

8.225317-18

Aalto • Kattelus • Vesanto • Kähkönen • Orama • Heinikari • Saarman • Nuorsaari
Pori Opera Choir • Pori Sinfonietta • Ari Rasilainen

MARCO POLO

Regarded as the father of Finnish music, Fredrik Pacius was the composer of the first Finnish opera, *The Hunt of King Charles*, which had its première in Helsinki in 1852. At that time the language of the theatre and the opera house was Swedish, and accordingly the work has a Swedish text, although the opera is often performed in a translated Finnish version, as heard in this live recording. The plot, set in 1671, centres on King Charles XI, ruler of Sweden and Finland, immediately before he reached an age to assume control of his kingdom. The music itself remains close to models such as Weber's *Freischütz* and *Oberon*, and there are also reminders of Beethoven, not least in the choice of the name Leonora for the heroine.

**Fredrik
PACIUS**
(1809-1891)

The Hunt of King Charles

(Kung Karls jakt / Kaarle Kuninkaan Metsästys)

An opera in three acts

Libretto: Zachris Topelius – Sung in the Finnish translation by Jalmari Finne

King Charles XI, aged 16 Tero Aalto (spoken rôle)
 Queen Hedvig Eleonora, his mother Kristiina Kattelus, mezzo-soprano
 Kristian Horn, the King's tutor Mauri Vesanto, bass
 Gustaf Gyllenstjerna, the King's confidant Pekka Kähkönen, baritone
 Mårten Reuterkrantz, equerry and King's confidant Heikki Orama, bass
 Banér, a nobleman in the King's service Matti Heinikari, tenor
 Wachtmeister, a nobleman in the King's service Jukka Saarman, baritone
 Oxenstjerna, a nobleman in the King's service .. Heikki Nuorsaari, tenor/baritone
 Lewenhaupt, a nobleman in the King's service Janne Sundqvist, bass
 Jonathan Pehrsson, a young seal hunter Kai Pitkänen, tenor
 Leonora, a fisherman's daughter Niina Ahola, soprano

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Special thanks to the Palmgren Academy of Music for supplying financial and technical support,
 as well as additional singers for the choir

CD 1	65:06	CD 2	64:20
1-14 Act One	46:07	1-6 Act Two (contd.)	26:48
15-19 Act Two	18:59	7-22 Act Three	37:32

A complete artist and track list can be found on pages 2 to 4 of the booklet.

Recorded live at the Promenadikeskus Hall, Pori, Finland on 19th & 20th February 2001
 Recording producer: Viive Mäemets • Engineers: Enno Mäemets and Antti Saukko / Editroom Oy
 Mixing and editing: Enno and Viive Mäemets / Editroom Oy • Booklet note: Andrew Barnett

Cover image by Kari Petäjä

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Playing Time
2:09:26



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 Booklet note and synopsis in English
 The Finnish libretto can be found at
www.marxos.com/libret/225317.htm
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