

I was only eighteen the first time I held the score of a song by Jean Sibelius in my hands. his much-loved Svarta rosor. Of course I was far too young to be able to shape this dramatic, intense and all-embracing song in a proper manner, but I was immediately captivated by its tonal language and the profound depth of the text. I sensed that here was a treasure trove of songs in which I could identify with the composer's symbiosis of text and music. And it turned out to be correct. Every time I came across a new Sibelius song, it made a deep impression, both the music and the text, and soon a number of them were a part of my repertoire. Flickan kom ifrån sin älsklings möte. Illalle. Den första kyssen and Se'n har jag ej frågat mera, together with Svarta rosor, became some of my favourite songs, and with the passing years I increasingly felt that they were right for my voice. I often included them in concert programmes, and singing them was always a gratifying experience.

As my career has progressed, I have had the chance to make numerous recordings featuring a variety of repertoires, and I have always felt the desire to record the songs of Sibelius. A wonderful opportunity presented itself when the Norwegian Radio Orchestra with Chief Conductor Petr Popelka expressed its willingness to be part of such a recording. Virtually all Sibelius songs are written for voice and piano. but many of them seem as though made for orchestral sounds and instrumental subtlety. Therefore a number of his finest songs have fortunately been orchestrated, and it is these editions we have used for this recording. A few of the orchestrations were done by Sibelius himself, one by his contemporary, Simon Parmet (né Pergament), while several were orchestrated by his own son-in-law, conductor Jussi Jalas.

The songs of Sibelius are at the centre of his list of compositions. His first published work was the song Serenade from 1888. Here he already used a poem of Johan Ludvig Runeberg, a poet who was to become the most important contributor to the 109 songs Sibelius composed. They are largely collected in eight opus numbers, without necessarily having any common threads or general themes. Sibelius studied in Vienna towards the end of the 1890s, and even though he is regarded as a forward-looking symphony composer, his songs carry on the tradition of the past and the German masters. We hear echoes of Beethoven, Brahms and Wagner in this music.

This album presents orchestrated songs of Sibelius from four opus numbers: 17, 36, 37 and 38.

Although Sibelius wrote most of his songs to Swedish texts, in opus 17 we find two Finnish poems — *Illalle* and *Lastu lainehilla*. The opus was composed between 1891 and 1904. The songs in this opus have a lighter quality, especially *En slända*, distinguished by its longer a capella vocalise sections and vibrating tones, but also the songs *Fågellek* and *Sov in!*. The one that particularly stands out in opus 17 is *Se'n har jag ej frågat mera*. With its serious text, sad melody and high climax, it is in form and content quite typical for the later songs of Sibelius.

Opus 36 and 37 contain the most popular audience favourites from the composer's output. Opus 36 was written towards the end of the 1890s, while opus 37 was composed in 1904. Here we have many splendid depictions of nature (Marssnön, Demanten på marssnön and Soluppgång), but also ardent love songs with betrayal and the pain of



love as themes (Svarta rosor, Säv, säv, susa, Var det en dröm? and Flickan kom ifrån sin älsklings möte).

Opus 38 was composed in 1903. These songs were also written originally for voice and piano, but Sibelius made his own orchestral versions. In form and melody they are well-suited to the orchestral format, and, in particular, the sweeping and dramatic *Höstkväll*. Here the singer has a superb opportunity to showcase her voice in almost Wagnerian style. *På verandan vid havet* is also filled with dramatic musical intensity, while *I natten* is more subdued, mystical and dreamlike.

From the very beginning, the songs of Sibelius were embraced by performers, audience and critics, and they are the favourite of many. The Scandinavian language can be challenging for

some, since most of the songs are in Swedish. Here I received magnificent help in polishing my pronunciation from Professor Barbro Marklund, whom I thank most sincerely!

- Marianne Beate Kielland (Translated by Jim Skurdall)

### Höstkväll, op. 38, nr. 1

Text: Viktor Rydberg (1828–1895) Translation: Rosa Newmarch

Solen går ned, och molnen vandra med vefullt sinne hän över skummande sjö, över susande skogars skymning. Måsen skriar på ödsligt skär, falken dväljes i klyftans skygd: trött att jaga han gömt sin näbb i vingens av skurar tyngda dun.

