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# EVENING DUSK SERENADE

Newly Discovered Finnish Works for Violin and Orchestra

BERGSTRÖM • DE GODZINSKY • FOUGSTEDT • GUNAROPOULOS • KASKI • KLAMI

Linda Hedlund, Violin

Elisa Järvi, Piano

La Tempesta Orchestra • Jyri Nissilä

# EVENING DUSK SERENADE

## Newly Discovered Finnish Works for Violin and Orchestra

- |    |  |             |
|----|--|-------------|
| 1  | <b>George de GODZINSKY</b> (1914–1994): <b>Valse gracieuse</b> (1951)  | <b>4:01</b> |
| 2  | <b>Uuno KLAMI</b> (1900–1961): <b>Esquisse</b> (1932)  | <b>3:03</b> |
| 3  | <b>Nils-Eric FOUGSTEDT</b> (1910–1961): <b>Cresse</b> (1944)<br>(arr. G. de Godzinsky for violin and orchestra, 1974)                                | <b>3:11</b> |
| 4  | <b>Elemér SZENTIRMAY</b> (1836–1908): <b>Mustalainen ('The Gypsy')</b> (1875)<br>(arr. G. de Godzinsky for violin and orchestra)                     | <b>4:32</b> |
| 5  | <b>Yrjö GUNAROPOULOS</b> (1904–1968): <b>Canzonetta</b> (1931)   | <b>3:00</b> |
| 6  | <b>George de GODZINSKY</b> : <b>Humoresque</b> (1966)  | <b>4:48</b> |
| 7  | <b>Heino KASKI</b> (1885–1957): <b>Fantasia appassionata, Op. 9</b> (1954)<br>(version for violin and orchestra)                                     | <b>7:48</b> |
|    | <b>Harry BERGSTRÖM</b> (1910–1989):  |             |
| 8  | <b>Niskavuoren naiset ('The Women of Niskavuori') – Rakkausserenaadi ('Love Serenade')</b> (1970)  | <b>4:56</b> |
| 9  | <b>Romance in E flat major</b> (1970)  | <b>3:18</b> |
|    | <b>George de GODZINSKY</b> :   |             |
| 10 | <b>Iltahämärän sävel ('Evening Dusk Serenade')</b> (date unknown)  | <b>3:18</b> |
| 11 | <b>Hiljainen yö ('Peaceful Night')</b> (date unknown)  | <b>3:13</b> |
| 12 | <b>Eino PARTANEN</b> (1915–2004): <b>Näkemiin tähtisilmä ('Goodbye Star Eyes')</b><br>(date unknown) (arr. G. de Godzinsky for violin and orchestra) | <b>3:18</b> |
| 13 | <b>Heino KASKI</b> : <b>Fantasia appassionata, Op. 9</b> (1954) (version for violin and piano)   | <b>8:20</b> |

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## Evening Dusk Serenade

### Newly Discovered Finnish Works for Violin and Orchestra

The treasure trove of Finnish violin music is full of hidden gems. I came across the works on this recording almost by chance, two years ago, in the archive of the Finnish Broadcasting Company. I had been researching forgotten and unpublished music for my instrument, the saxophone, when I discovered some violin scores by the Russian–Finnish pianist, conductor and composer George de Godzinsky (1914–1994). I was already familiar with Godzinsky's wonderful, sophisticated and colourful compositional style, mostly from his works for saxophone and orchestra, and I immediately thought of my friend, the violinist Linda Hedlund. Her prodigious musicianship would, I felt, be the perfect vehicle for interpreting this repertoire. All are world premiere recordings and, with the exception of Godzinsky's *Valse gracieuse*, Bergström's *Rakkausserenaadi* ('Love Serenade'), which was used on the soundtrack for the Finnish film *Niskavuoren naiset* ('The Women of Niskavuori') and the two Kaski compositions, all are in unpublished manuscript form.

The music on this release is representative of a style of light classical music typified by such composers as Eric Coates and Ronald Binge, which was extremely popular from the 1930s to the 1960s but has sadly fallen into obscurity. The rise of modernism and the move among orchestras to establish more comprehensive repertoires played their part in displacing a style that was a continuation of the classical tradition but in a less serious vein – more entertainment than high art and consisting of short compositions. This recording sets out to introduce these wonders from Finland's rich musical history to contemporary listeners. The music is typically highly lyrical, lighthearted, romantic in character (with titles such as 'Peaceful Night' and 'Evening Dusk Serenade') and imbued with a pervasive charm tinged with sentimentality.

