



Finlandia Foundation® National

Inspiring, celebrating and connecting the Finnish-American community since 1953

FINLAND 100 MUSIC PROGRAM 2017



Finlandia Foundation National Finland 100 Music Program

Finlandia Foundation National (FFN), the premier network of Finnish-American organizations in the United States, is looking forward with excitement to the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Finland's independence in 2017. We are encouraging FFN chapters to plan Finland 100 events throughout the year under the theme of the centennial chosen by the Finnish government, "Together."

In addition to the grant of up to \$1,000 per chapter that FFN is making available to assist with events, we have enlisted an impressive selection of artists that FFN is supporting with funds to ensure that we in the U.S. will create a year-long celebration befitting this important milestone.

Together.



On the cover: Janne Mertanen

We have developed a program with multiple opportunities for our chapters to host a concert or event suited to their interests, audience and budget. As with our traditional Performer of the Year program:

- FFN will assist in connecting chapters with the artists.
- FFN will pay for the artist's travel to and from the performance location (to a maximum of \$500).
- Local arrangements (ground transportation, lodging and hospitality) are the responsibility of the host chapter.
- The host chapter will work with the artist to ensure that equipment and staging needs are met.
- FFN will provide the chapter a flyer with artist information.
- Each chapter will publicize its event.
- The host chapter will pay each performer an honorarium as noted.

- Additional activities (i.e., a workshop) are negotiated between the artist and chapter.

Note that not all artists are available at all times. Due to visa requirements, specific periods for appearances by performers from Finland must be observed.

If you're interested in booking an appearance for 2017, inform POY Coordinator Betsey Norgard at norgard@paulbunyan.net. She will make your initial contact with the performer and review with you the available dates, booking procedures and other details.

All negotiations, agreements and arrangements are strictly between the host chapter and the talent.

For information about the FFN grant of up to \$1,000 available to chapters see the Finland 100 grant information at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

SPOTLIGHT PERFORMERS

Finlandia Foundation National is pleased to present these Spotlight musicians from Finland for FFN chapter appearances in 2017.

Their available performance periods are noted.

Honorarium is \$500 per Spotlight appearance.



Ida Elina: One of the leading kantele performers in Finland and a groundbreaking artist, Ida Elina boldly leaps boundaries to take her kantele playing to new levels. In developing her unique style the singer-songwriter was inspired by virtuoso slap guitar playing. She is recognized as the first pop-kantele player in the world.

With her percussive approach and vivid voice, Ida Elina's repertoire fluidly moves between Pharrell Williams' "Happy"

(in English) and lovely and traditional Finnish tunes.

In her concerts audiences experience the versatility of just one instrument and voice, appreciating how ancient folk songs, classical music and today's pop tunes go hand in hand. And, Ida Elina hopes, listeners will be inspired by her story to live a fearless life.

For information: idaelina.com

Available from mid-April through mid-May 2017.



Sibelius Inspiration: Finnish cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azejian perform a moving program that evokes the Finnish natural world that inspired Jean Sibelius.

Through music, video, sound and light, audiences are transported to the floral splendor of the garden at Ainola, the magical moss forest at dusk, and top of the impressive Koli in the midst of a thunderstorm.

The multimedia concert is an experience. Sibelius' compelling music, the narration and the videos filmed for the concert bring nature, as seen by the composer, palpably close to the listener.

There are specific requirements for staging this production. For information: sibeliusinspiration.com

Available in February, March and October 2017.

CLASSICAL & CONTEMPORARY FINLAND

These artists---Marja Liisa Kay, Janne Mertanen and Laura Mikkola---present familiar music in a new light.



Marja Liisa Kay: A soprano known for her performance of contemporary music, she holds a Ph.D. from the University of York in England and MFA from California Institute of the Arts. She is dedicated to the performance and promotion of contemporary music, yet enjoys singing works within all genres. Dr. Kay has premiered principal roles in new operas, worked as a studio singer for James Horner during research sessions for the feature film *Avatar*, and has sung

Their available performance periods are noted.

Honorarium is \$500 per appearance.

across the globe. She enjoys sharing the gift of music with audiences far and wide, and is well-versed in the vocal music of Finland's composers.

For Finland 100, Dr. Kay offers a program for voice and piano of Finnish music from widely varying genres, to include popular Finnish folk and tango songs, well-known classical pieces by Finnish masters, and some contemporary works of living Finnish composers. The program promises to reach audiences of all ages and varying levels of musical interests.

Hear samples of her recordings at marjaliisakay.com

Available throughout 2017 for Saturday afternoon and evening concerts and Sunday afternoon concerts nationwide, as well as weekday evening concerts in southern California.

Janne Mertanen: The pianist completed his studies at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki and the Accademia Pianistica Internazionale in Imola, Italy.