Solen gick ned, det mörknar allt mer över moens furor, mörknar om bergen, där ränniln suckar i ljung ock mossa. Tvinsjukt dröjer ett gulblekt sken över västliga kullars rand, dagens hviskande avsked tonar sorgset i tätnande skuggor bort.

Regnets fall på hällarna sorlar av vemodssägner födda av molnens jordkringsvävande skumma tankar; sjöns emot stranden brutna våg brusar av dunkla ödens gång; röster, skälvande hemskt av smärta, ropa i stormen ur skogens djup.

Ensam ute i öde nejd, mot fuktig klippa lutad, står förtrollad en vandrare, lyss och njuter.
Känner hans själ en samklang med sången, som höjes av stjärnlös natt?
Dör hans ve som en sakta ton i höstens väldiga sorgedikt?

Gloaming draws on, and mournful clouds in the West are sailing
Low over the wind-swept lake,
While the shivering Woods grow dusky.
Seabirds call over the barren marsh;
On the crag sits the falcon free,
Tired of chasing he tucks his beak
Beneath his warm and downy wing.

Gloaming has come: more sombre and grey grow the distant pinewoods,
Darker the mountains, the night wind wails over the moss grown moorland.
Soon will dwindle you ashen light over the vanishing western hills.
Daylight whispers of farewells,
Grieving to perish and mingle with shades of night.

Softly falls the silvery rain,
Sorrowful rings its burden
Borne from the far-off gloomy realms of
the misty cloudland;
Wildly the billows lash the strand,
Telling of direful destinies;
Voices, trembling with fear and anguish,
answer the waves from the forest depths.

Amid the rocks and spindrift, silent standeth a wanderer, rapt Exultant!
Say, is his soul at one with the song of the wind and the starless night?
Does his grief seem a cry that's lost, amid the stormladen autumn dirge?

All alone in the solitude,

#### På verandan vid havet, op. 38, nr. 2

Text: Viktor Rydberg (1828–1895)
Translation: © David McCleery, reprinted with permission from the LiederNet Archive

Minns du de skimrande böljornas suck, att vid målet de hunnit endast en jordisk kust, icke det evigas strand?

Minns du ett vemodsken från himlens ovanskliga stjärnor?

Ack, åt förgängelsens lott skatta de även till slut.

Minns du en tystnad, då allt var som sänkt i oändlighetsträngtan, stränder och himmel och hav, allt som i aning om Gud?

Do you remember the sigh of the shimmering waves, how they came to an end
At a terrestrial coast, and not at the beach of eternity?
Do you remember the melancholic light shining from heaven's immortal stars?
Alas, their final destiny was to burn out and die.
Do you remember a silence, where everything sank into infinite yearning,
Sand, sea and sky, and everything created by God?

#### I natten, op. 38, nr. 3

Text: Viktor Rydberg (1828–1895)
Translation: Marianne Beate Kielland

Tyst är lunden och sjön, som kysst strandens somnade ros, är tyst. Aftonskimret, som mildt besken tempelkullen, har bleknat ren stilla, drömmande stilla.

Tysta stjärnor ur havet gå, stilla palmernas kronor stå, sen därunder i myrtenskog, vinden suckade nyss och dog stilla, drömmande, stilla.

Trött najad har på mossig bädd, sjunkit ned vid sin urnas brädd, sövd av sorlande källans sus: barmen häves i månens ljus stilla, drömmande, stilla.

Medan hon ser i ljuvlig dröm stelnad, kristalliren, tidens ström och all världen från ve och harm somnad in på Allfaders arm. stilla, drömmande, stilla. Quiet is the grove and quiet is the sea, who just kissed a dormant rose on the beach. The afterglow, that gently lit the temple hill, has already faded; silent as a dream.

Silent stars rise from the sea, the palm crowns standing in silence, after falling in the myrtle forest, the wind just sighed and died, silent as a dream.

A tired Naiad on his mossy bed, sank to rest beside his urn anesthetised by the sound of a murmuring source: his chest rises in the moonlight silent as a dream

While he sees in a beautiful dream the stream of time, crystallised, and the whole world, free from all pain dormant in the arms of the Almighty Father silent as a dream.

