



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2020

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 HIGHLIGHTS

At the end of January, **Jüri Reinvere's** newest opera „**Minona**“ staged by **Hendrik Müller** received its successful premiere at the **Theater Regensburg** in **Germany**. The opera was commissioned by the theatre to celebrate Beethoven's anniversary year. The heroines of the opera are Josephine Brunsvik-Stackelberg, the probable addressee of the famous „Letter to the Immortal Beloved“, and her daughter Minona, whose father Beethoven may have been. As with the previous operas, Reinvere wrote the libretto for „Minona“ himself.

See also: [Theater Regensburg](#)



Jüri Reinvere. Photo by Kaupo Kikkas

During January several annual awards were presented to Estonian musicians. The Cultural Endowment of Estonia awarded **Tõnu Kõrvits** the **Grand Prize** for his exceptionally

creative year and numerous performances of his works. **Neeme Järvi** received the **Lifetime Achievement Award** for his invaluable contribution to musical life.

The Estonian Association of the Phonogram Producers named the album „**Heino Eller. Symphonic poems**“ on the **Ondine** label as **Classical Album of the Year**. Dedicated to the orchestral music of Eller, it contains some of the composers earliest symphonic works. The CD recorded by the **Estonian National Symphony Orchestra** under conductor **Olari Elts** is a ground-breaking introduction to one of the founders of the Estonian school of classical music.

The annual prizes for choral and wind music were announced by the Estonian Choral Association. **Riho Esko Maimets** was named **Choral Composer of the Year** and the CD „**A Black Birch in Winter**“, released under **MRS Classics**, as the **Choral Album of the Year**, to mention but a few. The latter epitomises the long relationship between **David Puderbaugh** and **Voces Musicales**—an American conductor and an Estonian choir collaborating on a recording of modern choral music of the two nations.



Tõnu Kõrvits, Neeme Järvi, Riho Esko Maimets

UPCOMING EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

On February 3, **Tõnu Kaljuste** will conduct a portrait concert of **Arvo Pärt** at the **Elbphilharmonie** in Hamburg, Germany. The **Tallinn Chamber Orchestra** together with the **Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir** will perform several of Pärt's best-known and notable works, including „Te Deum“, „Adams lament“, and „Fratres“ with **Harry Traksmann** as a soloist. The concert is a part of the „Reflektor“ concert series which is curated by **Manfred Eicher** and marks the 50th anniversary of the ECM label.

See also: [Elbphilharmonie](#)



Manfred Eicher, Arvo Pärt. Photo by Kaupo Kikkas

On February 6, the **MustonenFest** presents the **Novosibirsk Chamber Orchestra** and the young Estonian soloists **Katariina Maria Kits** (violin), **Marcel Johannes Kits** (cello), and **Sten Heinoja** (piano) in Ludwig van Beethoven's Concerto for Violin, Cello and Piano in C major, Op. 56. The programme lead by **Andres Mustonen** also includes music by Felix Mendelssohn, Giya Kancheli, Josef Bardanashvili, and Pyotr Tchaikovsky.

See also: [MustonenFest](#)



Sten Heinoja, Katariina Maria Kits, Marcel Johannes Kits. Photo by Peeter Langovits

On February 6, ensemble **Una Corda** featuring Kristi Mühling (Estonian kannel), Liis Viira (harp), and Ene Nael (harpsichord) will give a recital of Baltic contemporary music. Cellist **Theodor Sink** will join the ensemble to premiere a new work by **Tõnu Kõrvits**. The programme also includes **René Eespere's** „Morning of a Sculpture“, Ruta Paidere's „Ornamente“, **Age Veeroos's** „Chills“, and Jonas Paulikas's „Suite“.

See also: [Una Corda](#)



Una Corda. Photo by Mait Jürjato

On February 15 and 20, the **Tallinn Guitar Quartet** (Tallinna Kitarrikvartett) will premiere „Duo duplex“ by **René Eespere** in Pärnu and Tallinn. Music by Federico Moreno Torroba, Karol Beffa, Máximo Diego Pujol, and Sergio Assad will also be included in the programme.

See also: [Tallinn Guitar Quartet](#)



Tallinn Guitar Quartet

On February 22, „Hommage a Brillance de Lune“ for oboe and organ by **Peeter Vähi** will receive its premiere in **Moscow**. Commissioned by Edition 49, the new work is inspired by Beethoven’s „Moonlight Sonata“. Elizaveta Babchenko (oboe) and Olesya Rostovskaya (organ) will be the performers.

See also: [Moscow Conservatory](#)



Peeter Vähi. Photo by Kaupo Kikkas

On February 22, the **NHK Symphony Orchestra** with its chief conductor **Paavo Järvi** will give an exclusive concert in Tallinn as a part of its second European tour. The programme consists of Tōru Takemitsu's „How Slow the Wind“, Robert Schumann's Cello Concerto in A minor with **Sol Gabetta** as a soloist, and Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 7 in E major.

See also: [NHK Symphony Orchestra](#), [Eesti Kontsert](#)



Paavo Järvi. Photo by Jean Christophe Uhl

On February 28, the **Pärnu City Orchestra** features British clarinettist **Matthew Hunt** as a soloist in the Clarinet Concerto by Aaron Copland. The programme also includes Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 4 in B flat Major as well as „Neenia“ by Heino Eller. **Mikk Murdvee** will conduct the orchestra.

See also: [Pärnu City Orchestra](#)



Mikk Murdvee. Photo by Kaupo Kikkas

On February 28, the Accordion Concerto by **Tauno Aints** will be premiered at the **Tempeliaukio Church** in Helsinki, Finland. The performers are Estonian accordionist **Mikk Langeproon** and **Helsinki Chamber Orchestra** with **James Salomon Kahane** conducting. Music by Uno Klami, Einojuhani Rautavaara, and Dmitri Shostakovich will be presented alongside the new work by Aints.

See also: [Helsinki Chamber Orchestra](#)



Tauno Aints. Photo by Triin Maasik

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