

AULIS SALLINEN

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The Finnish composer, Aulis Sallinen was born on 9 April 1935. His music has been variously described as "remorselessly harsh", a "beautifully crafted amalgam of several 20th-century styles", and "neo-romantic".

Sallinen studied at the Sibelius Academy, where his teachers included Joonas Kokkonen. Sallinen has had works commissioned by the Kronos Quartet, and has also written 6 operas, 8 symphonies, concertos for violin, cello, flute, horn and English horn as well as several chamber works. He won the Nordic Council Music Prize in 1978 for his opera *Ratsumies* (The Horseman).

Sallinen was born in Salmi. During his childhood the family moved several times for his father's work, and during Evacuation of Finnish Karelia in 1944 the family relocated in Uusikaupunki, where Aulis Sallinen attended school.

His first instruments were violin and piano. He would play both jazz and classical music. He was known to be extremely creative, and spent much time during his teenage years improvising. After a while, he began writing his ideas down on paper, and began to embrace serious composition. He attended the Sibelius Academy of Music, and studied with a number of prestigious teachers such as Aarre Merikanto and Joonas Kokkonen.

After graduating, Sallinen took a position as composition teacher at the Sibelius Academy, and continued composing. One of his prominent students was the Austrian born Finnish composer Herman Rechberger. In his mid 20s, Sallinen was put on the board of directors of the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra. He became chairman of the board of Finnish Composers ten years later. Though he was a known teacher and was on many boards of directors, his compositions were not particularly noted until he was made "Professor of Arts for Life" by the Finnish government, giving him money so he could focus more on composition.

Saline's first opera *Ratsumies* premiered at Savonlinna in 1974. Together with Joonas Kokkonen's *The Last Temptations* (1975) its started the golden era of modern Finnish opera. His second opera, *Punainen viiva* (The Red Line), a very fine work, was commissioned by Finnish National Opera, the third one was jointly commissioned by Covent Garden and others, and it is called *Kuningas lahtee Ranskaan* (The King goes to France).

After receiving the lifelong art professorship, Sallinen devoted great amounts of time to his composing. He has revived standard forms and harmonies, but puts them together in very contemporary ways. He has received a number of commissions from some very renowned ensembles and has composed eight symphonies, including one using material from a proposed ballet on *The Lord of the Rings* and containing two mediaeval Finnish tunes from the *Piae Cantiones*. He has written six operas, and is well known as the composer of the title track of the Kronos Quartet's album *Winter Was Hard*.

Career highlights

- 1960 awarded diploma from the Sibelius Academy.
- 1960-70 administrator of the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra.
- 1978 Nordic Council Music Prize for *The Horseman*.
- 1981 became the first person to be made a Professor of Arts for life by the Finnish Government, enabling him to concentrate on composing full-time.
- 1983 Wihuri International Sibelius Prize.
- 2004 first in series of recordings of complete orchestral music released on the CPO label.

Selected works

Symphonies

- Symphony No. 1, Op. 24 (1971)
- Symphony No. 2 Symphonic Dialogue, Op. 29 (for percussion and orchestra) (1972)
- Symphony No. 3, Op. 35 (1975)
- Symphony No. 4, Op. 49 (1979)
- Symphony No. 5 Washington Mosaics, Op. 57 (1985–1987)
- Symphony No. 6 From a New Zealand Diary, Op. 65 (1990)
- Symphony No. 7 The Dreams of Gandalf, Op. 71 (1996)
- Symphony No. 8 Autumnal Fragments, Op. 81 (2001)

