

Sommarmusik på Lundsberg
Presentation Concert 14 July 2022 by Max Claesson

PRESENTATION 1

He was the conductor and much more
Bringing tune to paper
Known both near and far
He stays in the memory of many

But then, suddenly, torn away
For ever
But from his heaven we hear
His voice so calm and clear
Greeting us with "It'll be OK"

The pain and the loss is for ever
But so is also the bright memory
Of a fine man from Storfors
Karl Nicklas Gustavsson

To all of you 'very welcome' to this concert in memory of the composer, conductor and musician, and a son of Storfors, Karl Nicklas Gustavsson.
My name is Max Claesson and I'm a long time friend of Karl Nicklas and his family, his wife, concert pianist Inese Klotina and their children Arvid and Ingrid.

I myself work as an actor, but first of all as a clown, and tomorrow, Friday, you're all very welcome to my clown performance at 3 pm.

PRESENTATION 2

I'm going to tell you a little about the fates and fortunes of life, and how they sometimes are the result of pure chance.

One evening eleven years ago, my wife Monica and myself attended a house meeting in our block in Nynäshamn. As we entered the almost full room, I noticed a distinguished man sitting at the short end of the table together with a young woman. I must confess that my eyes were more drawn to the woman than to the man. We sat down on the remaining empty chairs next to the couple.

And then we started chatting and learned that the man was a composer and she a pianist working at the Royal Opera in Stockholm.

Really? I said and was quite astonished. I'm going there tomorrow to give my clown performance for their staff and their families at the traditional St. Knut's Day Christmas Tree Looting.

Really? So you are the one? said the young woman.

Had the empty chairs not stood where they did, I probably would not stand here as I do right now. From that day, we have been inseparable.

I'm of course talking about Karl Nicklas Gustavsson and his wife Inese Klotina. Later in this concert we'll hear Inese play.

Sadly, Karl Nicklas is no longer among us. But his spirit will be felt through the music he composed, some of which we'll hear tonight in this special concert.
Once again: Very welcome!

PRESENTATION 3

One morning last November – I think it was – I went to see Inese. She stood there in the hallway and looked so happy, yes almost blissful. So I wonder, what could have happened, thinking she might have just got the highest win in a lottery or full score on the pools. But of course not, that's not her kind of thing. Then she tells me that the Opera direction has honoured her by asking her to play the first piano concerto by Rachmaninov together with the Opera Orchestra, Hovkapellet.

On 8 April I had one of the most awesome musical experiences in my whole, long life, when incredible Inese played this fantastic masterwork in the sold out Royal Opera House with an exalted opera audience. And now we have her here: Inese Klotina.

PRESENTATION 4

Karl Nicklas' interest in music started very early and at the age of two he liked listening to his parents' LP-records according to his mother Anne. And at the age of three he could himself go and get the records that he often sat and listened to. And he taught himself how to start the record player.

When he was six he could play the piano – four hands – and when he was still very young he went to various events to play together with his dad, Göran, who, like Nicklas, played the accordion. And he learned all this without being able to read music. It was only at High School that he learned to read music, and when he was 18-19 he wrote a whole opera.

PRESENTATION 5

The nice thing about Nicklas was that he was always open to new ideas, even if they were a bit crazy. On profit and loss I asked him if he could imagine to make a clown production together with me. I don't remember him thinking twice before answering: But, of course, Max, that would be good fun! And then we started pulling off ideas that kept spluttering out. After a few days we had a whole clown performance ready in which Karl Nicklas made the music, He could write tunes in a couple of minutes and everything was so easy. We presented music cabarets in old folks homes and gave a concert with texts by Lennart Hellsing (Swedish author and composer of stories and songs for children) together with Inese, their son Arvid on the trombone, the brass band Bananbandet and students from the music school.