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OBERWEG 21C - HALLE V - D-82008 UNTERRHACHING, MUNICH, GERMANY.

NAXOS

8.554265
STEREO
DDD

Jean
SIBELIUS
(1865-1957)

Playing
Time
72:50

Finlandia • Karelia Suite Lemminkäinen Suite

Daði Kolbeinsson, Cor Anglais* • Richard Tchaikovsky, Cello†
Iceland Symphony Orchestra • Petri Sakari

1	Finlandia, Op. 26	8:06
	Karelia Suite, Op. 11	15:57
2	I Intermezzo	3:48
3	II Ballade	7:36
4	III Alla marcia	4:28
	Lemminkäinen Suite, Op. 22	48:36
5	Lemminkäinen and the Maidens of Saari	16:44
6	Lemminkäinen in Tuonela†	16:07
7	The Swan of Tuonela*†	9:07
8	Lemminkäinen's Return	6:25

The Composer

Jean Sibelius is the most famous Finnish composer of the 20th century. Though at first he sought a career as an orchestral violinist, it soon became apparent that his life was to be dedicated to composition. That decision was helped by a pension from the Finnish government.

The Music

Sibelius was to rely heavily on Finnish patriotism, often using the heroic past as his theme, his most famous work, *Finlandia*, and *Karelia* being among this group of compositions. He also based the four dramatic *Lemminkäinen* legends on the epic *Kalevala*, the haunting melody of the section known as *The Swan of Tuonela* being one of the favourites of the concert hall.

Recorded in the University Hall, Reykjavík from 28th to 31st May,
and on 25th November, 1997.

Producer: Paul Myers

Engineers: Bjarni Rúnar Bjarnason, Þórir Steingrímsson and Vigfús Ingvarsson
Editing: Black Box Music

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Cover Painting: Lemminkäinen's Mother by Akseli Gallen-Kallela
(1865-1931) (The Gallen-Kallela Museum, Finland)



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