

EMIK

Eesti Muusika Infokeskus
Estonian Music Information Centre

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NEWSLETTER

Estonian Music Days Marked 100 Years of the Composers' Union

The world's most in-depth major event dedicated to new Estonian music and our composers — the **Estonian Music Days** (EMP) — took place this year from April 25 to May 4. The festival was organized by the **Estonian Composers' Union**, which also celebrated its 100th anniversary. Inspired by this milestone, the festival's theme was *HUNDRED/100*, with Helena Tulve and Timo Steiner serving as artistic directors. The Tartu program was curated by Märt-Matis Lill.

As part of the festival's expanded program EMP+, Liisa Hõbepappel's brand-new **chamber opera** *The Dustborn* will be staged on May 10 at **Viimsi Artium**. In addition to numerous concerts, the festival included several informal events, discussions, and reflections curated in collaboration with the Estonian Centre for Contemporary Music (**ECCM**).



A major highlight was the concert of the legendary **Arditti Quartet**, a flagship ensemble of contemporary music for which hundreds of works have been written over the past 50 years. They offered a substantial concert on May 2, and also gave a masterclass for students at the **Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre**, encouraging young talents to engage with quartet composition.

The festival's theme reflected the 100-year history of Estonian composers and musicologists, which in turn mirrors the complex history of Estonia itself. A recurring theme has been adapting to volatile circumstances while maintaining artistic and academic excellence and staying open to the world.

Today, the ECU is one of the oldest creative associations in Estonia, with around 130 members. Past chairpersons include notable figures such as Eugen Kapp, Boris Kõrver, Jaan Rääts, Raimo Kangro, Lepo Sumera, and Olav Ehala.



Rasmus Puur's Symphony Wins the LHV New Music Award 2025

As part of the **Estonian Music Days** festival, the **LHV New Music Award 2025** was presented to an outstanding Estonian composer. This year, the prize was awarded to **Rasmus Puur** for his *Symphony* (2024). The award ceremony took place on April 25 at the Estonia Concert Hall during a performance by the **Estonian National Symphony Orchestra**. This marks the second time Puur has received the honor — he was previously awarded in 2021 for his *Violin Concerto*.

For the first time, a special LHV Innovation Award was also granted, recognizing a composer whose work enriches public and/or environmental discourse with a new dimension. This prize went to **Marianna Liik** for her work *Maaalune*, a poetically immersive piece that combines pre-recorded sound, electronics, and acoustic instruments into a compelling artistic unity.



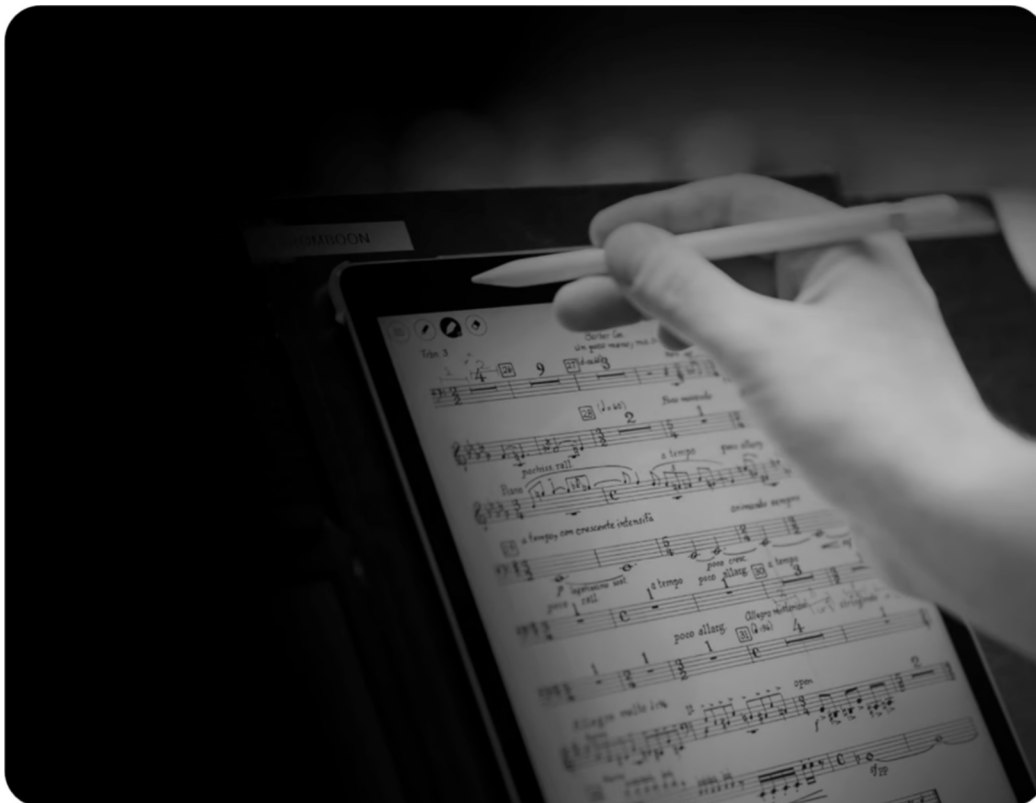
The collaboration between Estonian Music Days and LHV began in 2016 with the goal of recognizing exceptional Estonian compositions with international potential. This year's competition featured 51 new works by 32 Estonian composers, all premiered in 2024. The jury included Märt-Matis Lill (representing the Estonian Composers' Union and serving as jury chair), pianist Kärt Ruubel, Saale Kareda (Director of the Estonian Music Information Centre), conductor Taavi Kull, and last year's laureate Madli Marje Gildemann.