Mertanen was selected as the Young Artist of the First Espoo International Piano Festival in 1991, and gained greater notice in 1992 as the winner of the International Chopin Competition in Darmstadt, Germany. He also won first prize the same year in the Nyborg Nordic Competition. His orchestral engagements and recitals have since taken him around the world.

Mertanen has released more than a dozen recordings

and received the Grand Prix in the sixth International Record Competition du Disque Frédéric Chopin 2005.

His program includes Finnish music spanning the century of independence, by composers including Jean Sibelius, Einojuhani Rautavaara, Joonas Kokkonen, Heino Kaski and Oskar Merikanto.

Mertanen is the artistic director of the Joensuu Music Festival. He is a Steinway artist.

For more information:
jannemertanen.com

Available September 8-October 2, 2017.



Laura Mikkola: The Finnish concert pianist studied at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and Indiana University Bloomington, with such renowned pedagogues as Tapani Valsta, Menahem Pressler, Gary Graffman, Dmitri Baskirov and Ferenc Rados. She has won international piano competitions in Helsinki, Pretoria and St. Jean-de-Luz, and second prize at the Queen Elisabeth Piano Competition in Belgium.

Mikkola has collaborated with Esa-Pekka Salonen, Leif Segerstam and Vladimir Ashkenazy, among others.

She has toured the world, performing with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C., and more.

Her many recordings include the three concertos of Einojuhani Rautavaara, which are part of her repertoire along with works by Sibelius, Saariaho, Chopin and others.

Mikkola is the artistic director of Finland's Iitti Music Festival each June.

Available in 2017 throughout May and October 1-15, November 15-30 & December 15-31.

PAST PERFORMERS OF THE YEAR

Several of our POY from previous years are available to appear at your Finland 100 celebrations in 2017. The number of participating artists may grow; check the FFN website for the latest list.

Olli Hirvonen (POY 2014): The Finnish jazz guitarist is currently living in New York City. In his solo concerts, he combines free improvisation with familiar Finnish melodies and soundscapes. Hirvonen

Honorarium is \$400 per appearance.

The program is available December 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017. Note that not all artists will be available at all times.

employs electronics to complement and enhance the sound of the electric guitar without the use of any pre-recorded materials.

For information:
ollihirvonen.com





Craig Randal Johnson (POY 1999): The Minneapolis musician's program, "Piano Music from Finland," features the works of significant Finnish composers from the national romantic period to the present. Johnson includes, among others, the music of Sibelius, Madetoja, Kuula, Rautavaara, Bergman and Tuhkala. He closes with *Finlandia*.

For information: tonttu.com
Johnson is available much of the year, with limited dates in April, early May, and October-December 2017.



Maria Kizirian (POY 2012): The Los Angeles-based singer-songwriter has a "big" voice, which she uses in a wide array of both original compositions and popular Finnish pop songs, mainly from contemporary Finnish music. Kizirian adds a mix of evergreen Finnish songs made more modern in her unique style.

For information:
mariakizirian.com

Kizirian is available throughout the year, with limited dates in July.



Maria Männistö (POY 2007): The Seattle soprano honors Finnish and American song traditions in a concert featuring the music of Jean Sibelius and Samuel Barber. Her program includes Sibelius' bright and lyrical "Illalle," his touching, impressionistic "Kaiutar," and the romantic "Var det en dröm." It also features Barber's moving summertime idyll "Knoxville: Summer of 1915," set to an autobiographical text by James Agee. The 45-minute program may be modified in length.

For information:
mariamannisto.com

Männistö is not available in February or June 2017.



Sara Pajunen (POY 2015): *Laatikko/Box* is a conceptual work that blends acoustic vocal and violin music with words from Minnesota immigrants, taken from historical Finnish-American archives and interviews conducted with recent immigrants to the state from all over the world.

A portrait of change, *Laatikko/Box* asks us to find similarities rather than differences, to slow down and take in the emotion of leaving one place for another.

For information:
sarapajunen.com

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING

Each year FFN selects a Performer of the Year and Lecturer of the Year to provide entertaining and enlightening programs to its chapters. The following are also available for appearances in 2017; the honorarium for each is \$500. For more information: FinlandiaFoundation.org

PERFORMER OF THE YEAR



Pirjo Polari-Khan is a storyteller, poet, musician and puppeteer with special appeal to young audiences. She is available from September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017.

CENTENARY LECTURERS

We have expanded our Lecturer of the Year program to feature a number of scholars to speak about topics

directly related to Finland's national independence and identity. The program runs through May 2018.

We are looking forward to a year filled with entertaining and informative programs celebrating the centennial of this important event in Finland's history.

Finlandia Foundation National, founded in Pasadena, California in 1953, administers grants, scholarships and programs supporting and celebrating Finnish heritage and Finnish-American culture and traditions.

FFN is a 501(c)(3) organization. For more information: FinlandiaFoundation.org



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