

The composers represented on this disc have all achieved great fame and popularity in their native Finland. Most well known are Sibelius, the father of Finnish music and Järnefelt. All of the selections represent some of the finest music composed during this century. Sibelius's admired *Finlandia* and *Valse triste* and Järnefelt's popular *Berceuse* and *Prelude* sit well alongside a wide selection of occasional pieces by lesser known but equally as versatile composers. Elegiac miniatures are complemented by more celebratory pieces such as waltzes and marches. The lush orchestral writing of many of the selections and memorable tunes make the programme as a whole a delight.

FINNISH ORCHESTRAL FAVOURITES

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| 1 | Jean Sibelius (1865-1957): <i>Finlandia</i> , Op. 26 | 8:16 |
| 2 | Leevi Madetoja (1887- 1947): <i>Elegy for Strings</i> | 5:03 |
| 3 | Oskar Merikanto (1868-1924): <i>Romance</i> | 4:36 |
| 4 | Oskar Merikanto (1868-1924): <i>Valse lente</i> | 2:56 |
| 5 | Jean Sibelius (1865-1957): <i>Valse triste</i> , Op. 44/1 | 4:36 |
| 6 | Heikki Aaltoila (1905-1992): <i>Wedding Waltz of Akseli & Elina</i> | 3:17 |
| 7 | Heino Kaski (1885-1957): <i>Prelude in G flat major</i> , Op. 7 | 3:43 |
| 8-12 | Einojuhani Rautavaara (1928-): <i>Fiddlers</i> , Op. 1 | 7:52 |
| 13 | Toivo Kuula (1883-1918): <i>Wedding March</i> , Op. 3. No. 2 | 3:58 |
| 14 | Erkki Melartin (1875-1937): <i>Festive March</i> | 4:42 |
| 15 | Aulis Sallinen (1935-): <i>Sunrise Serenade</i> , Op. 63 † | 6:39 |
| 16 | Armas Järnefelt (1869-1958): <i>Prelude for Orchestra</i> | 2:43 |
| 17 | Armas Järnefelt (1869-1958): <i>Berceuse</i> * | 3:03 |
| 18 | Uuno Klami (1900-1961): <i>Nocturne (from Sea Pictures)</i> | 2:57 |
| 19 | Taneli Kuusisto (1905-1988): <i>Finnish Prayer</i> ** | 2:45 |

Turku Philharmonic Orchestra • Jorma Panula

Maarit Kirvessalo, violin * • Reino Kotaviita, trumpet **

† Finnish Chamber Orchestra • Okko Kamu

Recorded at the Turku Concert Hall, Finland from 6th - 8th September 1995

(Track 15 recorded at the Tapiola Hall, Espoo, from 19th-22nd December, 1995)

Track 18 recorded in the Turku Concert Hall, Finland from 28th November - 4th December, 1996)

Producer: Michael Ponder • Engineer: Matti Heinonen • A full track list can be found on the last page of the booklet.

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