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NEWSLETTER

Estonian Composer Jüri Reinvere Wins Opus Klassik Award

Estonian composer **Jüri Reinvere** has been named Composer of the Year at Germany's most prestigious classical music awards, **Opus Klassik**, for his orchestral work *Ship of Fools*. The piece was recorded by the Estonian Festival Orchestra under the baton of **Paavo Järvi**, and released by the renowned label **Alpha Classics**. Järvi himself was also nominated in the Conductor of the Year category.

Opus Klassik is Germany's leading classical music award, presented by the Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Klassischen Musik. Winners across 30 categories are selected by a jury of eleven experts from the music and media industries. Reinvere's recognition highlights the continued international success and influence of Estonian composers on the global contemporary music scene.



Jüri Reinvere. Foto: Kaupo Kikkas

Tõnu Kõrvits's New Double Concerto Premiered in Tallinn

On Saturday, May 31st, the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra premiered a major new work by renowned Estonian composer **Tõnu Kõrvits** at the historic House of the Blackheads in Tallinn. The piece, a double concerto titled *The Seasons* for violin, cello, and chamber orchestra, featured soloists Florian Donderer (violin) and Tanja Tetzlaff (cello).

In this evocative new composition, Kõrvits revisits a concept that has accompanied him for years. “The idea of the seasons has been with me for a very long time—perhaps even since school,” the composer shared. “When I first listened to Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons*, I already thought I’d like to return to that format one day. My piece begins with summer—its first movement is called *Lilac Summer*—and then it moves through autumn and winter, eventually arriving in spring.”



Tõnu Kõrvits is currently the composer-in-residence with the **Tallinn Chamber Orchestra**. This season of collaboration culminated in the premiere of *The Seasons*, offering audiences a fresh, poetic take on a timeless theme through the lens of one of Estonia’s most celebrated contemporary composers.

Pärnu Music Festival Celebrates Arvo Pärt's 90th Anniversary

The 2025 edition of the **Pärnu Music Festival** marks a double celebration: the 15th anniversary of Estonia’s premier summer classical music event and the 90th birthday of legendary Estonian composer **Arvo Pärt**. Held in Estonia’s summer capital, the festival once again transforms Pärnu into a vibrant hub of orchestral and chamber music, featuring over 300 international musicians, acclaimed soloists, and new works by Estonian composers.

The festival opens on July 16th with a concert led by Neeme Järvi, who conducts the Järvi Academy Symphony Orchestra in a performance of Pärt’s music, alongside works by Mozart and Saint-Saëns. On July 18th, Kristjan Järvi and his ensemble Nordic Pulse present *In the Mirror of Pärt*, a multimedia tribute inspired by the composer’s music. The Estonian Festival Orchestra, under the baton of Paavo Järvi, returns for four major concerts (July 19, 20, 24, and 25), each including works by Arvo Pärt.

The Estonian premiere of **Erkki-Sven Tüür**’s oboe concerto *Desert Wind* will take place on July 19th, with oboist Kalev Kuljus as soloist. The festival also features world premieres by

two composers from Pärnu County: **Elis Hallik's** *Orii* on July 20th, and **Alisson Kruusmaa's** *Valse lente* on July 25th.



Now in its 15th year, the Pärnu Music Festival has established itself as one of the most highly regarded classical music festivals in the region and is gaining recognition as a major orchestral festival in Europe. With its focus on orchestral excellence and deep ties to Estonia's musical heritage, the 2025 edition promises a powerful and poetic musical celebration.

Trio '95 Wins First Prize at Prestigious Music Competition

Estonian chamber ensemble **Trio '95** has claimed first prize at the 10th International Johannes Brahms Chamber Music Competition in Gdańsk, Poland — one of Europe's leading competitions for chamber musicians. Comprising violinist Robert Traksmann, cellist Marcel Johannes Kits, and pianist Rasmus Andreas Raide, the trio also received a special award for the best interpretation of a work by Johannes Brahms. This latest achievement also marks a historic echo: exactly 25 years ago, Uus Tallinna Trio (New Tallinn Trio) secured second prize at the same competition.

