

## 23. Minnen, Op. 7, No. 5 (5 Tondikter, 1882)

Laura Aulin  
(1860-1928)  
*arr. William Melton*

### **Aulin, Laura Valborg**

(born Gävle, Sweden, January 9, 1860; died Örebro, Sweden, March 13, 1928)

Aulin was born in her mother Edla née Holmberg's hometown of Gävle, where her father Lars Axel Aulin was the schoolmaster. A year later the family moved south to Stockholm, where a son was born (named Tor, he would become a composer and violinist with Sweden's first professional string quartet). The capital city offered Laura's father, whose doctorate was in classical languages, greater scope for his studies and teaching of Greek. After Laura's beginnings on piano with an aunt, her teachers were musical professionals that included Jakob Adolf Hägg and Albert Rubenson. From 1877 to 1882 she attended the Stockholm Conservatory of Music, where her roster of talented teachers was augmented by Hilda Thegerström (piano), Herman Berens, and Sven August Lagergren (composition). Most importantly, Aulin found a mentor in the composer-pedagogue Ludvig Norman (orchestration).

A Jenny Lind Scholarship allowed further studies in Copenhagen with Niels Gade, in Paris with Benjamin Godard and Jules Massenet, and in Berlin. These years saw the production of large orchestral and choral works, along with Aulin's more typical chamber music, songs and works for piano and organ. "She wrote music that was appreciated by her peers," observed the scholar Gunnar Ternhag, "mostly works for homes and salons, with a French influence but clearly based in a Nordic tradition." But the death of her mentor Ludvig Norman meant that she lost her most loyal supporter in Stockholm, and Aulin would eventually turn away from a performing life in the capital. She resettled about a hundred miles due west in the smaller city of Örebro. Here Aulin's own composing ceased, and she taught piano and organized local concerts until her death in Örebro in 1928.

*Minnen* (Memories) was the last of 5 *Tondikter* (5 Tone Poems), Op. 7, that Aulin dedicated to Ludvig Norman. The brief *Andante con moto* for piano was published in 1882/1883 by Julius Bagge of Stockholm (Plate No. 57).

*Text by William Melton*