One of the main drivers behind the emergence of light classical music in Finland was the Finnish Broadcasting Company (Yleisradio). The Radio Orchestra, founded in 1927 and later renamed the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, and the Finnish Radio Light Orchestra (Radion

Viihdeorkesteri) founded in 1953, frequently commissioned and performed this type of easy listening. Another important instigator, of violin pieces in particular, was the concertmaster of the Radion Viihdeorkesteri, Wolde Jussila. In collaboration with Godzinsky as conductor, Jussila frequently programmed many of the violin works on this recording. Godzinsky also made a number of the arrangements, including the version for piano and violin of *Mustalainen* ('The Gypsy') (1875) by the Hungarian Elemér Szentirmay (1836–1908). The surprise – to both myself and Hedlund – is that so many of these works are, to our knowledge, unperformed and unpublished. They are worthy of interest not only to violinists, but to all lovers of music.

**George de Godzinsky** (1914–1994) was born in St Petersburg but emigrated with his parents to Finland when he was five years old. He studied music at the Helsinki Conservatory of Music during the 1930s and worked as a pianist for the Finnish National Opera and Ballet. Godzinsky received his first engagement as a conductor at the age of 19, when the company performed in Vyborg, which was then in Finland. Beside his career in the opera and theatre world he was also active in the field of dance and light music, starting with performances in the restaurants of Helsinki. From 1953 he led the entertainment orchestra of the Finnish Broadcasting Company (Radion Viihdeorkesteri), developing the ensemble so that it became his own instrument. He is considered a leading figure in Finland, as a representative of the European entertainment orchestra tradition.

In addition to Sibelius, **Uuno Klami** (1900–1961) is considered one of the best known and most important composers in the history of Finnish music. He wrote a large number of short compositions for the nascent Radio Symphony Orchestra. These include the charming *Esquisse* (1932), composed for solo violin and string orchestra, which was first performed by conductor Erik Cronvall at a Radio Orchestra studio concert on 13 September 1932.

**Nils-Erik Fougstedt** (1910–1961) was the conductor of the Radio Orchestra from 1944 to 1951, and the chief conductor from 1951 to 1960. The most important works among his compositions are his two symphonies. *Caresse* was originally composed for violin and piano – George de Godzinsky is responsible for the luminous orchestration.

**Elemér Szentirmay** (1836–1908) was a Hungarian composer of mainly folk songs and csárdáses, a traditional Hungarian folk dance. As a student he won the approval of Bartók and Kodály and went on to become a prominent voice in Hungarian musical life. Also a prolific lyricist, the majority of his some 150 songs are accompanied by his own words.

**Yrjö Gunaropulos** (1904–1968) is best known as the composer of the first two Finnish concertos for saxophone. He also composed concertos for cello and piano as well as *Canzonetta* for violin and orchestra, among other works. *Canzonetta* had its first public performance on 22 May 1931, with Erik Cronvall as the soloist of the Radio Orchestra. Gunaropulos was born in St Petersburg and fled the revolution to Finland with his family. He studied composition with Erkki Melartin and Leevi Madetoja and was active as a club musician and a conductor in theatres.

**Heino Kaski** (1885–1957) is considered among Finnish composers to have been the most overshadowed by Jean Sibelius – they even died one day apart, and the flood of obituaries for Sibelius meant that Kaski's death went almost unnoticed. Kaski's style of composition is often said to describe the deep waters and swaying pine trees of Finland.

Like Godzinsky, **Harry Bergström** (1910–1989) was also a versatile musician and composer. He composed numerous film scores, two rhapsodies for piano and orchestra, and a vast collection of schlager music. He also wrote two wistful pieces for violin in the 1970s.

**Eino Partanen** (1915–2004) was a Finnish composer, lyricist and musician. His instruments included banjo and saxophone, and his output comprises mostly tangos and waltzes. He collaborated with Godzinsky on some of his

compositions and on two volumes: *Calendar of Popular Music* (Iskelmäkalenteri), which remain an important part of written music history in Finland.