The competition attracted top-level ensembles from around the world, making for a highly competitive field. In two demanding rounds, In the final round on May 17, the ensemble presented Ülo Krigul's imaginative Brahms's *Glitch*, Hans Werner Henze's *Kammersonate*, and Brahms's *Piano Trio No. 1* in B major — earning unanimous praise from the jury.



Trio '95, active since 2013, is known for its expressive range, stylistic versatility, and deep musical cohesion. The musicians, who began their journey together as classmates at the Tallinn Music High School, later continued their studies in Berlin and Karlsruhe, refining their artistry under the guidance of esteemed mentors such as Francis Gouton and Aleksandr Bonduryanski. Known for championing Estonian composers, Trio '95 regularly performs works by Jaan Rääts, Arvo Pärt, Erkki-Sven Tüür, and Tõnu Kõrvits. In 2022, they premiered new commissions by Liisa Hõbepappel, Ülo Krigul, Rein Rannap, and Kristjan Randalu.

Success for Estonian Composers at 71st International Rostrum

Estonian composers Evelin Seppar and Gregor Kulla achieved notable success at the 71st International Rostrum of Composers (IRC), held this year for the first time in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Both of their works were selected for the prestigious Recommended Works List, placing Estonia firmly on the global contemporary music map. Gregor Kulla received third prize in the under-30 category for his innovative and sonically distinctive piece *wait, i'm forgetting something* for piano, magnets, and electronics. Evelin Seppar's emotionally nuanced and poetic choral work *Iris* earned sixth place in the general category, which included submissions from some of the world's leading composers.

In addition to international exposure, both Estonian composers will receive monetary prizes, supported by the International Music Council, Portugal's Antena 2, and the European Broadcasting Union. Winners will also receive sculptures inspired by their compositions, and their works will be acknowledged by the renowned Viennese publishing house Universal Edition.



With a legacy spanning over 70 years, the International Rostrum of Composers remains one of the most influential platforms for the promotion of contemporary music worldwide. Works highlighted at the 2024 Rostrum were broadcast nearly 600 times across global radio stations — a testament to the lasting impact of this international initiative.

SELECTED PREMIERES

Pärt Uusberg - Chorales for String Quartet (Koraalid keelpillikvartetile).

PREMIERE: String Quartet M4GNET (Robert Traksmann - violin, Katariina Maria Kits-Reimal - violin, Mart Kuusma - viola, Siluan Hirvoja - cello).

June 8, 2025, Vormsi St Olaf's Church, Kreek Days 2025

Tõnu Kõrvits - The Seasons – Double concerto for violin, cello and chamber orchestra (2025). Composed for violin, cello, harpsichord, and strings.

PREMIERE: Florian Donderer (violin), Tanja Tetzlaff (cello), Tallinn Chamber Orchestra; May 31, 2025, Tallinn House of the Blackheads

Age Veeroos - Vesi (2025) for harpsichord and geophonic soundscapes.

PREMIERE: Ene Nael (harpsichord); June 6, 2025, Tallinn, Niguliste Museum

Maria Kõrvits - Gemeinsam/Koos (2025) for girls' choir. Text by Rose Ausländer, translated into Estonian by Kati Loo.

PREMIERE: Hannover Girls' Choir, conductor Andreas Felber; June 22, 2025, Sprengel Museum, Hannover, Germany

You Can Support the Global Reach of Estonian Music!

Estonian music is so much more than just notes and sounds—it is our identity, culture, and history, carrying immense potential. To better showcase and share Estonia's musical masterpieces with audiences worldwide, EMIC needs to enhance and modernize its online platform(s).

Our goal is to create a user-friendly, interactive, and innovative environment that connects Estonia's musical heritage with the possibilities of modern technology.

To make our unique and ever-growing music collection even more dynamic and accessible, we encourage you to [support us](#). You are welcome to join us in opening the world to Estonian music!