

Abstract

An Introduction to Finnish Music for Wind Band by Daniel Gordon

Finland is not usually one of the first countries to come to mind when discussing music for wind band. But this is a musical nation: it produced Jean Sibelius, has nurtured several internationally acclaimed conductors, and supports twenty full-time symphony orchestras—all in a country with roughly the same population as the city of Chicago. This presentation will provide an introduction to Finnish music for large ensembles of wind and percussion instruments. The repertory covers a spectrum from virtuosic to less technically demanding, old to new, by established Finnish composers through younger ones. Included are background information to the composers and their works as well as selected audio excerpts. The writer researched the repertory during a recent sabbatical year in Finland, with considerable assistance from the Finnish Music Information Center in Helsinki.