



NEWSLETTER JUNE 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 beginning of May Estonia hosted the prestigious annual contemporary music festival **World Music Days** initiated by the International Society for Contemporary Music. This year's festival was organized in collaboration with the **Estonian Music Days** festival which celebrated its 40th anniversary. The World Music Days presented hundreds of professional musicians and the most recent



and most exciting new music in 2019. More than 200 music professionals, music journalists and opinion leaders arrived in Estonia from almost 50 countries, including Europe, USA and China. This year's festival was titled „Through the Forest of Songs“ and dedicated to choral music. The festival presented more than 170 works, including 20 world premieres.

In the beginning of May, world-renowned choral conductor **Tõnu Kaljuste** was presented the International Classical Music Award (ICMA) in the category of Contemporary Music at a gala event in Lucerne, Switzerland. Kaljuste received the award for his recording of **Arvo Pärt**'s four symphonies with the NFM Wrocław Philharmonic Orchestra (under ECM). According to the jury, Kaljuste has been one of the most prolific and influential interpreters of Pärt's music for many years, who's distinctive treatment of Pärt's symphonies expresses the journey through various creative styles as well as a profound understanding of the composer's musical enquiry.



Tõnu Kaljuste and Arvo Pärt. Photo by Kaupo Kikkas

In May, several musical institutions gave their final concerts of the season. The **Estonian National Symphony Orchestra** with chief conductor Maestro **Neeme Järvi** ended their season at the Estonia Concert Hall, focusing on the temporality of earthly life. The programme included two of the most important vocal symphonic works by Johannes Brahms – „Ein deutsches Requiem“ and „Schicksalslied“ („Song of Destiny“), performed together with the State Choir Latvija and soloists. The state concert institution **Eesti Kontsert** gave its season an appropriately imposing ending, presenting the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra together with pianist Tom Borrow from Israel, the **girl's choir Ellerhein**, the **Tartu University Chamber Choir** and conductor **Andres Mustonen**

in its final concert, which featured „A Midsummer Night’s Dream“ by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor by Ludwig van Beethoven and Symphony No. 4 in E minor by Johannes Brahms. The final concert of the **Vanemuine Symphony Orchestra** in Tartu under the baton of **Paul Mägi** presented **Liis Viira**’s new composition for symphony orchestra „**Gate**“ among others.

At the end of May, the collection of the **Estonian Foundation of Musical Instruments** grew through the acquisition of a violin made by Giuseppe Joseph Gagliano, a highly respected maker of the Neapolitan school. Gagliano’s violin, the tenth in the collection of the historic instruments of the foundation, was given for temporary use to **Gloria Ilves**, a violin student of the **Estonian Academy of Music and Theater**. Another violin student **Katariina Maria Kits** received a violin made by Enrico Catenar in Turin in 1680, which the Foundation had acquired some years ago.

NEW RELEASES

The Estonian Music Information Centre has released an album „**Spectrums**“ featuring **Erkki-Sven Tüür**’s music. The CD comprises a series of pieces written between 1989 and 2004, titled „Spectrum I“ (for organ), „Spectrum II“ (for organ, trumpet and percussion ad libitum), „Spectrum III“ (for organ) and „Spectrum IV“ (for cello and organ), performed by **Ulla Krigul** (organ) together with **Indrek Vau** (trumpet), **Lauri Metsvahi** (percussion) and **Leho Karin** (cello). It is the first time all the four Spectrums have been included on one CD.



Ulla Krigul
Indrek Vau Leho Karin Lauri Metsvahi

emik
Estonian Music Information Centre

The new album is available at the **EMIC online music store**.

Estonian music production company **Estonian Record Productions** released a new album of 20th-century French music for clarinet, performed by one of the leading Estonian clarinetists **Selvadore Rähni** and his wife pianist **Tuuli Rähni**. The CD presents Camille Saint-Saëns's Clarinet Sonata in E flat major, Op. 167, Claude Debussy's „Première Rhapsodie“, Francis Poulenc's Clarinet Sonata and Pierre Sancan's Sonatina, all of them recorded at Historischer Reitstadel, Neumarkt in der Oberpfalz, Germany.



The new album is available at the **EMIC online music store**.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN JUNE

On June 1 the new work by **Toivo Tulev** „**I Heard the Voices of Children**“ for choir, soloists and instrumental ensemble will be premiered at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. The piece is set to the words of William Blake, a Ballyeamon cradle song, and names of the lost children of Tuam. The work is a joint commission of chamber choir The Crossing and the Los Angeles Philharmonic for the „Noon to Midnight“ festival, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

At the beginning of June, the Estonian National Opera, the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, state concert institution Eesti Kontsert, and the Tallinn Philharmonic Society will jointly present a programme to mark the 80th



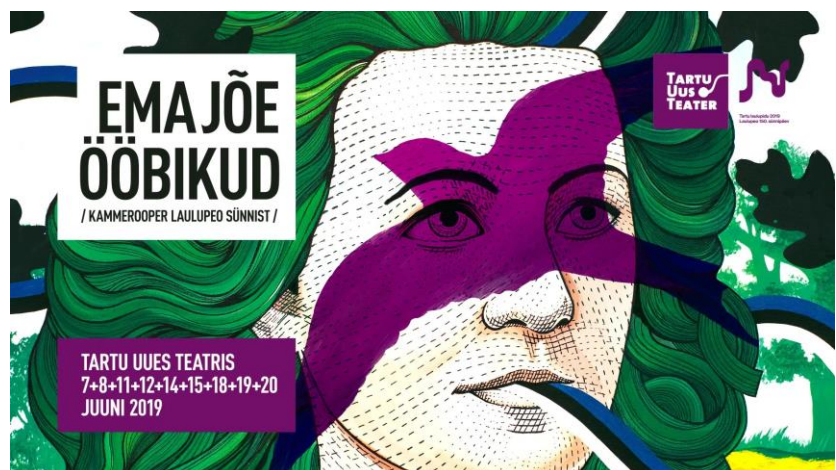
anniversary of the birth of Maestro **Eri Klas** (June 7, 1939 – February, 26 2016). As an internationally highly acclaimed and well-respected conductor, Eri Klas had the reputation of a cultural ambassador, whose mission was to promote Estonian music and culture worldwide.

