

Sorri shows what longing sounds like

By John Bispala
Translations by Kaija Bispala

What does the Finnish “*kaipaus*” (longing) really feel like? You’ll catch a tinge of its strain by listening to the beautiful lyrical poetry set to music by Maini Sorri now on her CD, “*Jäit tuoksuna minuun*” (Your Fragrance Forever Stays With Me).

The CD’s title is that of track 3, where Maini Sorri sings the words penned by Pekka Jokela, with her “*kirkas*,” homey, well trained voice. The song is not so much about a dear place forsaken, as about some beloved friend or relative, lost forever but not forgotten.

Many of Maini’s songs, the

music she has composed, express this *kaipaus*. “Some Day,” as Barbara Helsingius has translated the title of song track 6, expresses the hope of a safe journey and reunion beyond. Even the bird, high in the sky above, is “Like an Angel” (track 2) flying beyond the clouds, gone forever.

The 14 songs on this CD are soloed by Maini in Finnish or Swedish. She and her husband Terrance live in Uppsala, Sweden, where she teaches music and continues to compose songs. On tracks 1 and 11, Sorri has written her own words, “*Luottavainen nainen*” (A Trusting Woman) and “*Sorgsna paraplyer*” (Sad Umbrellas).

“The Road” (tr. 10, “*Den vägen*,” words by Ritva Ala-Särkelä) to the “Promised Land” (tr. 8, “*Lupausten maa*,” Jokela) begins for Maini by setting great poetry to her own notes of musical expression. All the music for these songs is of her own composition. The poetical lyrics were written by no less than Eino Leino, tr. 12, “*Noc-turne*,” and Pär Lagerkvist, tr. 13, “*Det är vackrast när det skimmer*” (Everything Shines More Beautifully at Dusk). The

other poets chosen include Marjo-Riitta Oksanen, Lauri Viita, Ala-Särkelä, Jokela and Mikko Anttila.

Sorri’s songs have been played on radio and TV in Finland, Sweden, and North America. Her voice has found a home in hearts as distant as Estonia and Latvia. She published a songbook, “*Metsä laulaa*” (The Forest Sings) with the songs on her CD.

Would not our world be more peaceful if men’s hearts were filled with the “*kaipaus*” of Maini’s song?

Editor’s note: John Bispala, a lifelong accordion student, resides in Minneapolis with his wife Kaija.

Maini Sorri’s CD is available from:

SCANDINAVIAN GIFTS

