

Cecilia Zilliacus – Violin



"Cecilia is extremely musical and living proof that it's always possible to pursue unusual ideas."

The Strad, 2018

Over the years, audiences have embraced Cecilia Zilliacus' equally tantalizing and warm interpretations of everything from the great classical and romantic works to contemporary chamber music and collaborations across genres – from the most prominent symphony orchestras, conductors and composers in Europe, to jazz musicians, folk musicians, singer song-writers and many others.

Exchanges with fellow musicians and communication with the audience are catchwords in the projects she pursues or initiates.

"I want to dwell in contexts where the point is that it's me who's bringing my distinctiveness to the table – just as the other musicians are bringing theirs – and that our work together becomes more than the sum of the individual

parts."

Cecilia Zilliacus' efforts to draw attention to lesser-known composers, both male and female, have led to a very broad repertoire. She often greets her audiences with compositions written specifically for her.

Among Cecilia Zilliacus recurring collaborators are internationally active musicians like Lise Berthaud, Bengt Forsberg, Håvard Gimse, Philippe Graffin, Christian Ihle Hadland, Svante Henryson, Paavali Jumppanen, Jakob Koranyi, Roland Pöntinen, Kati Raitinen, Christoffer Sundqvist, Torleif Thedéen, Janne Thomsen, Oliver Triendl, Lena Willemark and many others.

Cecilia Zilliacus has made a number of acclaimed recordings, several of which have been rewarded with Swedish "Grammis". The most recent Grammis, 2019, was awarded for her recording of Amanda Maier's compositions together with Kati Raitinen and Bengt Forsberg. Previous Grammis have rewarded recordings made together with pianist Bengt-Ake Lundin and string trio ZilliacusPerssonRaitinen.

"After her superlative recording of Nielsen's Violin Concerto last year (reviewed in March 2016) Cecilia Zilliacus presents something totally different. Or is it? Not entirely. The earthiness that made her Nielsen so idiomatic is ever-present on this fascinating and unusual recording in which the language of Nordic folk music provides the predominant aesthetic (...)

- **The Strad**, 2017, commenting the record, **Dansa** (Cecilia Zilliacus and Lena Willemark, BIS) featuring pieces by Johann Sebastian Bach, Svante Henryson and Sven-David Sandström.

Among the conductors Cecilia Zilliacus has worked with are Anja Bihlmaier, Daniel Blendulf, Andrey Boreyko, Baldur Brönniman, Olari Elts, Eivind Gullberg-Jensen, Daniel Harding, Anna-Maria Helsing, Okko Kamu, Eri Klas, Susanna Mälkki, Kristiina Poska, Joseph Swensen, Arvo Volmer and Benjamin Wallfisch.

As a soloist, she has performed with most Swedish symphony orchestras as well as with many Nordic and European orchestras, including BBC Wales, the National Symphony Orchestra of Estonia, The Radio Symphony of the Netherlands and the Zagreb Philharmonic.

"As it should be, with a real soloist, this was indeed an artistic statement and presentation, rather than merely a technical achievement."



- Lars Hedblad in the Swedish daily **Svenska Dagbladet** 30 May 2010, on **Stravinsky's Violin Concerto**, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, conductor Susanna Mälkki, Stockholm Concert Hall.

Cecilia Zilliacus is the artistic director of Katrina Chamber Music on Åland as well as of the Korsholm Music Festival in Finland. She's also a driving force in the Swedish string trio ZilliacusPerssonRaitinen which has been awarded a number of prizes. The trio are artistic directors of the Stockholm Concert Hall's chamber music series, "Äntligen måndag" (Monday, at last).

Zilliacus' leadership is characterized by an open and spirited inducement to creative processes. She has played a large role in the inflow of Nordic and European composers to Stockholm and Finland.

Among the composers who have written expressly for Cecilia Zilliacus and for the string trio ZilliacusPerssonRaitinen are B Tommy Andersson, Dai Fujikura, Mats Larsson Gothe, Fredrik Hedelin, Madeleine Isaksson, Daniel Nelson, Mika Pelo, Sven-David Sandström and Lotta Wennäkoski.

Cecilia Zilliacus received her education in Stockholm and Cologne. She is a professor at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm and a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Music. Her violin of many years is a N. Gagliano from the Järnåker Foundation.

Zilliacus' career took off in 1997 with her victory in the Royal Swedish Academic of Music's prestigious competition the Soloist Prize as well as first prize in the Nordic Soloist Biennial in Trondheim. Moreover, in 1997-1998, she was designated Artist in Residence at Sweden's public radio. In the season of 2001-2002 she was selected as Sweden's representative in the international Rising Star project – a collaboration between Stockholm Concert Hall, Kölner Philharmonie, Carnegie Hall New York, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Konzerthaus Wien and other leading concert houses across the globe.

Cecilia Zilliacus credits her teachers with a large part in her success – from her childhood teachers Maje Bergman and Ulla Magnusson in the municipal music school to many important lessons with Sven Karpe. Other important contexts were music camps in the Ostrobothnian region of Finland and master classes with Milan Vitek, Sylvia Rosenberg and Franco Gulli among others, as well as studies with Harald Thedéen and Mihaela Martin at the music colleges of Stockholm and Cologne respectively. She is now keen on closing the circle and passing her knowledge on to her students, striving to give each and every student the tools allowing them to develop on their own and bring their skills to new levels.