

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 Vessanto, 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 Heinkari, 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

**Pori Opera Choir • Pori Sinfonietta • Ari Rasilainen**

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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.naxos.com/libretto/225317.htm](http://www.naxos.com/libretto/225317.htm)  
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