On June 5, Tallinn Chamber Orchestra under the baton of Jaakko Kuusisto will perform the Suite „Rakastava“ („The Lover“) by Jean Sibelius, the Piano Concerto No. 12 in A major by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart together with pianist **Kalle Randalu** and „Shaker Loops“ by John Adams at Tallinn Philharmonic Society House of Blackheads.

On June 7, the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra conducted by Leif Segerstam, a long-time colleague and friend of Eri Klas, will give a concert at the Estonia Concert Hall. The programme consists of works by Richard Strauss and the Symphony No. 298 „Stretching thoughts towards...“ by Segerstam, composed as a musical memorial for Eri Klas.

On June 8, the Estonian National Opera will present its finest soloists **Heli Veskus** (soprano), **Helen Lokuta** (mezzo-soprano), Luc Robert (tenor, Canada), **Rauno Elp** (baritone), **Priit Volmer** (bass) and others, as well as guest performers together with the Estonian National Ballet and the **Estonian National Opera Chorus and Orchestra** under **Jüri Alperen, Vello Pähn, Arvo Volmer** and **Risto Joost**. Arias, duets and orchestral pieces from some of the greatest operas, operettas, and ballets will be performed at the gala concert taking place at the Estonian National Opera.

On June 6 Alo Põldmäe's chamber opera „**Emajõe ööbikud**“ dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the Estonian Song Celebration will be premiered at the New Theatre in Tartu, Estonia. The story takes us to the middle of 19th century, when the Estonian cultural figure and writer Johann Voldemar Jannsen and his family are



about to found the Song Festival tradition. **Markus Leppoja** is the conductor, Ivar Põllu the stage director and Rein Veidemann together with Leelo Tungal the librettists of the opera. The soloists **Maria Listra, Oliver Kuusik, Märt Jakobson, Atlan Karp** and others are joined by the **Tartu Youth Choir, the Tartu String Quartet** as well as **Ursula Chillaud** (saxophones), **Andre Hinn** (piano) and **Heigo Rosin** (percussion).

From June 7 to 9, the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir with conductor Kaspars Putniņš and organist **Ene Salumäe** will be attending the Abu-Gosh Vocal Music Festival in Israel. The Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir will give three concerts at Kiryat Yearim Church with a programme consisting of works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Johannes Brahms, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, György Ligeti, Gustav Mahler, and **Arvo Pärt**.

On June 10 Estonian contemporary music will be represented for the fourth time at the largest contemporary music festival in Moldova, the Zilele Muzicii Noi festival. **Maila**

Laidna (piano), **Arvo Leibur** (violin) and **Aare Tammesalu** (cello) will perform „Architectonics VII“, „Dedication“ and „Lichttürme“ by **Erkki-Sven Tüür**, „The Path of Winter“ by **Tõnu Kõrvits**, Partita Op. 2 and „Fratres“ by **Arvo Pärt** and „Quicksilver“ by **Tatjana Kozlova-Johannes** at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Chişinău.

On June 16, the **Tallinn Chamber Orchestra** under the baton of **Risto Joost** will end its season at the Tallinn Philharmonic Society House of Blackheads with the premiere of „**Sei la luce e il mattino**“ by **Tõnu Kõrvits**. This cycle for choir and strings, performed together with the **Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir**, uses the poems by the Italian poet Cesare Pavese, translated into Estonian by Doris Kareva.

On June 20 tenor **Mati Turi** appears as soloist in The Glagolitic Mass by Leoš Janáček in France. The mass will be performed at the concert hall of Maison de la Radio by Chœur de Radio France and Orchestre National de France under the guidance of Jukka-Pekka Saraste. In addition to Turi, soprano Simona Šaturová, mezzo-soprano Sarah Connolly and bass Mischa Schelomianski will be the soloists.

On June 26, at Stromness Town Hall in Stromness, Scotland, the programme of pianist **Kristi Kapten** and the **Kapten Trio** will encompass music from different centuries in a concert at the St. Magnus International Festival, considered one of the UK's leading summer festivals. The Kapten Trio's programme includes Ludwig van Beethoven's Piano Trio in D major „Ghost“, Op. 70, Claude Debussy's Piano Trio in G major, Anton Arensky's Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor, and **Helena Tulve's** „Lumineux/Opaque“.

From June 27 to 30 the **Tchaikovsky Festival** will take place for the third time in Haapsalu, Estonia. The festival welcomes everyone who appreciates beauty and romance, as well as the idyllic concert venues and historic old town of Haapsalu, especially the magnificent music of Pyotr Tchaikovsky. This year's festival features

guests such as the Polish chamber orchestra Capella Cracoviensis, the Russian Academic Horn Capella and soloists of the St. Petersburg Chamber Opera, as well as many highly acclaimed Estonian artists and ensembles, including the **Estonian National Male Choir**, outstanding musicians of the younger generation cellist **Marcel Johannes Kits**, pianists **Sten Heinoja** and **Johan Randvere** and many others.



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