

Lars Karlsson: Suite for Helena (1994)

Suite for Helena (*Svit för Helena*) was commissioned by the Swedish ensemble Gotland Wind Quintet 1993, and a special request from the ensemble was that it would be built on folk tunes from the Åland Islands. So, I did and all five movements are built on folk tunes in different classical ways as for example French Suite, fuga, scherzo and so on. It's also a kind of "family diary" and it is dedicated to my wife Helena.

The first movement is a French Suite with a typical slow introduction and contains two tunes, the first is the national anthem of the Åland Islands and the second is a very national theme too. This is the reason of the name "Ouverture in an Åländish mood". The second movement "Spanish nights" is a sailorsong converted to a sicilienne in a Spanish mood. The third movement, "David's promenade" is a description of my sons first step 1-year old as a scherzo and he is often falling; the title describe his crying, but in the end, he will succeed. The fourth movement "Helena's dream" is a melancholic slow movement. Finally, the fifth, "Sandy island", is a fast movement with a fugue describing bird sounds at the sea at our summer place in the Åland Islands.

This suite is a very personal composition, and the work is dedicated to my wife Helena. I would call it a "family diary" in five movements.

Lars Karlsson

I Uvertyr på åländska	1
II Spanska nätter	10
III Davids promenad	14
IV Helenas dröm	21
V Sandvik	26

