

27.11. AT 20:00
HELSINKI MUSIC CENTRE

HANNU LINTU
CONDUCTOR

MATTHIAS GOERNE
BARITONE

LOTTA EMANUELSSON
PRESENTER

Magnus Lindberg:
Marea

Franz Schubert:
Des Fischers Liebesglück D.933 (orch. Alexander Schmalcz)
Im Abendrot D.799 (orch. Max Reger)
Der Wegweiser (Winterreise D.911) (orch. Anton Webern)
Tränenregen (Die schöne Müllerin D.795)(orch. Anton Webern)

Brett Dean:
Pastoral Symphony

Chief Conductor Hannu Lintu will be talking to the new winner of the Finlandia Prize, Anni Kytömäki, for literature on the platform after the concert.

MAGNUS LINDBERG: MAREA

An early orchestral work by Magnus Lindberg (b. 1958), *Marea* (1989–1990) was inspired by the ocean tides and in this sense calls to mind such works as Debussy's *La mer* – especially as the closing bars of *Marea* seem to float away to an impressionistic horizon. Lindberg's handling of his orchestra has always had a heated sense of direction and glowing instrumentation. In *Marea*, the sea is always on the move: shifting and static, repea-

ting and varying. Lindberg uses traditional harmonic progression techniques to give structure to recurring columns of sound that surge onwards like the waves. The work becomes ever more intensive as it proceeds, culminating in a glittering nature spectacle. As in the ocean waves, it is possible to detect in the harmonic structure of *Marea* upper and lower levels, roaring and colliding.

FRANZ SCHUBERT: DES FISCHERS LIEBESGLÜCK D.933 IM ABENDROT D.799

DER WEGWEISER, NO. 20 IN F MINOR / WINTERREISE D.911
TRÄNENREGEN, NO. 10 IN G MAJOR / DIE SCHÖNE MÜLLERIN D.795

2

Franz Schubert (1797–1828) composed over 600 Lieder (songs), establishing the Lied as a genre in early 19th-century Vienna. The emotions expressed in them vary tremendously, ranging from carefree and folk-like to complex ballads akin to crystallised operatic miniatures.

Des Fischers Liebesglück (The Fisherman's Luck in Love) tells about a lovers' secret tryst in a boat on a starry night. The narrator speaks in wistful tones, while the piano paints a mysterious nocturnal scene of a flickering will-o'-the-wisp as the mist rises and the moon shimmers over the shadowy lake. What is true and what is an illusion or memory?

Im Abendrot (In the Glow of Evening) is a picture of the golden radiance and serene blaze painted by the setting sun.

Der Wegweiser (The Signpost) is one of the most chilling songs in the *Winterreise* (Winter Journey) cycle. A lonely wanderer trudges through the snowy wilds, avoiding the roads that other travellers take. He passes one signpost after another till he comes to one pointing to the road "from which no man has ever returned". The accompaniment echoes his agitated steps and his acceptance of the inevitability of death.

A brook ripples right through the song cycle *Die schöne Müllerin*. In *Tränenregen* (Shower of Tears) it is witness to a nocturnal love scene. The mood is now gentler than in the previous song; the couple sit together in harmony beside the brook until the girl says: "It's about to rain. Goodbye. I'm going home."

BRETT DEAN: PASTORAL SYMPHONY

Feathered songsters have been inspiring composers ever since the Renaissance. The most famous in this respect has so far been Olivier Messiaen, and many contemporary composers have drawn on bird-song. The birds that sing in the *Pastoral Symphony* (2000) by Australia's Brett Dean (b. 1961) are those of the subtropical coast of his native Queensland.

The *Pastoral Symphony* is, according to Dean, a modern counterpart to Beethoven's sixth, "Pastoral" symphony. Whereas a nightingale, quail and cuckoo give voice in the Beethoven symphony, Dean composed a work for chamber orchestra enriched by a tape of the bird-song flooding in through his open windows. Examples of typical Australian songbirds are kookaburras (a member of the

kingfisher family) and butcherbirds.

