



Smithsonian Associates

Northern Masters: Evocative Concert Music of Europe's Northern Countries

Dr. Rachel Franklin

Tuesday, March 7, 2023 - 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET

WK 4. SYLLABUS & WORKS

MARCH 7 Far across oceans: Sweden, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

For our last session we take a return trip, west from Sweden to Iceland, turning east to the Baltic States, and finally completing our itinerary back in Sweden as a conclusion to our extraordinary four week journey of Northern musical discovery. Starting out, we enjoy the wonderful "Sinfonie Singulière" by Swede Franz Berwald and other delightful Swedish music by Wilhelm Stenhammar. In Iceland's land of fire and ice, we get blasted by a musical volcano composed by Jon Leifs! Those elemental forces of nature continue to inspire modern Icelandic composers such as Anna Þorvaldsdóttir, and Hildur Guðnadóttir who scored the chilling TV series "Chernobyl." Over in the Baltics, we sample the mesmerizing atmosphere of Estonian composer Arvo Pärt's "Tabula Rasa" and other striking music by just a few of many Baltic composers we need to hear more of. Back in Sweden we'll conclude with some idyllic piano and symphonic works by Wilhelm Peterson-Berger and Hugo Alfvén.

Works explored, media used:

Berwald: Symphony No. 3 in C Major, "Sinfonie singulière" 1845: I. Allegro fuocoso

- Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Ulf Björlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdVBy6msDbU>

Wilhelm Stenhammar, 1871-1927: Symphony No. 2 in G minor Op. 34, 1915

- Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, Neeme Järvi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ajTbivfF3E>

Stenhammar: String Quartet No. 5 in C Major, Op. 29, 1910, "Serenade": III. Scherzo. Allegro vivace.

- Stenhammar Quartet

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_sEV0WPWvI

Icelandic Folk Music - Tröllaslagur

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNSt2qc7Ayk>

Jón Leifs, 1899-1968: *Hekla*, 1961

- Helsinki PO.../Leif Segerstam

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AQ24wuyIqI>

On Score: The Podcast, 'Chernobyl' composer Hildur Guðnadóttir explains her unique process of creating the HBO mini-series' entire score from sounds she and her team recorded in an actual power plant in Lithuania.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTw1-nw5S4A>

Hildur Guðnadóttir, 1982: Score to *Chernobyl*, concrete burial scene

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVkAqeggqgg>

Anna Þorvaldsdóttir, 1977, Composing Myself

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siylmwer8JE>

Ester Mägi, 1922-2021: *Siin mu röömumaa*, 1989

- Chamber Choir Sireen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkkyuFkFsXs&t=13s>

Arvo Pärt, 1935: *Fratres*, Violin & Piano version, 1977

- Emily Nebel, Christopher Janwong McKiggan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBj-sH-PDbA>

- Tasmin Little, Martin Roscoe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ipl4JFIKXY>

Pärt: *Tabula Rasa*, 1977

- Adele Anthony, Gil Shaham, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra,
Neeme Jarvi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcinEEnul6M>

Jāzeps Vītols, 1863-1948: *Latvian Country Serenade for orchestra*, 1934

- Latvian Music Academy Symphony Orchestra, Conductor: Leonīds Vīgners

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTjBSS-io-c>

Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis, 1875-1911: *Miške (In The Forest)*, 1900

- Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, Juozas Domarkas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzEH7xrmflg>

Olof Wilhelm Peterson-Berger, 1867-1942: *Frösöblomster*, 1896 - 1914

- Niklas Sivelöv

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4hk-si-aUo>

Hugo Emil Alfvén, 1872-1960: *Swedish Rhapsody No. 1 for Orchestra*, Op. 19 "*Midsommarvaka*", 1903

- Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Esa-Pekka Salonen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjS1sn6QVRE>