**Olli-Pekka Tuomisalo**

*English translation: Jenni Tuhkanen*

The inspiration behind this recording came about when my friend, the saxophonist Dr Olli-Pekka Tuomisalo, sent me some scores of Finnish music for violin and orchestra which he had recently discovered in an archive. After taking a closer look myself, I was surprised to learn that there exists a substantial amount of, to my knowledge, unperformed and unpublished music dating from around the same time, which is certainly worthy of attention.

The pieces on this album are beautiful, easy to listen to, brilliantly composed and rewarding to play for both soloist and orchestra. The music sits on the lighter side of the violin repertoire but from a performer's perspective it is not without its technical demands, particularly where Godzinsky's *Valse gracieuse* and *Humoresque* are concerned, both of which one can easily imagine Fritz Kreisler playing brilliantly. Another favourite of mine is *Mustalainen* ('The Gypsy') (1875) by Elemér Szentirmay as arranged by Godzinsky.

These compositions demonstrate that not every piece for solo instrument must be a deep and comprehensive study of the intrinsic nature of the instrument.

I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to Dr Olli-Pekka Tuomisalo for introducing me to this music and for collaborating with me on this project. I am truly grateful for the support granted by Roihuvuori Church, Helsinki, Finland, Arts Promotion Centre Finland, Svenska kulturfonden, Pro Filharmonia r.y. and The Finnish Music Foundation, and thus making this recording possible. I also wish to thank Ville Komppa, Robi de Godzinsky (son of George de Godzinsky) and conductor Jyri Nissilä for tirelessly working with me in recording, mixing and editing the music. Last, but certainly not least, I wish to thank all the fantastic musicians involved in this project for their inspiring work.

**Linda Hedlund**

## Linda Hedlund



Photo: Mari Lehtisalo

Linda Hedlund graduated from the University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna, in 2002 and went on to complete her doctorate in violin performance at the Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, in 2010. Since 2019 she has specialised in Baroque violin performance at Novia University of Applied Sciences in Finland. Performing internationally as a soloist and chamber musician, Hedlund has appeared as a soloist with La Tempesta Orchestra and in ensemble alongside the principal players of the Vienna Philharmonic and pianist Oliver Kern, as well as with numerous other orchestras and chamber groups worldwide. She has given masterclasses at the International Summer Academy Cervo, Italy, and the University of Hawaii, and performed at music festivals across Europe including at the Grafenegg Festival (Austria), Nancyphonies (France) and Teatro Bibiena, Mantova (Italy). In 2006 she founded the Emäsalo Music Festival, held every summer in southern Finland. For her debut recording she collaborated with pianist Oliver Kern in sonatas by Franck, Saint-Saëns and Debussy. A second disc, of music by Schubert, Bartók and Piazzolla with guitarist Otto Tolonen, was released in 2011.

[www.lindahedlund.com](http://www.lindahedlund.com)

## Elisa Järvi



Photo: Sampo Tiesuus

Elisa Järvi is a Finnish pianist, fortepianist and quarter-tone pianist who is currently teaching piano and studying as a postdoctoral researcher at the Sibelius Academy, University of the Arts Helsinki. Together with the composer Sampo Haapamäki she designed a new kind of quarter-tone keyboard, and her research is centred on microtonality as well as historical piano repertoire and the piano music of Ligeti. She received her degrees from the Sibelius Academy (MMus, DMus), the University of Helsinki (MA) and the Cologne University of Music (concert examination), and her debut album, *Aufforderung zum Tanz*, features dances and dance-influenced compositions by composers including Scarlatti, Schubert, Piazzolla and Wolfgang Rihm, performed on the piano and the fortepiano.

## La Tempesta Orchestra



Founded in Helsinki in 1997, the Finnish chamber orchestra La Tempesta began its career as the festival orchestra of the Oulunsalo Soi Chamber Music Festival from 1998 to 2007. The ensemble subsequently performed at the Kimito Island Music Festival and Emäsalo Music Festival, among others, and has made three tours of Japan. During the third of these, in 2019, the orchestra performed at Tokyo Opera City Concert Hall as part of celebrations marking 100 years of diplomatic relations between Finland and Japan. Conducting the concert was Eero Lehtimäki, and over the years La Tempesta has also been directed by Tetsuji Honna, Juha Kangas, Pertti Pekkanen, Yuri Nitta, Jyri Nissilä and Robert Lehrbaumer, as well as frequently performing without a conductor. The orchestra has premiered numerous new works by composers including Takashi Yoshimatsu, Pehr Henrik Nordgren, Pablo Escande, Shinichiro Ikebe and Koichiro Mitsunaga.

