

As It Is In Heaven (M)

About the film

Daniel Daréus is a successful international conductor at the top of his game, but he is lonely, miserable and exhausted by the demands of his high profile life style.

After suffering a physical and emotional breakdown, Daniel abruptly interrupts his career and returns, alone, to Norrland, the village of his childhood located in a remote part of northern Sweden.

Immediately upon his arrival his fame makes him the object of curiosity, fascination and suspicion. Soon he is asked to come and "offer a bit of good advice" to the small church choir, which practices every Thursday in the parish hall.

As he begins to work with the choir, Daniel, quite to his own surprise, begins to rediscover his long-lost joy for music. Daniel's life, and the lives of the people of Norrland, will never be the same.



Review

"Michael Nyqvist makes a completely believable near-genius whose human frailty gives greater anguish to his driving musical passion. Frida Hallgren is endearing as the young woman who offers him the chance of love. The rest of the cast offers sterling work as a range of characters masterfully established by Pollak and his co-scriptors.

It's extraordinarily difficult to capture on film the indescribable miracle that results in musical creations of great wonder. This film, with an inspired score by Stefan Nilsson, comes closer than most." *Ray Bennett – The Hollywood Reporter*

Filmmakers Statement

Director Kay Pollak says, his wife "sang in a choir and I used to go to pick her up. I listened to the choir and studied it, and I gradually realized what a metaphor for humanity a choir is. I did not know then that this is the largest cultural movement in Sweden—that close to 700,000 people take part in choir-practice every week."

Discussion Questions

To what can attribute this film's popularity. It is still playing in cinemas after a year and a half. What part of Daniel's journey do you most respond to?

Describe the community portrayed in *As It Is In Heaven*. How is the church portrayed in the film?