Previous recipients of the award include Liisa Hirsch, Toivo Tulev, Erkki-Sven Tüür, Helena Tulve, Märt-Matis Lill, Rasmus Puur, Jüri Reinvere, Ülo Krigul, and Madli Marje Gildemann.

Next-Level Orchestral Rentals: EMIC Introduces Digital Materials via Scoremusic

The Estonian Music Information Centre has partnered with the Estonian company Scoremusic — currently the most innovative professional digital solution in its field. Orchestral materials can now be rented from EMIC entirely paper-free using the **Scoremusic** app, which makes it easy to manage, share, and annotate scores digitally.

This smart solution saves very valuable librarian time and significantly streamlines the rehearsal process.



Orchestral Efficiency Reimagined

With Scoremusic, section leaders' markings are instantly shared with every player in the group, cutting down on confusion and questions during rehearsals — meaning more time for what truly matters: making music. Scoremusic redefines how musicians read sheet music, make annotations, or organize musical materials. As a publisher, we can utilize Scoremusic's features to simplify the rental of sheet music directly to customers or through the online platform [Zinfonia](#), which is widely used by orchestras and ensembles internationally.

Curious to see it in action? Visit the Estonian booth at the [Classical:NEXT](#) in Berlin, May 12–15, and explore how Scoremusic can transform your workflow.



Estonian Music Information Centre Celebrated the 30th Anniversary

On May 3, a festive event took place in the Estonian Radio 1st studio – the Estonian Music Information Centre (EMIC) celebrated its 30th anniversary. In her speech, EMIC's director Saale Kareda emphasised the role of the centre in introducing Estonian music internationally and thanked everyone who has contributed to the development of the organisation.



Music Adviser of the Ministry of Culture Kertu Aksiim handed over an acknowledgement letter to Evi Arujärv in gratitude for her long-term work as the previous director of EMIC.

The evening's musical experience was given by the [M4GNET Quartet](#), who performed the String Quartet by EMIC's first chairman [Lepo Sumera](#).



A pop-up exhibition introduced the early years of EMIC and historical material, including the first publications, photographs and archival documents.

On May 3, 1995, representatives of 15 Estonian music institutions signed the foundation agreement of EMIC in Tallinn. For thirty years, EMIC has been a valuable source of information and a publisher of Estonian music, assisting musicians, concert organisers and all those interested in Estonian music around the world. We thank everyone who has been a part of our journey!

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.

The Estonian Music Information Centre's database is one of the most comprehensive of its kind. Furthering it requires cutting-edge web development to bring the essence of Estonian music closer to today's listeners.

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!