#### Se'n har jag ej frågat mera, op. 17, nr. 1

Text: Johan Ludvig Runeberg (1804–1877)
Translation: © Laura Prichard, reprinted with permission from the LiederNet Archive

Hvarför är så flyktig våren, Hvarför dröjer sommarn icke? Så jag tänkte fordom ofta, Frågte, utan svar, av mången.

Se'n den älskade mig svikit, Se'n till köld hans värme blivit, All hans sommar blivit vinter, Se'n har jag ej frågat mera, Känt blott djupt uti mitt sinne, Att det sköna är förgängligt, Att det ljuva icke dröjer. Why is spring so transitory, Why does summer not linger? So I have often wondered, Asked, without answer, of many.

Since the one who loved me betrayed me, Since to cold, his warmth became, All his summer turned into winter, Since then I haven't asked anymore about that, And felt, deep in my heart, That the beautiful is transitory, That the lovely does not last.

#### Sov in!, op. 17, nr. 2

Text: Karl August Tavaststjerna (1860–1898) Translation: Marianne Beate Kielland

Min bleka sjukling skall luta i tankar mot kudden sin kind, och ögonen skall hon sluta och låta sinnena njuta av kärlekens sommarvind. Min bleka sjukling, sov in!

Sov in i de ljuva och ömma, bekymrade tankar som strömma kring sjuklingen min! Hvar plåga skall så du glömma för vårliga dofter, som tömma sin hälsa i lugnadt sinn',

Sov roligt på kudden din, så skall du ånyo drömma om alt hvad en kärlek kan gömma, — min bleka sjukling, sov in! The little patient now must rest his cheek full of thoughts on the pillow and his eyes must be closed the senses shall enjoy the summer breeze of love.

My little patient, just sleep!

Fall asleep to the light, gentle and caring thoughts that flow around my little patient!
You must now forget all the pain, for scents of spring now pour into your calmed mind.

Sleep comfortably on your pillow, so you can dream again of all that can be hidden in love, — my little patient, just sleep!

#### Fågellek, op. 17, nr. 3

Text: Karl August Tavaststjerna (1860–1898) Translation: Marianne Beate Kielland

Daggen har duggat, skymningen skuggat skogarnas björkar och strändernas häll. Djupt ur min lunga skyndar jag sjunga salltrastens lockton i lyssnande kväll.

Kanske ur snåren bäras med kåren srånande tonfall min trängtan till tröst, kanske jag kände hennes, som tände lågande längtan i sångarens bröst!

Kanske hon finge kärlekens vinge, flög i min famn över sjöar och mo; kanske vi kunde hinna den sjunde himlen tillsammans i aftonens ro!

#### En slända, op. 17, nr. 5

Text: Oscar Levertin (1862–1906) Translation: Anon.

Du vackra slända, som till mig flög in, när tyngst min längtan över boken drömde, du kom med hela sommarn till mitt sinn. Du kom och jag allt gammalt svårmod glömde. Blott dig jag såg, min dag jag lycklig dömde, du vackra slända.

Men bäst jag jublade, att du var min och livets skänk i sång på knä berömde, du flög den samma väg som du kom in, du trolska slända.

All avskedsgråt i välgångsord förrinn! Ej beska fauns i bägarn, som vi tömde. Att du var sol, jag skugga blott vi glömde. Flyg ljus, flyg blå, än sommarlycka finn, välsignade, som en gång varit min, min vackra slända. The dew has evaporated, twilight has shrouded forest birches and beach cliffs. Deep down from my lungs I hasten to sing luring songs of the thrush into the listening evening.

Maybe from the bush carried with the wind are longing sounds to comfort my yearning, maybe I would recognize her who set fire to a burning longing in the singer's chest!

Maybe she could fly with the wings of love into my arms over lakes and meadows; maybe we together could reach the seventh heaven in the tranquil evening.

You, beautiful dragonfly that flew in to me when my longing was deepest, reading my book, you came to my soul with all of summer. You came and I forgot all my old sorrow. Just from seeing you, I judged my day as happy, o beautiful dragonfly.

But when I was most jubilant that you were mine and praised life's gift on my knees, you flew out the same way you had come in, o bewitching dragonfly.

