



NEWSLETTER JULY 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

At the end of May the council of the Estonian National Opera confirmed **Arvo Volmer** as the new Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the **Estonian National Opera** from the season 2019/20. Volmer continues the work of **Vello Pähn**, who has held the same position at the Estonian National Opera since 2012. Arvo Volmer, internationally one of the most acclaimed conductors in Estonia, made his conducting debut at the Estonian National Opera in 1985 and has previously held the position of Artistic Director and Chief Conductor from 2004–2012.

At the beginning of June, the **Estonian National Opera**, the **Estonian National Symphony Orchestra**, state concert institution **Eesti Kontsert**, and the **Tallinn Philharmonic Society** jointly presented the programme to mark the 80th anniversary of the birth of Maestro **Eri Klas** (June 7, 1939 – February 26, 2016). Eri Klas was an internationally highly acclaimed and well-respected conductor who had the reputation of a cultural ambassador, whose mission was to promote Estonian music and culture worldwide. Three different concerts featured **Tallinn Chamber Orchestra**, **Estonian National Symphony Orchestra**, **Jaakko Kuusisto** and **Leif Segerstam** as conductors, pianist **Kalle Randalu**, and **Estonian National Opera's soloists** as well as guest performers together with the **Estonian National Ballet** and the **Estonian**

National Opera Chorus and Orchestra under **Jüri Alperden, Vello Pähn, Arvo Volmer** and **Risto Joost**.



Tõnu Kaljuste and Arvo Pärt. Photo by Kaupo Kikkas

In June, one of the favorite pieces of Eri Klas, **Giuseppe Verdi's *Messa da Requiem*** was performed at an **open-air concert** in the small Estonian town of **Tõrva** with almost 200 musicians participating. This spectacular event took place in cooperation with the **London Royal Opera Jette Parker Young Artists Programme**, which brought soloists from Armenia, South-Korea, and Poland to Estonia. **Risto Joost** conducted the joint choir, formed by the **Estonian National Male Choir**, and chamber choirs **Voces Musicales**, **Collegium Musicale** and the **Mixed Choir of Estonia Society** together with the **Estonian National Symphony Orchestra**.

The **Tallinn Chamber Orchestra** under the baton of **Risto Joost** ended its season at the White Hall of the Tallinn Philharmonic Society House of Blackheads with the premiere of „**Sei la luce e il mattino**” by **Tõnu Kõrvits**. This eight-movement cycle for choir and strings, performed together with the **Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir**, uses poems by the Italian poet Cesare Pavese, translated into Estonian by Doris Kareva. „Sei la luce e il mattino” will be recorded and released in 2020 under the Finnish label **Ondine**.



*Tallinn Chamber Orchestra and the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir.
Photo by Joosep Ahun*

One of the most dynamic contemporary music ensembles in Estonia, **Ensemble U:** performed 14 different programmes during the past season and gave four public workshops. As a successful ending to the season, it appeared at the international contemporary music festival **Opus 52** in **Nizhny Novgorod, Russia**, with the concert programme „**U: and the Audience Orchestra**“. The audience was given the opportunity to interact with the performers, create real-time scores and evaluate the music over the internet. New works by four Estonian composers were commissioned and premiered this season: „**Traces**“ („Jäljed“) by **Liisa Hirsch**, „**Song of Land and Sea**“ („Maa ja mere laul“) by **Märt-Matis Lill**, „**Silent Witness**“ by **Tatiana Kozlova-Johannes** and „**La Mort du Shamane**“ („Šamaani surm“) by **Andrus Kallastu**.



Ensemble U: (World Music Days 2019). Photo by Evert Palmets

World premieres in June also included „**I Heard the Voices of Children**” for choir, soloists and instrumental ensemble by **Toivo Tulev** at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, the solo violin piece „**Hummingbirds**“ by **Alisson Kruusmaa** in New York at the Mise-En Festival and chamber opera „**Emajõe ööbikud**“ by **Alo Põldmäe** at the New Theatre in Tartu, Estonia. The new composition by Tulev was a **joint commission** of chamber choir The Crossing and the Los Angeles Philharmonic for the „**Noon to Midnight**“ festival. The piece is set to the words of William Blake, a Ballyeamon cradle song, and names of the lost children of Tuam. Kruusmaa’s received the **commission** for her work through an **international competition** organized by **Ensemble Mise-En** last year. Põldmäe’s chamber opera is dedicated to the **150th anniversary of the Estonian Song Celebration**, with the story taking us to the middle of the 19th century, when the Song Celebration tradition was about to be initiated.

NEW SCORES IN EMIC MUSIC STORE

„**Life in All Tonalities**“ (2016) for piano by **Vsevolod Pozdejev**

„**Salve Regina**“ (2018) for male choir and „**Three Contemplations**“ (2019) for piano trio by **Riho Esko Maimets**

„**To the North...**“ (2017) for piano and „**The History of Abandoned Lighthouses**“ (2019) for symphony orchestra by **Tõnu Kõrvits**

UPCOMING EVENTS IN JULY

From July 2 to 5 the **Fjord Classics festival** in Norway will be held, where **Erkki-Sven Tüür** is the resident composer. Tüür's String Quartet No. 1, „Conversio“, „Symbiosis“, „Köielkõnd“ („Walk on the Rope“), and „Fata Morgana“ will be performed at the Sandefjord Church.

