

ON FOOT ACROSS THE SOLAR SYSTEMS

A multimedia song cycle based on poetry by Edith Södergran

Composed by Garrett Fisher | Maria Männistö (Vocalist) | Garrett Fisher (Pianist)

On Foot Across the Solar Systems is a 60 minute song cycle composed by Garrett Fisher with optional projected video. Performed by Finnish-American vocalist Maria Männistö and the composer at piano, the work features 23 of Finnish modernist Edith Södergran's poems that explore nature, illness, and the struggle toward self-actualization. Projected timelapse footage of Finland's epic landscape in changing light sets the work in a magical and poetic natural world that heightens the timeless, epic quality of Södergran's words. This immersive multimedia experience requires only the two performers and can be performed at festivals, chamber halls, museums, bars, outdoor and cultural events, as well as private gatherings. 2023 marks the centennial of Södergran's death and provides a compelling context to celebrate Södergran's effervescent genius.

[Learn more](#)

[Listen to samples](#)

[Read the Libretto](#)



Although today Edith Södergran is regarded as one of Finland's greatest twentieth century poets, when she died in poverty of tuberculosis at 31 in 1923, she had been dismissed as a mad, megalomaniac aristocrat by most of her Finnish contemporaries. Her poems are intensely visionary and have been compared with Rimbaud's.

Södergran was no stranger to hardship. At 16 she contracted tuberculosis and lost her father to the same disease. The Bolshevik revolution left her family in abject poverty and the Finnish civil war left them isolated and in danger. Regardless, her poems tap into a spirit of resilience and joy.

She wrote in Swedish and was part of a minority Swedish-speaking culture within Finland, one that today is often subject to discrimination and is at risk of disappearing altogether. With this work not only does the team hope to bring Södergran's work to a larger public, but to foster greater awareness of this important community.





Garrett Fisher is a composer, writer and pianist whose interdisciplinary works have been presented at festivals and venues across the US and Europe and which have been hailed by The New York Times as “a strong, unified and strikingly individual utterance of unambiguous beauty.” His work has been profiled in the Wall Street Journal and Los Angeles Times. Recently Blood Moon, commissioned by Beth Morrison Projects, premiered at New York City’s Prototype Festival (2020). Fisher’s music can be found on the Swedish BIS label (The Passion of Saint Thomas More is part of their 30 year/30 disc commemorative series and earned 10/10 from Classics Today). The Seattle Times hailed his compositions for piano as “the most immersive and beautiful new piano music I’d heard in years...no piano lover should miss it.” garrettfisher.com



Maria Männistö, “one of the most hauntingly beautiful voices I have heard in years” (Seattle Times), moves comfortably among a wide range of musical styles to international acclaim. Maria has appeared frequently as soloist with Seattle Symphony, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra, among others. Recent solo engagements include Handel’s Ode for St. Cecilia’s Day with Seattle Symphony, Saariaho’s Leinolaulut with Philharmonia Northwest, Carmina Burana with Pacific Northwest Ballet, and a performance of her own compositions at Musiikkitalo concert hall in Helsinki. A dedicated member of the Finnish community in Seattle, she serves as music director of the Finnish Lutheran Church and performs regularly at Nordic festivals and events. mariamannisto.com

Technical Information

Venues: the work can be performed in intimate settings (museums, bars, parties), theaters, concert halls, in outdoor settings, as well as part of a larger series (music, theatre, cultural festivals, literary)

Required Performers: Pianist and Vocalist (mic’d or acoustic based on venue)

Instrument: Grand piano. Chair and stand for vocalist.

Video: requires projector and screen suitable for the venue. Assistance required in starting and stopping the video which runs without cues during the performance.

Web: <http://www.garrettfisher.com/onfoot>

Contact & Bookings: Dan Carlisle, Business Manager | fisherensemble.info@gmail.com | 206.679.5914