Tears of parting ran into words of farewell, no bitterness was in the cup we drank clean. We forgot you were sun and I was only shadow. Fly light one, blue one, may summer's joys you find, you blessed one, who once were mine, my beautiful dragonfly.

#### Illalle,

#### op. 17, nr. 6

Text: Aukusti Valdemar Koskimies (1856–1929) Translation: Maria Pelikan

Oi, terve! tumma, vieno tähti-ilta, Sun haaveellista hartauttas lemmin Ja suortuvaisi yötä sorjaa hemmin, Mi hulmuaapi kulmais kuulamilta.

Kun oisit, ilta, oi, se tenhosilta, Mi sielun multa siirtäis lentoisammin Pois aatteen maille itse kun ma emmin, Ja siip' ei kanna aineen kahlehilta!

Ja itse oisin miekkoinen se päivä, Mi uupuneena saisin luokses liitää, Kun tauonnut on työ ja puuha räivä,

Kun mustasiipi yö jo silmään siitää Ja laaksot, vuoret verhoo harmaa häivä – Oi. ilta armas. silloin luokses kiitää! Come, gentle evening, come in starlit splendor, Your fragrant hair so soft and darkly gleaming! Oh, let me feel it round my forehead streaming! Let me be wrapped in silence, warm and tender!

Across your bridge of magic, smooth and slender, My soul would travel towards a land of dreaming, No longer burdened, sad, or heavy seeming, Then cares of life I'd willingly surrender!

The light itself whose bonds you daily sever, Would flee, exhausted, seeking out those places Where your soft hand all toil and strain erases.

And, weary of life's clamor and endeavor, I, too, have greatly yearned for your embraces. Oh, quiet evening, let me rest forever!

### Lastu lainehilla, op. 17. nr. 7

Text: Ilmari Kianto (1874–1970) Translation: Maria Pelikan

Mistä lastu lainehilla? Pilske pieni aalon päällä? Yksiksensä illan suussa? Virran vettä vaeltamassa?

Tuolta lastu lainehilla, Pilske pieni aallon päällä: Pohjan lasten laitumilta, Sinitunturin tuvilta

Siellä kulta hongan kaasi, Veisti, veisti sulho venhon: Kohta vierii virran vettä, Neittä nuorta noutamaan! Wandering wood, where do you come from? Secret signal on the water? Briskly bobbing little sliver: What may be the message you bring me?

Wandering far upon the water, Wooden sliver, secret signal: Came from distant northern regions Where the moss-covered cabins are.

Where my sweetheart felled the fir tree, Built a boat to bring his bride home; Soon it wanders on the water, Soon this maiden meets her mate!

### Svarta rosor, op. 36, nr. 1

Text: Ernst Josephson (1851–1906)
Translation: © Anna Hersey, reprinted with permission from the LiederNet Archive

Säg, varför är du så ledsen i dag, du, som alltid är sa lustig och glad? Och inte är jag mera ledsen i dag än när jag tyckes dig lustig och glad; tv sorgen har nattsvarta rosor.

I mitt hjärta där växer ett rosendeträd, som aldrig nånsin vill lämna mig fred, och på stjälkarna sitter det tagg vid tagg, och det vållar mig ständigt sveda och agg; ty sorgen har nattsvarta rosor.

Men av rosor blir det en hel klenod, än vita som döden, än röda som blod. Det växer och växer. Jag tror jag förgår, i hjärtträdets rötter det rycker och slår; tv sorgen har nattsvarta rosor.

## Men min fågel märks dock icke, op. 36, nr. 2

Text: Johan Ludvig Runeberg (1804–1877) Translation: © Laura Prichard, reprinted with permission from the LiederNet Archive

Svanen speglas ren i sundet, knipans vita vingar vina, lärkan höres högt i höjden, spovens rop kring kärret rullar, våren samlar sina skaror, får sin fågelflock tillbaka, väntar dem med sol och värme, lockar dem med långa dagar.

