

“Sibelius on Stage”

– Unforeseen performance of Swanwhite play



Jean Sibelius called the music he wrote for the theatre an "old sin", realizing tiny expectations for artistic triumphs with it, but pointing out his personal enthusiasm towards incidental music. And he did not want to give up his addiction. During decades incidental music by Sibelius has survived, and is alive part of his works, mainly cause of orchestral suites prepared after original music for play's. Actually his most performed work *Valse triste* is

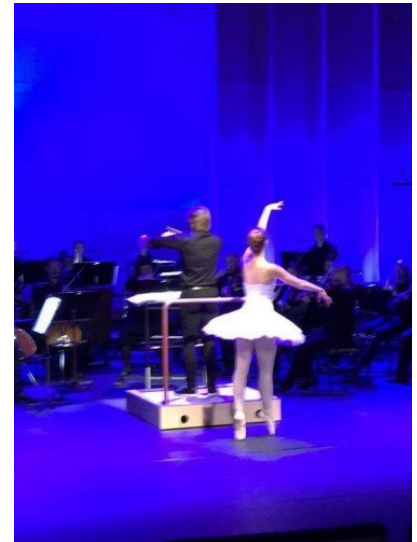
originally wrote for play *Kuolema* (Death) by Arvid Järnefelt. Unfortunately outside of well-known orchestral suites still exists plenty of great incidental music. Combining that music with play awakens it fully, enriching the drama written for.

The Great Man of Swedish literature, **August Strindberg** wrote a play called *Svahnevit* (Swanwhite) to Norwegian actress **Harriet Bosselle** as a gift of engagement year 1901. Bosse appeared as *Mélisande* at the Swedish Theatre, Helsinki, in 1906, and she was delighted with Sibelius's music. Bosse suggested to August Strindberg that Sibelius could write the music for his *Swanwhite* as well. For the *Swanwhite* Sibelius wrote a horn call and 13 musical episodes. Score is throughout delicate music with sophistication and great sense of scenes.

For fairytale play one needs princes, kings, a nasty stepmother and surprising changes of storyline, combined with supernatural happenings. You'll find all this within August Strindberg's play *Swanwhite*. At a same time it's a symbolic play for grown-ups, touching equally youngsters.

Sibelius on Stage awakes story of *Swanwhite* after decades of oblivion, and returns it to stage. In this case performance joints highlights of the original play with all original music for play by Sibelius, to make the experience whole.

To illuminate the whole picture of Jean Sibelius as composer, the first half of concert will consist of incidental music based orchestral suites Sibelius prepared for concert performances.



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