

Sunday, Oct. 14 at 1:30 p.m.

Nordic Miniatures - a Concert

NORDIC MINIATURES: NOW AND THEN

ROBERTA SWEDIEN, PIANO AND NARRATION

"Storytelling and musical genius." – The Asian Age

A MAGICAL INTERWEAVING OF WORDS AND MUSIC

From the elegance of 19th-century Nordic drawing rooms to the earthy peasant, folk expressions of the countryside to ancient Norse sagas to the ultra-modern, ink-barely-dry musings for solo piano from Iceland, Finland, Norway, Denmark and Sweden. Experience music by Grieg, Sibelius, Peterson-Berger, Vidar, Leifs, Johansson and more alongside our five commissioned composers woven with words from Peer Gynt, the Kalevala, Hans Christian Andersen, Ingmar Bergman, poets Bjørnson, Hoffman and more. All from these mysterious and star-studded northern lands. "An evening of sheer cool"

Roberta Swedien

Pianist Roberta Swedien has performed on four continents for over four decades in solo, chamber and orchestral concerts, television and radio appearances with repertoire ranging from Bach to Elliott Carter. She has performed live concerts in venues as diverse as the Västerås Castle, Gävle Läns museet, Stöde and Ockelbo Kyrkan in Sweden, the Embassy of the United States, the Embassy of Sweden and the High Commission of Canada in New Delhi, the Poona Music Society, the Goethe Institute in New Delhi, Chennai and Pune, India, the National Center for the Performing Arts in Bombay, The Walker Art Center the Cliff Dwellers Club in Orchestra Hall, Chicago, the University of Iowa, the University of Florida, Northwestern University, The North Shore Fine Arts Festival in Chicago, the Scandinavian Center in Vancouver, the Scandinavian Cultural Center in Boston and SWEA events in San Diego, Seattle, San Francisco, Newport Beach, Los Angeles and Boston.



Her series "The Music Room Recitals", piano music with original narration continues to inspire audiences around the world. Each program is a rich tapestry of words and music that bring a refreshing new color and dimension to the classical music experience. The programs are "From Russia with Love, Sergei Rachmaninoff", "Clara Schumann: A Romantic Portrait", "American Classics", "Swedish Rhapsody", "The Nobel Concert" and "Nordic Miniatures: Now and Then" which includes newly commissioned works.

Daughter of 5-time Grammy Award winner, Bruce Swedien, producer and recording engineer for Michael Jackson, Quincy Jones, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and many more, Roberta grew up in the studios around the best of the best. She also did sound design for Michael Jackson's HIStory album.

She has been described by the Chicago Daily News as "an outstanding talent" and music critic. R. R. Manon wrote "It would seem most composers have written with her hands in mind, so fluent and knowing is her touch. She unleashed a sound raging with a power and instinctual drive that were unforgettable."

WORLD PREMIERE COMMISSIONED WORKS FROM:

ANNA-LENA LAURIN, SWEDEN

Composer-in-residence of Camerata Nordica, works commissioned by Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, Malmö Opera Orchestra, Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra, ensembles and soloists in Argentina, Norway, Russia, Denmark, the U.S. and many others.

Winner of numerous awards and prizes. Her many CDs include *Iphigenia* – a composer portrait for Swedish Television. Swedish Radio appointed her Composer-of-the-Year in 2013.

SNORRI HALLGRÍMSSON, ICELAND

Composer for multi-media as well as concert music for orchestra, mixed choir, chamber ensembles, guitar and piano. His choral work *Stjörnuhrap* was performed with Sir John Tavener's last work at a memorial concert at Southwark Cathedral, London. He is musical assistant to composer Ólafur Arnalds and has worked with him on "The Chopin Project" and the BAFTA-award winning score of "Broadchurch". He received his Masters degree from the Berklee College of Music, Valencia, Spain.

TORMOD SÆVERUD, NORWAY

"Classical – in my modern way" composer of chamber music for cello, guitar, voice and piano with performances in Scandinavia, Germany, Russia, Japan and now the U.S. Sissel Kyrkjebø and Plácido Domingo have performed his songs. He is the son of well-known Norwegian composer Harald Sæverud.

KIM HELWEG, DENMARK

Composing since the age of 13, his music has been performed in Europe, North America, South America and in South Korea, and works have been commissioned from Italy, Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Finland, Germany, Holland, Sweden, USA and England. His compositions for The Royal Danish Orchestra, The Royal Danish Ballet, operas and classical ensembles often have a visible jazz/rock influence. He won the 1st prize twice for compositions made for The Danish Radio Concert Orchestra. In 1986 his anti-musical *The Kreutzer Sonata* (based on Tolstoy and Beethoven) with both music and lyrics by Helweg, won a prize at the European Broadcast Union in Monaco.

JOUKO TÖTTERSTRÖM, FINLAND

Composer of works for symphony orchestra, wind ensembles, string orchestra, voice, organ, piano and orchestra, string quartet and many more, his opera "Home" was just premiered in Helsinki and was selected by the Prime Minister's Office for the program celebrating 100 years of Finland's independence. Professor at Oulu University, he received his Masters and Doctoral degrees from the Sibelius Academy.