Och jag, arma flicka, fiker, söker skingra saknans mörker, vårda värmen i mitt sinne, vill som våren vänlig vara, synas ljus som sommardagen. Och jag gläds, fast sorgen gnager, ler, fast tåren trängs i ögat, men min fågel märks dock icke. Tell me, why are you so sad today, You, who are always so cheerful and happy? And I am no more sad today As when I appear to you cheerful and happy; For grief has roses black as night.

In my heart a rose tree grows
That will never leave me in peace.
And on its branches sit thorn upon thorn,
And it causes me constant pain and bitterness;
For grief has roses black as night.

But from roses come a whole treasure, White as death, red as blood. It grows and grows. I believe I will perish, My heart-tree's roots wrench and beat; For grief has roses black as night.

The swan is reflected cleanly in the sound,
The goldeneye's white wings whiz by,
The lark is heard loudly from high above,
The godwit's shout rolls over the waves,
Spring marshals its troops,
Herds its bird-flock back together,
Waiting for them with sunshine and warmth
Attracting them with longer days.

And I, a poor girl, envy them,
Seek to dispel the shadow of absence,
Nuture the warmth in my mind,
Seek to be as welcoming as spring,
As bright as a summer's day.
And I'm happy, although my longing gnaws at me,
I laugh, but with a tear in my eye,
For my bird hasn't returned yet.

#### Säv, säv, susa, op. 36, nr. 4

Text: Gustaf Fröding (1860–1911)
Translation: © David McCleery, reprinted with permission from the LiederNet Archive

Säv, säv, susa, våg, våg, slå, i sägen mig hvar Ingalill den unga månde gå?

Hon skrek som en vingskjuten and, när hon sjönk i sjön, det var när sista vår stod grön.

De voro henne gramse vid Östanålid, det tog hon sig så illa vid.

De voro henne gramse för gods och gull och för hennes unga kärleks skull.

De stucko en ögonsten med tagg, de kastade smuts i en liljas dagg.

Så sjungen, sjungen sorgsång, i sorgsna vågor små, säv, säv, susa, våg, våg, slå!

## Marssnön, op. 36, nr. 5

Text: Josef Julius Wecksell (1838–1907) Translation: Marianne Beate Kielland

Den svala snön därute faller och täcker marken mer och mer, de lägga sig de hvita stjärnor i varv på varv längs jorden ner.

Håll slutet än, o vår! ditt öga, sov gott i blid och vänlig snö – dess mäktigare skall du blomma, dess rikare skall sen du dö. Reed, reed, rustle Wave, wave, crash. Can you tell me where Young Ingalill might have gone?

She screamed like a duck with a broken wing, as she sank into the sea;
That was the last spring, when all was green.

They turned against her at Östanålid She took that to heart so badly.

They begrudged her wealth and her gold And her young heart full of love.

They stuck thorns in the object of her desire And threw dirt at the lily dew.

So sing, o sing this song of sorrow O small waves of sadness Reed, reed, rustle Wave, wave, crash!

The cool snow outside falls and increasingly covers the ground, the white snow stars descend in layers on the ground.

Keep your eyes closed, O Spring, sleep well under gentle and friendly snow — even more you then shall flourish, even richer in time you will die.

### Demanten på marssnön, op. 36, nr. 6

Text: Josef Julius Wecksell (1838–1907) Translation: © Anna Hersey, reprinted with permission from the LiederNet Archive

På drivans snö där glimmer en diamant så klar. Ej fanns en tår, en pärla, som högre skimrat har.

Utav en hemlig längtan hon blinker himmelskt så: hon blickar emot solen, där skön den ses uppgå.

Vid foten av dess stråle tillbedjande hon står och kysser den i kärlek och smälter i en tår

O, sköna lott att älska det högsta livet ter, att stråla i dess solblick och dö, när skönst den ler! On the driven snow there glimmers a diamond so bright. Never was there a tear, a pearl, that shimmered as bright.

Out of a secret longing she shines towards heaven: she gazes at the sun, where it rises in beauty.

At the foot of these rays she stands adoring, and kisses it with love and melts into a teardrop.

Oh beautiful fate, to love the highest that life has to offer, to sparkle in this glimpse of the sun and die, when it smiles so beautifully.