Attitudes to nature are not what they used to be. Our lives are ruled by environmental crises, and the results of our actions are visible wherever we look. Dean's modern *Pastoral Symphony* cannot be like Beethoven's idyll. "We'd sort of go walking through some pristine piece of bushland one week, and then the next week bulldozers have moved in," he said in an interview. The soundscape of the *Pastoral Symphony* expands to take in human action, logging and earthmoving, the world in which we nowadays live.

Programme notes by Auli Särkiö-Pitkänen translated (abridged) by Susan Sinisalo

HANNU LINTU

Hannu Lintu has been Chief Conductor of the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra since autumn 2013. He takes over as Chief Conductor of the Finnish National Opera and Ballet in January 2022.

During the 2020/2021 season, Maestro Lintu will, pandemic permitting, make his debut with the New York Philharmonic and Tokyo NHK Symphony Orchestra and make return appearances with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, and the Symphony Orchestras of Baltimore, Detroit and Chicago. Recent highlights have included debuts with the Montreal and Chicago

Symphony Orchestras and the Hungarian National Philharmonic, and concerts with the Boston and St. Louis Symphonies, the New Japan Philharmonic, the Singapore Symphony and the NDR Elbphilharmonie.

Hannu Lintu first studied the cello and piano at the Sibelius Academy, and later orchestral conducting in the class of Jorma Panula. He participated in masterclasses with Myung-Whun Chung at the L'Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy, and took first prize at the Nordic Conducting Competition in Bergen in 1994. He has recorded on the Ondine, BIS, Hyperion and other labels.

3

MATTHIAS GOERNE

Matthias Goerne is one of the most internationally sought-after baritones in the world today, and was the New York Philharmonic's Artist-in-Residence for the 2018/2019 season. He studied in Leipzig and later with Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, and made his operatic debut at the Salzburg Festival in 1997. Since then, he has made guest appearances at such illustrious venues as Covent Garden, the Teatro Real in Madrid, the Vienna State Opera and the New York Metropolitan. Major roles have included Wolfram in *Tannhäuser*, Amfortas in *Parsifal*, Orestes in *Elektra*, the Duke in

Duke Bluebeard's Castle, and the title roles in *Wozzeck*, *Mathis der Maler* and Aribert Reimann's *Lear*.

The biggest of Goerne's recording projects has so far been his 12-CD set of Schubert Lieder. He has won numerous awards for his discs and four Grammy nominations. In addition to Schubert, he has recorded songs by Schumann, Brahms, Mahler, Hanns Eisler and others and Wagner arias, and featured in complete recordings of oratorios and operas (such as *Wozzeck*, *Das Rheingold*, *Die Walküre* and *Siegfried*).

THE FINNISH RADIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

4

The Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra (FRSO) is the orchestra of the Finnish Broadcasting Company (Yle). Its mission is to produce and promote Finnish musical culture and its Chief Conductor as of autumn 2013 has been Hannu Lintu.

The Radio Orchestra of ten players founded in 1927 grew to symphony orchestra proportions in the 1960s. Its Chief Conductors have been Toivo Haapanen, Nils-Eric Fougstedt, Paavo Berglund, Okko Kamu, Leif Segerstam, Jukka-Pekka Saraste and Sakari Oramo, and taking over from Hannu Lintu in 2021 will be Nicholas Collon.

In addition to the great Classical-Romantic masterpieces, the latest contemporary music is a major item in the repertoire of the FRSO, which each year premieres a number of Yle commissions. Another of the orchestra's tasks is to record all Finnish orchestral music for the Yle archive.

The FRSO has recorded works by Mahler, Bartók, Sibelius, Hakola, Lindberg, Saariaho, Sallinen, Kaipainen, Kokkonen and others. It has twice won a Gramophone Award: for its disc of Lindberg's Clarinet Concerto in 2006 and of Bartók Violin Concertos in 2018. Other distinctions have included BBC Music Magazine, Académie Charles Cros and MIDEM Classical awards. Its disc of tone poems and songs by Sibelius won an International Classical Music Award (ICMA) in 2018, and it has been the recipient of a Finnish EMMA award in 2016 and 2019.

The FRSO regularly tours to all parts of the world. During the 2020/2021 season its schedule will include a tour to Spain under Hannu Lintu.

The FRSO concerts are broadcast live on the Yle Arena and Radio 1 channels and are recorded and shown later on Yle Teema and TV 1.