



NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2019

The **Estonian Music Information Centre** is committed to the representation, advocacy, promotion and support of Estonian classical and contemporary music and musicians both in Estonia and abroad. The EMIC newsletter aims to present an overview of new Estonian compositions, undertakings of Estonian musicians and music organisations and musical life in Estonia in general. Every newsletter contains a summary of recent events and offers a preview of upcoming activities.

RECENT EVENTS

Composer **Jüri Reinvere** received the **Lepo Sumera Award**, launched by the **Estonian Society of Authors** and **Estonian Composers' Union**, at the final concert of the **Pärnu Music Festival** on July 21 at the Pärnu Concert Hall. The Lepo Sumera Award aims to acknowledge and promote elaborated development in artistic style, an extensive scope of musical thinking and artistic depth in a musician's work.



Jüri Reinvere

At the beginning of August, „**The Smoke Sauna Symphony**“ by **Märt-Matis Lill** was performed at the village of Mooste in Võrumaa, in Southeast Estonia. The new work is inspired by the Estonian smoke sauna tradition, Estonian lore, the Finnish national epic „Kalevala“ and poems by Hasso Krull. Ancient Estonian traditions and legends of the smoke sauna are told through the means of contemporary music theatre, performed by well-known Estonian folk singers and the **Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir**.

The 8th **Pühalepa Music Festival** took place at the beginning of August on the island of Hiiumaa. The festival, which focuses on early and contemporary music, was dedicated to the 60th birthday of composer **Erkki-Sven Tüür**, who is a native of Hiiumaa. The festival programme also included works by **Tõnu Kõrvits**, who celebrated his 50th birthday this spring. This year’s festival featured the **Rascher Saxophone Quartet** from Germany, which has been celebrating its 50th anniversary this season. This was the Rascher Quartet’s first visit to Hiiumaa where their performance included the work „**Meditatio**“, written for them by Erkki-Sven Tüür.



Rascher Saxophone Quartet. Photo by Felix Bröde

NEW SCORES IN EMIC MUSIC STORE

Vocal and choral works of **Maria Kõrvits** (1987), the winner of the youth category at the Rostrum of Composers held in 2016, can be now purchased through the EMIC Music Store. The newest songs for mixed choir – „**Aquarelle II**“ and „**Aquarelle III**“ were commissioned and first performed by the Estonian chamber choirs Head Ööd, Vend and Kolm Lindu.

Other works in the EMIC Music Store by Maria Kõrvits include:

- „**I Am Calling to You**“ (2018) for male choir
- „**It Was I**“ (2014) for mixed choir
- „**Ripples in the Sky**“ (2014) for string quartet
- „**Seven Haikus for Voice, Piano and Cello**“ (2018)

„**The Sky Has Been Silent for Days**“ (2015) for female choir
„**What a Day, What a Night**“ (2015) for mixed choir



Maria Kõrvits. Photo by Sadu-Triste Juurikas

Another new scores in EMIC Music Store:

„**Farewell to Normandy**“ (2017) for guitar by **Tõnu Kõrvits**
„**Stream**“ (2018) for oboe and „**Chant**“ (2009) for piano by **Lauri Jõelet**
„**The Same Sea**“ (2019) for mixed choir or vocal ensemble by **Evelin Seppar**

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AUGUST

From August 9 to 18 the Birgitta musical theatre festival takes place in the historical ruins of the Pirita (St. Bridget) Convent in Tallinn and marks the 80th anniversary of the birth of the founder of the festival, maestro Eri Klas. This year's festival features the **Novaya Opera Theatre of Moscow** as the main guest, with the performances of „**Faust**“ by Charles Gounod and „**Il Trovatore**“ by Giuseppe Verdi. The Birgitta festival programme also features among others a visual theatre performance, an opera and ballet gala, Ludwig Minkus's ballet „**Don Quijote**“ presented by the **Tbilisi Z. Paliashvili Opera and Ballet State Theatre** (Georgia) and the vocal ensemble **Voca People**.

See also: **Birgitta Festival**



On August 13, Mihhail Gerts will conduct the Ulster Orchestra at the popular „**BBC Summer Invitation Concert**“ which has a special focus on arrangements and transcriptions. The programme at the Ulster Hall in Belfast will include Felix Mendelssohn’s „Meeresstille und glückliche Fahrt“ and Johannes Brahms’s Piano Quintet, arranged by Arnold Schönberg.



On August 16, the winners of the Estonian TV competition for young musicians „Stars of the Classical Music“ **Marcel Johannes Kits** (cello) and **Sten Heinoja** (piano) will give a concert at the Kadriorg Palace in Tallinn. The programme consists of sonatas for cello and piano by Ludwig van Beethoven, Frédéric Chopin, and Sergei Prokofiev as well as „Dedication“ by Erkki-Sven Tüür.



On August 16, the **Estonian National Symphony Orchestra** with **Paavo Järvi** will perform the tone poem „Tapiola“ by Jean Sibelius, „An Alpine Symphony“ by Richard Strauss and Lepo Sumera’s Cello Concerto at the newly renovated Noblessner Foundry in Tallinn. The soloist is **Theodor Sink**, principal cellist of ENSO, who has entered the spotlight in the Estonian music scene as a versatile and charismatic musician.



See also: **Estonian National Symphony Orchestra**

On August 18, the vocal ensemble **Orthodox Singers** under the leadership of **Valeri Petrov** celebrates its 30th anniversary with the concert at St. Olaf’s Church on the island of Vormsi. The programme consists of different orthodox church music, including Znamenny Chant and other forms of traditional singing, as well as sacred works by Russian and Estonian composers.

On August 18, pianist Johan Randvere together with Lithuanian pianist Justas Šervenikas will perform works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Maurice Ravel, and Sergei Rachmaninoff at the Baisogala Manor in Lithuania.

On August 29, the new work „**Siuru laulud**“ („Songs of Siuru“) for soprano, saxophone, cello, and accordion by **Aaro Pertmann** will be premiered at the Tallinn Town Hall. The performers are **Pille Lill** (soprano), **Eve Neumann** (saxophone), **Jaak Lutsoja** (accordion) and **Andreas Lend** (cello). The concert is a part of the 15th **Tallinn Chamber Music Festival** which features top musicians from Estonia as well as guests from Denmark and Russia. The anniversary festival takes place from August 21 to 30.
See also: **Tallinn Chamber Music Festival**

On August 29, **Arvo Pärt's** music will be presented at the **Baltic Sea Festival** in Stockholm. The concert titled „Music of all colours“ includes the works „Für Alina“, „Fratres“, „Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten“, „Trisagion“, „L'abbé Agathon“, „Spiegel im Spiegel“, „Tabula rasa“, and „Vater unser“.



The performers are **Maria Lистра** (soprano), **Marrit Gerretz-Traksmann** (piano), **Harry Traksmann** (violin), **Robert Traksmann** (violin), **Leho Karin** (cello), and **Tallinn Chamber Orchestra** under the baton of **Tõnu Kaljuste**.

See also: **Baltic Sea Festival**

On August 31, the concert „**Oboe d'amore – in love with oboe**“ at the St. Nicholas' Church in Tallinn will mark the 65th birthday of oboe player **Olev Ainomäe**. Ainomäe is a long-time member of the Estonian National Opera orchestra and the early music consort Hortus Musicus as well as an oboe teacher at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre. The concert will also feature **Andres Mustonen** (violin), **Ivo Sillamaa** (harpsichord), and **Taavo Rimmel** (double bass). The programme includes music by Antonio Vivaldi, René Eespere and others.

Please check the **CALENDAR** on the EMIC website for more events.