#### Den första kyssen, op. 37, nr. 1

Text: Johan Ludvig Runeberg (1804–1877)
Translation: © David McCleery, reprinted with permission from the LiederNet Archive

På silvermolnets kant satt aftonstjärnan, från lundens skymning frågte henne tärnan: "Säg, aftonstjärna, vad i himlen tänkes, när första kyssen åt en älskling skänkes?" Och himlens blyga dotter hördes svara: "På jorden blickar ljusets änglaskara, och ser sin egen sällhet speglad åter; blott döden vänder ögat bort – och gråter."

As the evening star sat on the edge of the silver-lined cloud The maiden asked her from the twilit grove:
"Tell me, evening star, what do they think in heaven When a lover receives her first kiss?"
And heaven's bashful daughter replied:
"The angels look to earth
And see the reflection of their bliss.
Only death turns away, and weeps."

#### Soluppgång, op. 37, nr. 3

Text: Tor Hedberg (1862–1931)
Translation: © David McCleery, reprinted with permission from the LiederNet Archive

Under himlens purpurbrand Ligga tysta sjö och land, Det är gryningsstunden. Snöig gren och frostvit kvist Tecka sig så segervisst Mot den röda grunden.

Riddarn står vid fönsterkarm, Lyssnar efter stridens larm, Trampar golvets tilja. Men en smal och snövit hand Kyler milt hans pannas brand, Böjer mjukt hans vilja.

Riddarn sätter horn till mun, Blåser vilt i gryningsstund, Över nejd som tiger. Tonen klingar, klar och spröd, Branden slocknar, gyllenröd, Solen sakta stiger.

### Var det en dröm?, op. 37, nr. 4

Text: Josef Julius Wecksell (1838–1907)
Translation: © David McCleery, reprinted with permission from the LiederNet Archive

Var det en dröm, att ljuvt en gång jag var ditt hjärtas vän? Jag minns det som en tystnad sång, då strängen darrar än.

Jag minns en törnros av dig skänkt, en blick så blyg och öm; jag minns en avskedstår, som blänkt. Var allt, var allt en dröm?

En dröm lik sippans liv så kort uti en vårgrön ängd, vars fägring hastigt vissnar bort för nya blommors mängd.

Men mången natt jag hör en röst vid bittra tårars ström: göm djupt dess minne i ditt bröst, det var din bästa dröm! Beneath heaven's purple fire Silently lie lake and land; It is the time of dawn. Snow-covered branch and frost-white twig Stand out prominently From the red backdrop.

The knight stands by the window listening for the sound of battle, pacing the floor. But a small, snow-white hand gently cools his hot brow, changing his resolve.

The knight puts his horn to his mouth, and blows fiercely at the dawn, over the silent land.
The note rings clear and fragile;
The fire slowly dies, golden red,
As the sun slowly rises.

Was it a dream, that once upon a blissful time I was your heart's friend? I remember it like a silent song Whose melody still lingers on.

I remember you gave me a rose With a look so shy and tender, I remember the glistening of a parting tear. Was it all just a dream?

A dream like a wildflower's life, So brief in the verdant meadow, Whose beauty quickly withers away Within an ocean of new flowers

But on many a night I hear a voice Through a stream of bitter tears. Hide this memory deep in your heart For this was your best dream.

### Flickan kom ifrån sin älsklings möte, op. 37, nr. 5

Text: Johan Ludvig Runeberg (1804–1877) Translation: © Anna Hersey, reprinted with permission from the LiederNet Archive

Flickan kom ifrån sin älsklings möte, kom med röda händer. – Modern sade: "Varav rodna dina händer, flicka?" Flickan sade: "Jag har plockat rosor och på törnen stungit mina händer."

Åter kom hon från sin älsklings möte, kom med röda läppar. – Modern sade: "Varav rodna dina läppar, flicka?" Flickan sade: "Jag har ätit hallon och med saften målat mina läppar."

Åter kom hon från sin älsklings möte, kom med bleka kinder. – Modern sade: "Varav blekna dina kinder, flicka?" Flickan sade: "Red en grav, o moder! Göm mig där och ställ ett kors däröver, och på korset rista, som jag säger:

En gång kom hon hem med röda händer, ty de rodnat mellan älskarns händer. En gång kom hon hem med röda läppar, ty de rodnat under älskarns läppar. Senast kom hon hem med bleka kinder, ty de bleknat genom älskarns otro."

