

March 1, 2025

7:30 pm

“Sibelius, The Great Dane, and Rising Stars”

**SIBELIUS AND NIELSEN
AND THE
2024 RICHARD RECORD RISING STARS CONCERTO
COMPETITION WINNERS**

– Celebrating 26 Years –

With members of the La Crosse Youth Symphony Orchestra

Karelia Suite, Op. 11

Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

Intermezzo

Ballad

March

SECOND PLACE WINNER

FIRST PLACE WINNER

INTERMISSION

Symphony No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 7

Carl Nielsen (1865-1931)

Allegro orgoglioso

Andante

Allegro comodo — Andante sostenuto — Tempo I

Finale. Allegro con fuoco

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With members of the La Crosse Youth Symphony Orchestra

Karelia Suite, Op. 11

Jean Sibelius (b. Hämeenlinna, Grand Duchy of Finland, December 8, 1865; d. Järvenpää, Finland, September 20, 1957)

Intermezzo

Ballad

March

This score is written for three flutes and piccolo, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, four horns, three trumpets, three trombones, one tuba, timpani, percussion and strings.

Jean Sibelius' music is to Finland as Edvard Grieg's music is to Norway. Sibelius portrays nationalism in music – the music of Finland. Karl Haas writes in his book *Inside Music*, “One of the most enjoyable sources of tonal color in music is found among the rich treasures of various nations, the influence of their folklore upon composers, and the way in which a phrase is shaped or a dance rhythm employed. These coloristic effects reveal the country's identity.”

“Sibelius was a romanticist who dared to pursue his self-chartered course,” continues Haas. “He showed a distinctive approach to orchestral conception, coupled with a personal sense of instrumental color. Sibelius has often been called the ‘Voice of Finland,’ His music is descriptive of his country's rugged and wintry scenery,” not to mention haunting atmosphere.

“Sibelius composed several masterpieces of ‘tableau music’ for scenes from Finnish history,” writes Tomi Mäkelä in his book *Jean Sibelius*. “*The Karelia Suite*, (taken from *Karelia Music*) which was named for the region in Finland of Karelia, was one such piece of music and consists of three movements: Intermezzo, Ballad, and March.”

The full *Karelia Music* was premiered, with Sibelius conducting, at the Imperial Alexander University in Helsinki, in Grand Duchy of Finland, on November 23, 1893. Sibelius first conducted the shorter *Karelia Suite* ten days later; it remains one of his most popular works.

Karelia Music was written in the beginning of Sibelius's compositional career. The rough-hewn character of the music was deliberate – the aesthetic intention was not to dazzle with technique but to capture the quality of naive, folk-based authenticity. Historical comments have noted the nationalistic character of the music as mentioned above.



Jean Sibelius

SECOND PLACE WINNER

FIRST PLACE WINNER

Additional Prize Winners

\$1,000 -

\$500 -

\$500 -

INTERMISSION

Symphony No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 7

Carl Nielsen (b. Odense, Denmark, June 9, 1865; d. Copenhagen, Denmark, October 2, 1931)

Allegro orgoglioso

Andante

Allegro comodo — Andante sostenuto — Tempo I

Finale. Allegro con fuoco

This work is written for three flutes, piccolo, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, four horns, two trumpets, three trombones, timpani, and strings. The duration is 27 minutes.

Symphony No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 7, is the first symphony of Danish composer Carl Nielsen; it was dedicated to his wife. The work's première, on March 14 1894, was performed by Johan Svendsen conducting the Chapel Royal Orchestra (Royal Danish Orchestra), with Nielsen himself playing in the second violin section.

The symphony's melodies have a distinctive Danish flavor with Nielsen's personal style. Karl Haas writes in his book ***Inside Music***, "The years 1890 to 1910 produced late or neoromantic works by Carl Nielsen of Denmark, among

others.” Haas continues, “Carl Nielsen was Denmark’s greatest composer. His works represent the romantic tradition in yet another individualistic fashion. Nielsen at times displays an innocence. Listen to Nielsen’s ***Symphony No. 1*** for a taste of good symphonic Danish fare!”

“Carl Nielsen was a composer whose musical expression is completely embedded within the tonal fiber of his country, and whose love of his native musical language is so persuasive, that he in effect created a national musical idiom. His music has become synonymous with the national musical speech of his country, Denmark,” adds Haas. “His work is in an esoteric sense and is closely associated with the music of Denmark.”

Groves Dictionary of Music and Musicians – Fifth Edition reports that Nielsen was the son of a poor house painter who played the violin in his village. Having numerous siblings, the young Nielsen was forced to work as a shepherd boy while he was still quite young. But he was also able to take violin lessons from the village school teacher. At the age of 19 he entered the Royal Conservatory in Copenhagen and two years later joined the Theatre Royal orchestra as a second violinist where he remained for 16 years. He started to develop as a composer studying works of Haydn, Mozart, and Brahms.

Nielsen began to study conducting, continues ***Groves Dictionary of Music and Musicians – Fifth Edition***, and was appointed conductor of the Royal Opera whose orchestra he led for six years. He then became director of the Royal Conservatory where he taught music theory. He continued to compose a great deal of works which are now known internationally, and to conduct until his death.



Carl Nielsen