See also: **Fjord Classics**

On July 4 to 7 the **27th Song Celebration** and the **20th Dance Celebration** titled „My Fatherland is My Love“ will be held in Tallinn. The Song Celebration will take place at the **Tallinn Song Festival Grounds** and the Dance Celebration at the **Kalev Stadium**. On Thursday and Friday, folk dancers



will give a total of three performances. On Friday folk music concerts will also be held at the **Freedom Square** in the centre of Tallinn. Saturday starts with the festive **procession**, that will proceed from the Freedom Square to the opening concert of the song celebration at the Tallinn Song Festival Grounds. The second concert of the Song Celebration will take place on Sunday. The **Chief Conductor** of the 27th Song Celebration is **Peeter Perens**; the **Principal Choreographer** of the 20th Dance Celebration is **Vaike Rajaste**, and **Juhan Uppin** leads the folk musicians.

The Estonian Song Celebration is a tradition that dates back to the year **1869** and is included on the **UNESCO World Heritage List**. The year 2019 will mark two great jubilees in Song and Dance Celebration history: 150 years since the first Song Celebration and 85 years since the first Dance Celebration. The Song Celebration has had a significant effect on the development of Estonian identity and politics and has enriched the Estonian language and culture.

See also: **Estonian Song and Dance Celebration**

On July 11 the **Estonian National Symphony Orchestra** will have the honour to open the **35th Festival Radio France Occitanie Montpellier** dedicated to the music of the North. ENSO under the baton of **Neeme Järvi** will perform „Pelléas et Mélisande“ by Jean Sibelius, Violin Concerto by Ludwig van Beethoven, joined by the 18-year-old Daniel Lozakovich as the soloist and Symphony No. 5 by Eduard Tubin.

On July 12 at the same festival, **Kristjan Järvi** will conduct the **Orchestre National Montpellier Occitanie**. The programme consists of works by Einojuhani Rautavaara,

Kristjan Järvi, Arvo Pärt, Pēteris Vasks, Max Richter as well as Igor Stravinski. Mari Samuelsen will join the orchestra as the violin soloist.

See also: **Festival Radio France Occitanie Montpellier**

From July 11 to 16 the festival **Glasperlenspiel** („The Glass Bead Game“), directed by Peeter Vähi and inspired by Hermann Hesse’s novel, will fill the city of Tartu in Estonia with music from different



eras. The festival features **Elina Nechayeva** (coloratura soprano), **Heigo Rosin** (percussion), the **Glasperlenspiel Sinfonietta**, **Selvadore Rähni** (clarinet, Island/Estonia), **Andres Mustonen** (violin, conductor) as well as guests from Russia, China, Japan and Australia among others. During the festival, **Peeter Vähi’s „Umar Hajjam on kõnelnud...“** for soprano, bassoon and string quartet will receive its world premiere. Music by the young Estonian composers **Marianna Liik**, **Kristjan Kannukene**, **Judith Parts** and **Roman-Sten Tõnissoo** will also be presented.

See also: **Glasperlenspiel**

From July 15 to 21 the **Pärnu Music Festival** and the **Järvi Academy** will take place for the ninth time. This year’s festival marks the 60th birthday of **Erkki-Sven Tüür**, whose compositions will be



performed in five festival concerts. The week-long festival takes place in various locations throughout the town of Pärnu including the 1000 seat Pärnu concert hall, where the main festival concerts will be held, which is widely regarded as having one of the best acoustics in Estonia.

The highlights of the festival include the opening concert, where **Neeme Järvi** conducts the **Tallinn Chamber Orchestra** and **Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir**. The programme includes music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, featuring the Clarinet Concerto (soloist Wenzel Fuchs), and Vespers. **Paavo Järvi** conducts the **Estonian Festival Orchestra** twice during the festival, joined by soloists **Truls Mørk** and **Ain Anger** for performances of Dvorak’s Cello Concerto and Modest Mussorgsky’s „Songs and Dances of Death“. Symphonic works featured in each programme include Carl Nielsen’s Symphony No. 1 and Pyotr Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 2. **Kristjan Järvi** joins his father and brother as a teacher of the conducting masterclasses, as a conductor of the **Järvi**

Academy Chamber Orchestra and as the composer of a new work that he has written for Paavo and the Estonian Festival Orchestra to be premiered.

See also: **Pärnu Music Festival**

From July 26 to August 7, mezzo-soprano **Monika-Evelin Liiv** will appear at the **Opéra de Baugé festival** in Anjou province, France in two stagings: as the 2nd Lady in Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's „The Magic Flute“ and as the Azucena in Giuseppe Verdi's “Il Trovatore”, both staged by Bernadette Grimmett. The performances will take place at Les Capucins, a temporary theater specially designed for the festival.

On July 31 Jüri Reinvere's new piece for trumpet, organ and violin will be premiered by Simon Höfele (trumpet), Sebastian Kuchler-Blessing (organ) and Franziska Hoelscher (violin) at the Bach Week (Bachwoche Ansbach) in Ansbach, Germany.

Please check the **CALENDAR** for the summer festivals including **Nargenfestival, early music festivals in Viljandi** and **Haapsalu, Saaremaa Opera Festival** and others as well as for the other events on the EMIC website.