Other Orchestral works

- Mauermusik, Op. 7 (1963)
- Variations for Orchestra, Op. 8 (1963)
- Chorali for wind orchestra, Op. 22 (1970)
- Chamber Music I, for string orchestra, Op. 38 (1975)
- Chamber Music II, for alto flute and string orchestra Op. 41 (1976)
- Dies Irae, for soprano, bass, male choir and orchestra, Op. 47 (1978)
- Shadows, Op. 52 (1982)
- Chamber Music III The Nocturnal Dances of Don Juan Quixote, for cello and string orchestra Op. 58 (1983)
- Sunrise Serenade, Op. 63 (1989)
- Songs of Life and Death, for baritone, choir and orchestra, Op. 69 (1995)
- Palace Rhapsody for wind orchestra, Op. 72 (1996)
- Introduction and Tango Overture for piano and string orchestra, Op. 74b (1997)
- A Solemn Overture (King Lear), Op. 75 (1997)
- Chamber Music IV, for piano and string orchestra, Op. 79 (2000)
- Chamber Music V Barabbas Variations, for accordion and string orchestra, Op. 80 (2000)
- Chamber Music VI Trois invitations au voyage for string quartet and string orchestra, Op. 88 (2006)
- Concerto for clarinet, viola and chamber orchestra, Op. 91 (2007) (also for clarinet, cello and chamber orchestra, Op. 91a)
- Chamber Music VII Cruseliana, for soloist wind quintet and string orchestra, Op. 93 (2007)
- Chamber Music VIII The Trees, All Their Green (Paavo Haavikko in memoriam), for cello and string orchestra, Op. 94 (2008)

Concertos

- Violin Concerto, Op. 18 (1968)
- Cello Concerto, Op. 44 (1977)
- Flute Concerto Harlequin, Op. 70 (1995)
- Horn Concerto Campana ed Arie, Op. 82 (2002)
- Chamber Concerto for violin, piano and string orchestra, Op. 87 (2005)
- English Horn Concerto, Op. 97 (2010–11)

Chamber music

- String Quartet No. 1, Op. 2 (1958)
- String Quartet No. 2 Canzona, Op. 4 (1960)
- Quattro per quattro, Op. 12 (1965)
- String Quartet No. 3 Some Aspects of Peltoniemi Hintrik's Funeral March, Op. 19 (1969)
- Four Etudes for violin & piano, Op.21 (1970)
- String Quartet No. 4 Quiet Songs, Op. 25 (1971)
- Sonata for Solo Cello, Op. 26 (1971)

Metamorphora, for cello & piano, Op. 34 (1974)
 String Quartet No. 5 Pieces of Mosaic, Op. 54 (1983)
 From a Swan Song, for cello & piano, Op. 67 (1991)
 Barabbus Dialogues, for vocalists, narrator & chamber ensemble, Op. 84 (2003)
 Piano Quintet ...des morceaux oubliés, Op. 85 (2004)
 Cello Sonata, Op. 86 (2004)
 Windy Winter in Provence for Tenor, Piano, Violin & Guitar, Op. 89 (2006)
 Mistral Music for Solo Flute, Op. 90 (2005) (also for flute & string quartet, Op. 90a)
 Piano Quintet No. 2 Three Kullervo Elegies, Op. 92 (2006)
 Preludes and Fugues for Solo Accordion, Op. 95 (2009)
 Piano Trio Les Visions Fugitives, Op. 96 (2010)
 "Die Virtuose Tafelmusik von Don Juanquijote" for Accordion & Cello, Op. 98 (2011)
 "...memories, memories..." for Children's Choir, Piano & Strings, Op. 99 (2011)
 Five Portraits of Women for Soprano, Horn & Chamber Orchestra, Op. 100 (2012)
 Baumgesang mit Epilog for Cello & Piano, Op. 101 (2013)
 Three Adagios for Organ, Op. 102 (2013)
 String Quartet No. 6, Op. 103 (2014)

Operas

The Horseman, Op. 32 (1974, Rasmusies (Finnish), Ryttaren (Swedish))
 The Red Line, Op. 46 (1978) a truly splendid work with a moving finale
 The King Goes Forth to France, Op. 53 (1983, Kuningas lähtee Ranskaan (Finnish))
 Kullervo, Op. 61 (1988)
 The Palace, Op. 68 (1991–1993, Palatsi (Finnish))
 King Lear, Op. 76 (1999)

Vocal and choral

Songs from the Sea, Op. 33 for unaccompanied children's choir, based on Finnish folk songs and a poem by the composer's two sons
 Song Around a Song, Op. 50 (1980) - Four folk songs in Italian, Japanese, Finnish and English for unaccompanied children's choir
 The Iron Age: Suite, Op. 55, arranged from music for Finnish TV series based on the Kalevala
 The Beaufort Scale, Op. 56 (1984), humoresque unaccompanied choir based on the subject of wind velocity.

Most of this information is on Wikipedia

At first I was impressed by his music.

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