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TILL GLÄDJE TO JOY

1950

Script and Direction: Ingmar Bergman

Photography: Gunnar Fischer

Editing: Oscar Rosander

Music: Mendelssohn, Mozart, Smetana, Beethoven

Art Direction: Nils Svenwall

Cast: Maj-Britt Nilsson (Märta), Stig Olin (Stig), Victor Sjöström (Söderby), Birger Malmsten (Marcel), John Ekman (Mikael Bro), Margit Carlquist (Nelly Bro), Sif Ruud (Stina), a.o.

At the start of the new orchestral season in Hälsingborg, the veteran conductor Söderby welcomes two newcomers - Stig and Märta, both violinists. Both have met before without coming into close contact. Now they see each other more often and soon they decide to get married. The first crisis in their relationship comes when Stig tries to give a solo performance with the orchestra, despite his immaturity. Söderby tries to dissuade him, but Stig insists. It is a ghastly experience and Stig's pride is wounded by Märta's quiet and dispassionate reaction. There is a quarrel and Stig goes for a walk in the night through Hälsingborg. He runs into a besotted actor, Mikael Bro, and goes home with him. Here he meets Nelly, Mikael's young, beautiful and extremely voluptuous wife. Stig leaves, disgusted, with this ménage, but some years later, after the birth of his two children, he meets Nelly again. This time he becomes her lover. Märta leaves him and takes the children with her. There is a reconciliation, followed by tragedy, when Märta and the little girl are killed by an exploding kerosene stove. Stig returns to orchestra rehearsal, and as he listens to Söderby's rendering of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, and sees his son watching by the door, he realises that he must continue to live and not lose hope.