



Breaking the Sound Barrier  
45 RPM

# KORPPOO TRIO

Jean Sibelius

## SIBELIUS PIANO TRIO

PETTERI IIVONEN, VIOLIN

JUHO POHJONEN, PIANO

SAMULI PELTONEN, CELLO

Sibelius Piano Trio earned both GRAMMY® and International Classical Music Award nominations for this album when it first released in digital formats. I have been eager to cut lacquers for you with Bernie Grundman so we could release *Korppoo Trio* on 180 gram vinyl.

Petteri called from Finland one night and told me he and two friends had formed Sibelius Piano Trio and that they wanted to make their debut album with Yarlung Records. These friends happened to be Juho Pohjonen, Petteri Iivonen and Samuli Peltonen, three successful international soloists in their own rights, balancing schedules of concerto performances with orchestra tours and solo recitals. As Finnish Consul General J.P. Markkanen observes in his thoughts below, the musical power performers of this caliber can unleash when they play together is magnetic and palpable.

This album proudly bears the seal and endorsement of the Los Angeles and Orange County Audio Society. President Mike Wechsberg, Chairman Robert Levi and the society's multi-year collaboration with Yarlung have enabled joint concerts and recordings to reach larger audiences; indeed many on Yarlung's technical team and board of directors are members of the Audio Society. Yarlung musicians join us in expressing our thanks. Petteri, Juho, Samuli and I very much appreciate Jim Mulally for serving as executive producer and for underwriting this vinyl release. Jim serves on the Yarlung board of directors and has supported numerous releases including the internationally acclaimed *If You Love For Beauty* (also 45 RPM 180 gram vinyl) celebrating Metropolitan Opera mezzo soprano Sasha Cooke, which won her a coveted spot on the Super LP list at *The Absolute Sound*. One can also hear Yarlung repertoire on analog tape and digitally recorded formats including DSD, most of the download and streaming formats, and compact disc.

When you listen to Sibelius Piano Trio's Yarlung release *Fire & Fancy*, also on vinyl, you'll understand how comfortably these three gentlemen perform any musical style. When they play *Nene*, written for them by Argentine composer Diego Schissi, you hear Latin musicians offering South American sunlight and Argentine dance rhythms. *Nene* celebrates the daydreams and fantasy world of a young boy. When the Trio plays *Ruminations* by David S. Lefkowitz, Petteri, Juho and Samuli conjure the mystical fire of Persian poetry. Even though they are playing a violin, cello and piano, one can almost hear an oud, nose flute and Eastern European klezmer in David's rhapsodic work inspired by the great 13th Century Persian poet and Sufi mystic Jalāl ad-Din Mohammad Rūmī.



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YARLUNG RECORDS  
BOB ATTIYEH, PRODUCER



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180 Gram 45 RPM Vinyl  
Made in Germany

international  
classical  
music  
awards

Nomination 2018  
**ICMA**

Sibelius gave us his monumental *Korppoo Trio* in D Major (JS 209) in 1887. We can hear the magnificent mature Sibelius peeking out through this work. Sibelius wrote *Korppoo Trio* in three sophisticated and dramatic movements.... *Korppoo* opens with a good-humored celebration of the Beauty of Nature and includes a thoughtful *Fugue* in the development section which demonstrates his growing power as a composer. Next comes a *Fantasia*, improvisational and painterly in nature, with frequent tempo changes and mood swings, ending with passages of natural serenity that remind me of bird song. Sibelius reveals his fun sense of humor in the final *Rondo*, which he writes without allowing himself to be inhibited by traditions of the "approved" classical tradition.

–Juho Pohjonen

*Korppoo Trio* is the most ambitious and expansive of the three Sibelius trios... coming in at 26 minutes, its fluent, melodic opening *allegro* interrupted on occasion by stabbing, rather Beethovenian assertions and even a clean-lined *fugato* at one point, though the overall form is classic in outline and clear as a bell. The second movement unfolds elaborate episodes that delve into Romantic paths and fantasy, with striking use of high birdcalls and glassy harmonics in the violin (presumably to show off the young composer-violinist's prowess on his instrument). A *vivace rondo finale* dances gaily along, bringing the trio to an exhilarating conclusion.... Yarlung's recording, is, as usual, the epitome of sonic realism.

–Mark Lehman, *The Absolute Sound*

Recorded in Samueli Theater at  
Segerstrom Center for the Arts, March 30, 2016

Executive Producer: Jim Mulally

Recording Engineers: Bob Attiyeh & Arian Jansen  
Mastering Engineers: Steve Hoffman & Bob Attiyeh  
Vinyl Mastering: Bernie Grundman  
Microphone Preamplification: Elliot Midwood  
SonoruS ATR12 analog tape recorder  
EMTEC 468 tape  
AKG C24 microphone: Ancona Audio  
Steinway technician: Kathy Smith  
Graphic Layout: MikeDesign  
Cover photo: Midnight Sun, Lake Kuhmo, Finland:  
Hagai Shaham  
Sibelius Piano Trio (l to r) Petteri, Juho & Samuli:  
Cooper Bates photography

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When you hear this trio play Sibelius, you'll understand why the Sibelius family granted Petteri, Juho and Samuli use of the composer's name. Jean Sibelius' piano trios were important to him personally. He wrote them in his youth, during the summers he vacationed with his brother Christian and sister Linda on various islands in Houtskär, the Finnish archipelago off the southwest coast of Finland. Sibelius wrote *Korppoo Trio* on Korppoo Island where the composer (violin), Linda (piano) and Christian (cello) played it on "rainy days" at the family's summer house.

–Bob Attiyeh, producer

### KORPPOO TRIO IN D MAJOR (JS 209)

ALLEGRO MODERATO

FANTASIA ANDANTE PART 1

FANTASIA ANDANTE PART 2

FINALE VIVACE

Petteri, Juho and Samuli founded Sibelius Piano Trio a few years ago and catapulted to success on the European concert stage. When three international soloists of this caliber unite to form a chamber music ensemble, the results are predictably electric. These three friends love playing together, and this love is easy to hear in their concerts and in their recording.

Petteri lived in Los Angeles for several years while studying with Hagai Shaham at Thornton School of Music at USC, and he has close family here. Yarlung had worked with Petteri to record his now legendary albums *Art of the Violin* and *Art of the Sonata* with Canadian pianist Kevin Fitzgerald, released on CD and on vinyl. Juho has performed often in Los Angeles, once with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, three times with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. As a proud Finn and as a representative of the Finnish government, I salute Sibelius Piano Trio for their talent. Petteri, Juho and Samuli embody and exemplify the best of our country, and as someone who lives in Los Angeles, it gives me great pleasure that the Trio is so intimately connected with California and Yarlung Records.

The Korppoo Trio score is closely held by The Sibelius Foundation, which gives infrequent permission for public performance or recordings of this monumental work. Sibelius Piano Trio had the special honor of performing from the manuscript written cleanly in the composer's hand. This live concert on March 30th offered the lucky audience the first main stage performance of this work in the Americas. May there soon be another! Sibelius Piano Trio and Yarlung Records dedicated this album and concert to the 100th anniversary of Finland's independence.

–J.P. Markkanen, Consul General of Finland

