory ever shining.*

*See, O my soul, the bliss of the vanishing life, too.
Firm as a silent temple it rises before you.
Under its arches prevails the endless devoutness
Of the spirit of the Master.*

*See, O my soul, in the night, too, most sublime brightness;
See in the torment of darkest hours a joy full of peace,
And in the lie of all life, in the lie of the ages
The whitest truth eternal.*

K. V. Ollikainen



LEOPI KUORO

SOPRANO

Kaisu Havukumpu
Aino Heiskanen
Lotta Hyvärinen
Inka Laisi
Salla Miettunen
Milka Pajukallio
Roosa Pohjalainen
Anna Pulliainen
Saara Yli-Savola

TENOR

Pyry Kantonen
Jouko Kelomäki
Lauri Lehmusoja
Jukka Parkas
Eero Sipilä

ALTO

Xiaoyu Chen
Anni Jaalas
Eija-Mari Karjalainen
Ella Kähärä
Ava Lainema
Tuike Lehko
Aida Räihälä
Teresa Sadik-Ogli
Elissa Shaw

BASS

Max Lainema
Lauri Marjamäki
Leo Niemi
Paavo Rinkkala
Antti Suomalainen
Aleksi Tiira
Otto Veltheim

CREW

Director and editor:
Pyry Kantonen
Sound:
Antti Suomalainen
Lighting:
Atte Kantonen
Emil Shaw
Camera work:
Heidi Kouvo
Max Rantil

Concert group:
Leo Niemi
Jukka Parkas
Paavo Rinkkala
Teresa Sadik-Ogli
Elissa Shaw

PROGRAMME BOOKLET

Editing:
Roosa Pohjalainen
Design:
Xiaoyu Chen
English translations:
Elissa Shaw
Photo of the choir:
Pyry Kantonen
Photo of Julia:
Vuokko Salo

THANK YOU!

Anthony Shaw
Tatu Engeström

*Recorded in Vapaan
taiteen tila, Helsinki
November 24th, 2020*

The background is a dark charcoal grey. Scattered across the page are several stylized leaf shapes. Some are solid blue, some are solid orange, and some are split vertically with blue on the left and pink on the right. The leaves are arranged in a somewhat diagonal pattern, with some overlapping. The text is centered in the middle of the page.

**WARMEST CHRISTMAS WISHES
FROM LEMPIKUORO**