## Jyri Nissilä



Jyri Nissilä made his conducting debut with the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra in 1999 and has gone on to guest direct most of Finland's city orchestras, among them the Lahti Symphony Orchestra, Lohja City Orchestra and Tapiola Sinfonietta of Espoo. His international appointments have taken him to Toronto, Paris and London, and he has also appeared at the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia concert hall in Rome, the Hermitage Theatre in St Petersburg, and the State Theatre Nuremberg, Bavaria. He has conducted the St Petersburg State Academic Capella and the Finnish National Opera. Nissilä has received acclaim for his interpretations of Puccini's *Tosca*, Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann* and Erkki Melartin's *Aino*, which is based on the Finnish national epic poem, *The Kalevala*. He has given premiere performances of numerous chamber operas and children's operas by contemporary Finnish composers and conducted the Tapiola Sinfonietta and the Finnish National Opera in a children's concert featuring music by Georg Malmstén for *Ondine*. He first directed the chamber orchestra La Tempesta as a guest director in autumn 2005.

## La Tempesta

### First Violin

Janne Tateno, concertmaster  
(Violin I [ff](#) [fz](#))  
Terhi Ignatius  
Tanja Kortman  
Pia Sundroos  
Satu Tauro

### Second Violin

Anne Somero (Violin II [ff](#) [fz](#))  
Sijja Lassila  
Juuso Mero  
Emma Partanen (Violin III [ff](#))  
Kirsi Ruotsala

### Viola

Janne Ahvenainen  
Katja Inkala  
Sari Nevanko

### Cello

Rina Salminen (solo [f](#) [ff](#) [fz](#))  
Artturi Aalto  
Markus Pelli  
Helena Plathan

### Double Bass

Juho Vikman (solo [ff](#) [fz](#))

### Flute

Erica Nygård  
Outi van Treeck

### Oboe

Anna-Kaisa Pippuri  
Leena Salminen

### Clarinet

Kaisa Koivula (solo [f](#))  
Olli-Pekka Tuomisalo

### Bassoon

Topias Kiiskinen  
Vertti Tapanainen

### Saxophone

Maaret Koskenkari [fz](#)  
Kai Ruskeepää [fz](#)  
Olli-Pekka Tuomisalo [ff](#) [fz](#)

### Horn

Ilkka Hongisto  
Julia Leskinen  
Lauri Purhonen  
Tero Toivonen

### Trumpet

Esko Heikkinen (solo [fz](#))  
Anni Jääskeläinen  
Tomi Nietula

### Trombone

Roosa Lampela  
Sakari Mäkimattila  
Juho Viljanen

### Timpani and Percussion

Antti Ohenoja  
Jackie Shin

### Harp

Katri Tikka

### Piano and Celesta

Elisa Järvi  
(celesta [ff](#) [fz](#) [ff](#), piano [ff](#) [fz](#))

### Accordion

Veli Kujala [ff](#) [fz](#)

### Guitar

Rody van Gemert [ff](#) [fz](#)



Linda Hedlund  
Photo: Lily Christina Photography  
Hair and make-up: Essi Saarinen

*lc*  
LILY CHRISTINA PHOTOGRAPHY

The repertoire of Finnish music for violin and orchestra is full of hidden gems, with a substantial amount of works remaining unperformed and unpublished. The music on this recording represents a style of light classical music that was popular from the 1930s to the 1960s but remains largely forgotten today. All of the composers represented here created highly lyrical and charming works, including Uno Klami who, after Sibelius, is considered one of the most important composers in the history of Finnish music.

## EVENING DUSK SERENADE

- |           |  |             |
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### WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS



Taiteen edistämiskeskus  
Centret för konstfrämjande  
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**Linda Hedlund, Violin**



**Svenska  
kulturfonden**

**Elisa Järvi, Piano **13****

**La Tempesta Orchestra **1–12** • Jyri Nissilä **1–10****

A detailed track list and full recording and publishing details can be found inside the booklet.

Booklet notes: Olli-Pekka Tuomisalo, Linda Hedlund

This recording was produced with the kind support of Roihuvuori Church, Helsinki, Arts Promotion Centre Finland, Svenska kulturfonden, Pro Filharmonia r.y. and The Finnish Music Foundation

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