The girl returned from meeting her lover, returned with red hands. Her mother said: "What has made your hands red, girl?" The girl said: "I was picking roses and pricked my hands on the thorns."

Again she returned from meeting her lover, returned with red lips. Her mother said: "What reddened your lips, girl?" The girl said: "I was eating raspberries and with the juice I stained my lips."

Again she returned from meeting her lover, came with pale cheeks. Her mother said: "What has made your cheeks so pale, girl?" The girl said: "Oh mother, dig a grave for me, Hide me there and set a cross above, And on the cross write as I tell you:

Once she came home with red hands, they had turned red between her lover's hands. Once she came home with red lips, they had turned red beneath her lover's lips. Finally she came home with pale cheeks, they had turned pale at her lover's betrayal."



# Marianne Beate Kielland – Mezzo-soprano

"A singer with such charisma challenged her colleagues." (Dreh-Punkt-Kultur) Mezzo-so-prano Marianne Beate Kielland is famous for her strong stage presence and musical integrity. Gramophone Magazine writes about her: "The mezzo-soprano is quite outstanding: strong, firm, sensitive in modulations, imaginative in her treatment of words, with a voice pure in quality, wide in range and unfalteringly true in intonation."

She graduated from the Norwegian Academy of Music, where she studied with Svein Bjørkøy. Her other teachers have included Oren Brown and Barbara Bonney. Considered today one of Europe's leading singers, she performs regularly on major concert stages in Europe, America and The East with conductors such as Masaaki Suzuki, Andrew Manze, Petr Popelka, Michel Corboz, Leonardo Alarcon, Herbert Blomstedt, Jordi Savall, Rinaldo Alessandrini, Fabio Biondi and René Jacobs.

In 2012 she received a Grammy nomination in the category 'Best Classical Vocal Solo' for her recording of *Veslemøy Synsk* by the composer Olav Anton Thommessen. In 2021 she received a prestigious OPUS Klassik nomination in the category 'Female Singer of the Year' for her recording of Schumann Lieder. With more than sixty other albums in addition to a demanding concert schedule, Marianne Beate Kielland is established as an exceptional performer with a wide-ranging repertoire from baroque to contemporary.

Together with pianist Nils Anders Mortensen she has previously released 11 recordings on the LAWO Classics label: Früh (LWC1033). Sæle jolekveld (LWC1040), Grieg (LWC1059), Young Elling (LWC1072), The New Song (LWC1097). Whispering Mozart (LWC1111). Songs: Kielland/Dørumsgaard (LWC1145), Einsamkeit - Songs by Mahler (LWC1157), Eivind Groven Songs (LWC1178), Schumann Lieder (LWC1197) with baritone Johannes Weisser, and Så kort ein sommar menneska har - Songs by Gisle Kverndokk (LWC1220). In 2015 she released Påsketid (LWC1077) with violinist Elise Båtnes and organist Kåre Nordstoga, in 2017 Terra Nova (LWC1125) with composer and pianist Jan Gunnar Hoff, in 2020 The Lofoten Oratorio by Ketil Bjørnstad (LWC1202) with Lofoten Voices and MinEnsemblet, and in 2022 Lamento (LWC1226), a collection of baroque laments, with Oslo Circles.

## Petr Popelka – Conductor

Petr Popelka has been Chief Conductor of the Norwegian Radio Orchestra since the autumn of 2020, and since September 2022 Chief Conductor as well of Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra. He has conducted most of the major Norwegian orchestras and made several appearances at the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet. Formerly double bassist with Staatskapelle Dresden, today he is in frequent demand as conductor on leading opera stages. Based in both Hamburg and Prague, Popelka has had a meteoric rise, with invitations from a growing number of Europe's foremost orchestras.

Petr Popelka is known for his insight and infectious enthusiasm whatever the music — with the Norwegian Radio Orchestra this has run the gamut from Viennese classicism to Norwegian pop artists. He has a special place in his heart for the most avant-garde music and he is himself a respected composer.

#### Norwegian Radio Orchestra

The Norwegian Radio Orchestra is known as an orchestra for "the whole land" and is today regarded with a unique combination of respect and affection by its music-loving public. With its remarkably diverse repertoire, this is no doubt the orchestra most heard throughout the land – on the radio, on television, and online, and at various diverse venues around the country.

