Over the course of his life, Einojuhani Rautavaara’s work has developed like a microcosm of the history of music since 1950. His break with the bonds of serialism and a commitment to his own unique ideals were of crucial importance to his international reputation – a courageous step that manifested itself in unmistakeable creations. Rautavaara demands extreme intimacy and immediate, vivid empathy from his listeners, but rewards them with a spiritual wealth that leaves an indelible impression. The 50-year old violin concerto with its delicate reminiscences of Sibelius, the poignant declaration of love in the *Sérénade* from the year of his death, 2016, and his beautiful *Autumn Gardens* written just before the turn of the millennium are impressive examples of his intelligibility and are for good reason the most often performed works of the Finnish master.