

**MIKKO NISULA**

**E s t r e l l i t a**

*Rhapsody for bandoneón and orchestra*

Op. 46

(2020)

Bandoneón solo

M221B



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**Mikko Nisula** (s. 1974) on opiskellut musiikkitiedettä Helsingin yliopistossa, sävellystä Pietarin konservatoriossa professori Boris Tischenkon johdolla, sekä täydentänyt opintojaan belgialaisen säveltäjän Philippe Boesmansin mestarikurssilla. Hän on toimittanut vuodesta 2007 lähtien Fredrik Paciuksen (1809–91) koottuja näytämöteoksia. Säveltäjänä Nisulaa voidaan luonnehtia lähinnä uusromantikoksi tai impressionistiksi, joka on kuitenkin valmis omaksumaan tyylinsä muitakin vaikeuksia, aina kulloisenkin sävellyksen ja sen aihepiirin mukaan.

Nisulan keskeisiä teoksia ovat ooppera *Tähtisilmä* (2010–17), *Pianokonsertto* (2018), *Sinfonia concertante* (2009), kantaatti *Myrsky* (2006), sekä 5 orkesterifantasiaa, joista tunnetuin on *Vellamon neidot* (2016). Mainintansa ansaitsevat myös 5 laulusarjaa, 3 kamarikonserttoa, sekä 4 sonaattia harmonikalle.

**Mikko Nisula** (b. 1974) studied musicology at the University of Helsinki and composition with Professor Boris Tischenko at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. He later furthered his studies in a masterclass with the Belgian composer Philippe Boesmans. Since 2007, he has been working on a critical edition of the complete works for the stage by Fredrik Pacius (1809–1891). Nisula may be described as a Neoromantic or Impressionist composer who has also absorbed into his music various other stylistic influences, according to the mood and subject of each composition.

His main works include the opera *Tähtisilmä* (*The Starry-eyed Girl*, 2010–17), *Piano Concerto* (2018), *Sinfonia concertante* (2009), a cantata *Myrsky* (*The Storm*, 2006) and five orchestral fantasies, of which the best known is *Vellamon*

*neidot* (*Vellamo's Maidens*, 2016). Also worth mentioning are three chamber concertos, five song cycles with different instrumental combinations and four sonatas for accordion.

### *Estrellita, rapsodia bandoneónille ja orkesterille*

*Estrellita*, op. 46, syntyi alkuvuodesta 2020 bandoneonisti Henrik Sandåsin aloitteesta. Hän oli jo aiemmin pyytänyt minulta bandoneónmusiikkia, joka ei olisi soittimella perinteisesti esitettyä argentiinalaista tangoa. Minulle oli toisaalta luontevaa välttää Piazzolla-vaikutteita, mutta en myöskään halunnut mennä toiseen suuntaan ihan akateemiseen nykymusiikkiin asti. Niinpä valitsinkin teoksen tyyliksi jonkinlaisen klassisen- ja estradimusiikin välimaaston. Olen nimittäin aina tuntenut kiinnostusta esimerkiksi jonkinlaista kevyttä klassista säveltäneen Jean Françaix:n (1912–1997) musiikkia kohtaan.

Yhtenä inspiraation lähteenä oli myös vuonna 2018 Barcelonassa kuulemani espanjalaisen flamencokitaristin Juan Manuel Canizaresin (s.1966) säveltämä kitarakonsertto. Nimi *Estrellita* viittaa tässä kuitenkin vain ihan yleisesti espanjankielisten maiden estradimusiikkiin, jota myös bandoneón parhaimmillaan edustaa. Niinpä mukaan mahtuu myös draamaa, varsinkin teoksen keskelle sijoittuvassa, kahden hitaan taitteen reunustamassa kehittelyjaksossa Allegro moderato (t.66–99). Kokonaismuoto on kuitenkin enemmän A-B-A -tyyppinen vapaa fantasia kuin sonaattimuoto. Myös solisti ja orkesteri ovat keskenään varsin tasavertaisia vuoropuhelussaan.

### *Estrellita, rhapsody for bandoneón and orchestra*

*Estrellita*, Op. 46, was composed in early 2020 on the initiative of bandoneónist Henrik Sandås. He had also previously asked me to write some bandoneón music that was not like the Argentine tango traditionally played on the instrument. On the one hand, it seemed natural for me to avoid the influence of Piazzolla, but neither did I want to go in the other direction, even as far as academic contemporary music. Thus, I chose a kind of intermediate style between classical and estrada music. I have namely always been interested in light classical music by composers such as Jean Françaix (1912–1997).

Another source of inspiration was the guitar concerto composed by Juan Manuel Canizares (b. 1966), a Spanish flamenco guitarist, which I heard in Barcelona in 2018. However, the name *Estrellita* refers here only to the estrada music of the Spanish-speaking countries in general. And it is often represented at its best by the bandoneón. Thus, there is room for drama, especially in the Allegro moderato development section in the middle of the work (bb. 66–99), framed by two slow sections. However, the overall form is more like an ABA-type free fantasy than sonata form. The soloist and the orchestra are also equal partners in their musical dialogue.

# ESTRELLITA

Rhapsody for bandoneón and orchestra

**Allegro moderato (♩ = ca. 104–108)**

Mikko Nisula (2020)  
Op. 46

The musical score for 'ESTRELLITA' is composed of eight staves of music for bandoneón and orchestra. The score begins with a dynamic of **3** (likely referring to a three-part setting) and an **Ob.** (Oboe) part. The first staff shows a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff starts with **VI. I** (Violin I) playing eighth-note pairs, followed by a **solo** section for the bandoneón. The third staff continues with the bandoneón solo, marked **mp** (mezzo-forte) and **cresc.** (crescendo). The fourth staff features a piano accompaniment with a bass line. The fifth staff shows a melodic line for the bandoneón with dynamic changes to **f** (fortissimo) and **come una canzona** (like a song). The sixth staff continues with the bandoneón's melodic line, marked **f ma leggiero** (faster but light). The seventh staff shows a rhythmic pattern with a change in time signature from 4/4 to 2/4. The eighth staff concludes with a dynamic of **p sub.** (pianississimo subito) and **mp** (mezzo-pianissimo). The ninth staff begins with a **solo** section for the bandoneón, marked **mf vagamente** (moderately mezzo-forte, vaguely). The score ends with two measures of silence, each marked with a large number **2**.

27

*mf cresc.*

*f, come prima*

30

*poco a poco dim.*

*riten.* *a tempo*

34

*solo*

*mf agitato*

38

*mf, come prima*

*3*

43

*f*

*ff sempre*

45

*solo*

*brillante*

47

49

poco a poco rall.

52 Andante misterioso ( $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 66$ ) 2 riten. 3 Adagio ( $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 52$ ) VI. I riten.

Cadenza (l'istesso tempo)  
quasi in tempo, ma sognando

63 rit.

(63) in tempo

p cresc.

(63) riten. A tempo Sostenuto

mf f pp