It is a flexible orchestra, performing everything from symphonic and contemporary classical music to pop, rock, folk, and jazz. Each year the orchestra performs together with internationally acclaimed artists at the Nobel Peace Prize Concert, which is aired to millions of viewers worldwide. Those with whom the orchestra has collaborated in recent years include the Kaizers Orchestra, Mari Boine, Jarle Bernhoft, Diamanda Galàs, Renée Fleming, Andrew Manze, Anna Netrebko, and Gregory Porter.

The Norwegian Radio Orchestra was founded by the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation in 1946. Its first conductor, Øivind Bergh, led the ensemble in a series of concerts from the broadcasting company's main studio, establishing the basis of its popularity and securing its status as a national treasure. The orchestra continues to perform in the context of important media events. It is comprised of highly talented classical instrumentalists, yet its musical philosophy has remained the same: versatility, a light-hearted approach, curiosity for all kinds of music, and an unwillingness to pigeonhole musical styles. Petr Popelka is currently Chief Conductor.





## **Jean Sibelius** (1865–1957)

- 01 Höstkväll, op. 38 nr. 1\_\_04:31 Text: Viktor Rydberg (1828–1895)
- 02 På verandan vid havet, op. 38, nr. 2\_\_03:06 Text: Viktor Rydberg (1828–1895)
- **03** I natten, op. 38, nr. 3\_\_04:06 Text: Viktor Rydberg (1828–1895)
- 04 Se'n har jag ej frågat mera, op. 17, nr. 1\_02:16 Text: Johan Ludvig Runeberg (1804–1877)
- 05 Sov in!, op. 17, nr. 2\_02:11 Text: Karl August Tavaststjerna (1860–1898) Orchestration: Ernest Pingoud (1887–1942)
- 06 Fågellek, op. 17, nr. 3\_01:47 Text: Karl August Tavaststjerna (1860–1898) Orchestration: Ernest Pingoud (1887–1942)
- En slända, op. 17, nr. 5 \_\_04:38
   Text: Oscar Levertin (1862–1906)
   Orchestration: Jussi Jalas (1908–1985)
- 08 Illalle, op. 17, nr. 6\_\_01:21
  Text: Aukusti Valdemar Koskimies (1856–1929)
  Orchestration: Jussi Jalas (1908–1985)
- 09 Lastu lainehilla, op. 17, nr. 7\_\_01:16 Text: Ilmari Kianto (1874–1970) Orchestration: Jussi Jalas (1908–1985)
- 10 Svarta rosor, op. 36, nr. 1\_\_02:01 Text: Ernst Josephson (1851–1906) Orchestration: Simon Parmet (1897–1969)

- 11 Men min fågel märks dock icke, op. 36, nr. 2\_02:17 Text: Johan Ludvig Runeberg (1804–1877) Orchestration: Colin Matthews (\*1946)
- 12 Säv, säv, susa, op. 36, nr. 4\_\_02:31 Text: Gustaf Fröding (1860–1911) Orchestration: Kim Borg (1919–2000)
- 13 Marssnön, op. 36, nr. 5\_\_01:29 Text: Josef Julius Wecksell (1838–1907) Orchestration: Jussi Jalas (1908–1985)
- 14 Demanten på marssnön, op. 36, nr. 6\_\_01:55 Tekst: Josef Julius Wecksell (1838–1907)
- 15 Den första kyssen, op. 37, nr. 1\_\_01:46 Text: Johan Ludvig Runeberg (1804–1877) Orchestration: Ivar Hellman (1891–1994)
- 16 Soluppgång, op. 37, nr. 3\_02:06 Text: Tor Hedberg (1862–1931)
- 17 Var det en dröm?, op. 37, nr. 4\_01:46 Text: Josef Julius Wecksell (1838–1907) Orchestration: Jussi Jalas (1908–1985)
- Flickan kom ifrån sin älsklings möte, op. 37, nr. 5\_03:09 Text: Johan Ludvig Runeberg (1804–1877) Orchestration: Ernest Pingoud (1887–1942)

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