



EESTI MUUSIKA INFOKESKUS
ESTONIAN MUSIC INFORMATION CENTRE

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 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.

RECENT EVENTS

At the end of November, the **9th Estonian Piano Competition** was held at the **Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre**. The competition comprised 27 participants in total with 6 of them reaching to the final round to perform with the **Estonian National Symphony Orchestra**. The **first prize** of the 9th Estonian Piano Competition was shared between two awardees: the youngest competitor, 16-year old **Tähe-Lee Liiv** from Estonia, and **Mantas Šernius** from Lithuania. The **third prize** went to Estonian **Evita Lohu**. Three other finalists received finalist diplomas.

All the finalist were presented numerous special prizes, including performances with the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra, and the Pärnu City Orchestra. The international jury of the competition comprised acclaimed pianists and piano professors, including **Graham Scott** from the **Royal Northern College of Music**, Manchester, **Jurgis Karnavicius** from the **Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre**, and **Ivari Ilja** from the **Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre** among others.

See also: [Estonian Piano Competition](#)



Tähe-Lee Liiv. Photo by Vahur Lõhmus

In November, the **Estonian Academy of Music and Theater** hosted a **conference on music education**, aiming to articulate some of the key issues facing the future of professional music culture in Estonia. The conference, which was part of the **EAMT centennial celebrations**, addressed various aspects of Estonian music education and musical life in general, both from an institutional and problem-oriented point of view.

Another notable conference was organised by **Ensemble U**: to mark the 100th birthday of composer **Udo Kasemets** (1919–2014), who has humorously been referred to as the most famous unknown composer from Estonia. Nevertheless, his influence on musical life, especially in Canada, where he spent most of his creative life, played a significant role in the development of experimental and contemporary music.

Fortunately, according to **Märt-Matis Lill**, Chairman of one of the oldest Estonian creative associations, the **Estonian Composers Union**, which celebrated its **95th anniversary** in November, Estonian composers of the current generation are well recognised and enjoy good international visibility worldwide.

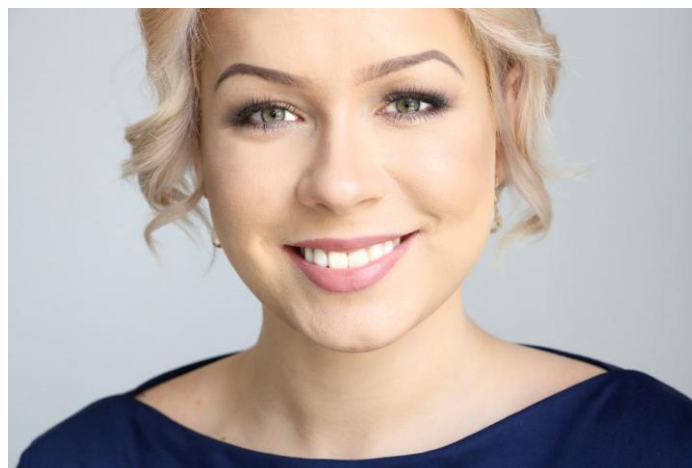


Udo Kasemets

UPCOMING EVENTS IN DECEMBER

From December 1 to 19, German-based soprano **Mirjam Mesak** will appear as Juliette in **Erich Wolfgang Korngold's „The Dead City“** by Simon Stone at the **Bavarian State Opera**. The opera conducted by Kirill Petrenko received its premiere last month and features Jonas Kaufmann as Paul and Marlis Petersen as Marietta among others. Mesak will also appear in the role of The Dew Fairy in **Engelbert Humperdinck's „Hansel and Gretel“** by Richard Jones at the same theatre.

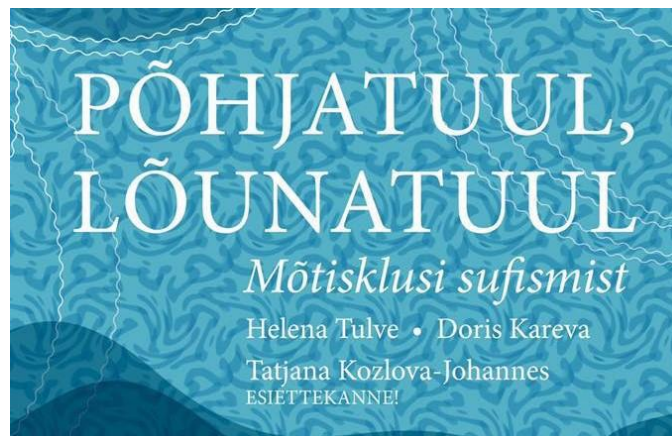
See also: [Bavarian State Opera](#), [Mirjam Mesak](#)



Mirjam Mesak. Photo by Wilfried Hosl

On December 4, the concert „**Põhjatuul, Lõunatuul**“ („North Wind, South Wind“) will focus on the Sufistic influences in the oeuvre of **Helena Tulve** and **Tatjana Kozlova-Johannes**. The programme consists of „Just one breath“ (premiere) and „Fall“ by Tatjana Kozlova-Johannes, „Mondnacht“ and „North Wind, South Wind“ by Helena Tulve, „Põhjatuul“ and „Lõunatuul“ by Hillar Kareva, as well as the poems by Doris Kareva. The performers are **Jaanika Kuusik** (soprano), **Iris Oja** (mezzo-soprano), **Tarmo Johannes** (flute and alto flute), **Helena Tuuling** (bass clarinet), **Olga Voronova** (violin), **Leho Karin** (cello), **Diana Liiv** (piano), **Kristi Mühling** (Estonian kannel), and **Vambola Krigul** (percussion).

See also: www.kammermuusikud.ee



On December 5 and 7, the saxophone quartet **SaxEst** will celebrate its **20th anniversary** with concerts in Tartu and at the Arvo Pärt Centre in Laulasmaa. The programme will include music by Arvo Pärt, Tõnu Kõrvits, Galina Grigorjeva, Guy Lacour, Pedro Iturralde, and Siim Aimla.

See also: [Arvo Pärt Centre](#)

Saksofonikvartett

SaxEst 20



On December 8, the **Heino Eller Tartu Music College** marks its **100th anniversary** with the gala concert at the Vanemuine concert hall in Tartu. The **Eller Sinfonietta** and soloists with **Lilyan Kaiv** and **Mihhail Gerts** conducting will present a varied programme of Estonian music by Heino Eller, Peeter Vähi, Jaan Rääts, Ester Mägi, and Eduard Tubin.

See also: [Heino Eller Tartu Music College](#)



Mihhail Gerts

On December 9, the **Tallinn String Quartet** (Tallinna Keelpillikvartett) celebrates its **35th anniversary** with concerts at the Tallinn Central Library, performing works by Ludwig van Beethoven and Tõnu Kõrvits and on **December 22** playing Beethoven's String Quartet No. 16 in F Major, Op. 135 and Franz Schubert's String Quintet in C major, D. 956 together with cellist Aare Tammesalu at the Kadriorg Palace. The Tallinn String Quartet has had the longest continuous performing career of any chamber group in Estonia.

See also: [Tallinn Central Library, Palace Music concert series](#)



Tallinn String Quartet

Between December 16 to 19, the **Nordic Symphony Orchestra** under **Anu Tali** will give concerts of **film music** in Tallinn, Tartu, and Pärnu. The international orchestra founded by Anu and Kadri Tali will perform „Absolute Jest“ by John Adams as well as film music by John Williams („Star Wars“, „E.T.“, „Indiana Jones“, „Harry Potter“), Nino Rota („La Strada“), Ennio Morricone („The Mission“), Tõnu Kõrvits („The Little Comrade“), Veljo Tormis („The Spring“), and Margo Kõlar („Names in Marble“). The **Apollon Musagète Quartett** from **Poland** will be performing in collaboration with the orchestra.

See also: [Nordic Symphony Orchestra](#)



On December 20 and 21, the **Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir** and **Tallinn Chamber Orchestra** under the guidance of **Kaspars Putniņš** will perform cantatas No. 1 to 3 from Johann Sebastian Bach's „Christmas Oratorio“ BWV 248. The soloists are **Elīna Šimkus** (soprano, Latvia), **Iris Oja** (alto), **Nicholas Mulroy** (tenor, UK), and **Olari Viikholm** (bass).

See also: [Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir](#)

Johann Sebastian Bach
JÕULU-ORATOORIUM
BWV 248

Eesti Filharmoonia Kammerkoor
Tallinna Kammerorkester
Elina Šimkus (soprano)
Iris Oja (alto)
Nicholas Mulroy (tenor)
Olari Viikholm (bass)
Dirigent Kaspars Putniņš

L. 21. detsember kell 19 Estonia kontserdisaal

On December 29 and 30, Georg Friedrich Händel's oratorio „Messiah“ will be performed in Tallinn and Tartu by chamber choir **Voces Musicales**, baroque ensemble **Floridante** and soloists **Maria Listra** (soprano), **Alexander Chance** (countertenor, The Tallis Scholars), **Guy Cutting** (tenor, The Tallis Scholars), and **Alvar Tiisler** (bass). **Peter Phillips**, leader of the British professional early music vocal ensemble The Tallis Scholars, will conduct the concert.

See also: [Voces Musicales](#)

Kammerkoori Voces Musicales aastalõpukontsert

Georg Friedrich Händel
Oratorium
MESSIAS

Maria Listra (Soprano)
Alexander Chance (Kontratenor, Inglismaa)
Guy Cutting (Tenor, Inglismaa)
Alvar Tiisler (Bass)

Kammerkoor Voces Musicales
Barokkorkester Floridante
Kontsertmeister Peter Spisky
Dirigent Peter Phillips

Pühapäeval, 29. detsembril kell 18 Tartu Pauluse kirikus
Esmaspäeval, 30. detsembril kell 18 Tallinna Jaani kirikus

On December 30 and 31, the annual New Year's concerts of the state concert institution **Eesti Kontsert** and the **Tallinn Chamber Orchestra** in Tallinn, Tartu, and Jõhvi will bring the Randalu family – **Kalle Randalu** (pianist), **Kristjan Randalu** (pianist and composer), and **Liisa Randalu** (violist) – in front of the audience. The programme consists of Rondo for Piano and Orchestra in D major, KV382 and Piano Concerto No. 21 in C major, KV 467 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and „Inner Asylum“ for viola, piano and chamber orchestra by Kristjan Randalu.

See also: [Eesti Kontsert](#)



Kalle Randalu. Photo by Kaupo Kikkas

Please check the [CALENDAR](#) on the EMIC website for more events.