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# MUSIC in Estonia



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# **Arvo Pärt, 2008 – 517 performances**

## **By Immo Mihkelson**

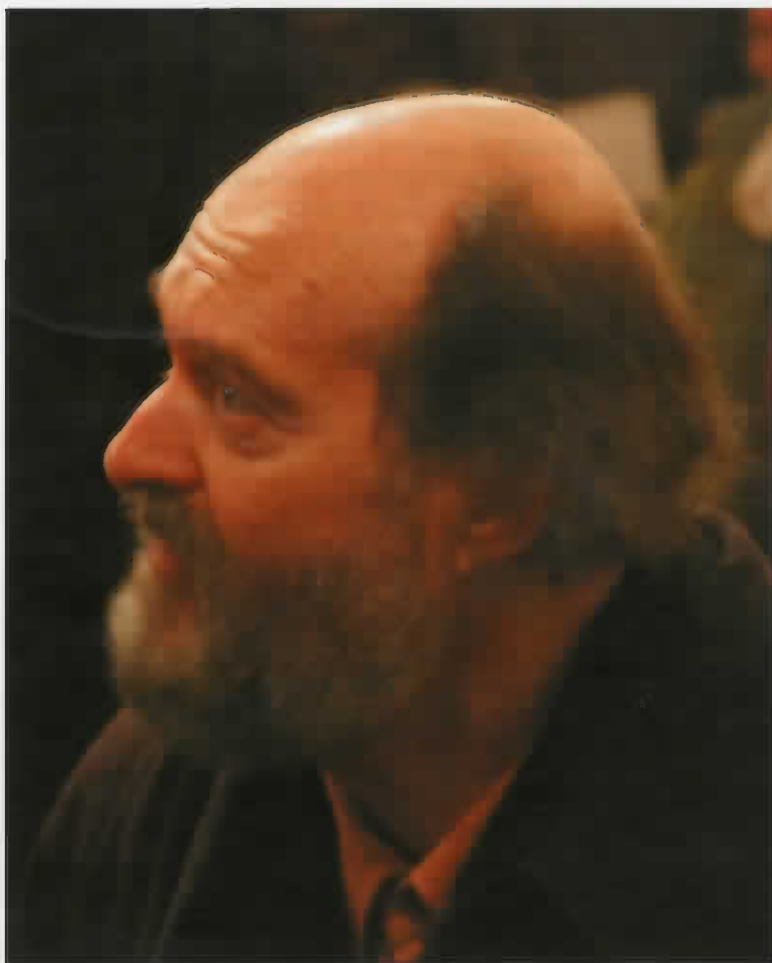
To Arvo Pärt, a member of the Estonian Composers Union, the year 2008 was quite habitual: a number of first performances in various corners of the world, awards and acknowledgments, numerous press reflections, several performances of his compositions on a nearly daily basis, festivals and concerts dedicated to his music...

Some twenty records with Pärt's music came out in 2008; Google search lists app. one thousand articles published on him in different languages in the printed press and the Internet in the same year. The Universal Edition Publishers, who are the main mediators of Arvo Pärt's music, registered 30 territorial first performances and world premieres of his compositions in 2008. There were eight world premiers. Three compositions performed were brand new and five were the first performances of the new versions of his earlier works.

Three new compositions by Arvo Pärt, first performed in 2008:

\* On February 13, the mixed choir Latvija, conducted by Fergus Sheil, performed a 5-minute choral piece, called "The Deer's Cry" in St. Peter's Church in Drogheda, Ireland, ordered from the author by the Louth Contemporary Music Society.

\* On May 22, the Danish Radio Symphonic Orchestra under the baton of Tõnu Kaljuste performed a 15-minute piece "These Words..." to strings and two percussions at the Léonie Sonnings Musikfond award concert in Copenhagen. In this composition the author mixed an Old Russian



**Arvo Pärt.**

liturgical prayer to a guardian angel with Shakespeare's Hamlet.

\* On December 20, Cello Octet Amsterdam and Vox Clamantis performed a 2-minute Slavonic piece "Alleluia-Tropus" at the Le Voci dell'Anima festival in Italy. The liturgical text is dedicated to St. Nicholas. The town of Bari, venue of the first performance, is famous for keeping the relics of St. Nicholas.

The composer attended all three premieres.

The first performances of the new versions of his earlier compositions were “De Profundis” and “Da pacem Domine” (April 27, Potsdam), “Stabat Mater” (June 12, Vienna), “O-Antiphonen” (October 21, Amsterdam) and “Fratres” (November 15, Helsingör).

According to publisher’s records, the compositions of Arvo Pärt enlisted in the Universal Edition catalogue, were performed for 517 times in 2008. However, this list is by far not complete, as the extremely popular and frequently played piano piece “For Alina” appears in the list only some twenty times. Basing on the list compiled by the publisher, the most frequently performed works of Arvo Pärt are “Fratres” and “Cantus in memory of Benjamin Britten”, both composed in the 1970’s in Tallinn.



**Concert in Radiohuset’s Concert Hall in Copenhagen on May 22nd.**

One of the most important events in 2008 related to the music of Arvo Pärt was the first night in Drogheda, Ireland in February, immediately followed by a 3-day festival in Dublin, dedicated to Pärt’s music

and organised by Radio Eire. The artistic director of the festival was Scottish composer James MacMillan, the best-known performers were The Hilliard Ensemble, Tõnu Kaljuste, Joanna McGregor, Stephen Layton and Polyphony and Crash Ensemble.

The festival was held in four venues at six sold-out concerts on February 15–17. During the festival, 20 compositions by Arvo Pärt were performed. The composer who, by the way, visited Ireland for the first time, participated in a seminar dedicated to issues related to musical composition, presided by composer Ivan Moody. The opening and closing concerts of the festival were broadcasted by RTÉ Lyric fm - the classical station of Radio Eire.

In an interview, given shortly before the festival, James MacMillan who, in addition to putting together the programme, is also a dedicated admirer of Arvo Pärt's music, said: "His music is deeply of our own time, but points to a timeless truth which captures traditions of the past as well as searching the depths and anxieties of the present."

A similar opinion was also expressed by the Committee of the Léonie Sonning Music Prize, who gave an award of recognition to Arvo Pärt on May 22, 2008 in Copenhagen. The Léonie Sonning Music Prize is a prestigious music award, which has been given annually to internationally recognized musicians and composers for almost 50 years.

"Arvo Pärt is one of the most original voices in the present-day international music world", the official press release of the award stated. The composer was modest in his speech: "To me, this award, this grand prize honours music that has exceeded beyond me as the author and as the person who is standing here in front of you today."

Media channels and international news agencies like Associated Press and Reuters reflected the granting of the award to Arvo Pärt in their news.

The first Léonie Sonning Music Prize was given to Igor Stravinsky in 1959. Every year, the committee gives out annual prize in the amount of EUR 80 000. The prize is regarded as the highest form of recognition of Denmark to a musician. Although not the largest European music award in terms of money, as the fund says in its self-introduction, the international reputation of the persons, who have been granted the award in the course of nearly 50 years make the Léonie Sonning Music Prize one of the most significant acts of recognition in the world of music.

The fact that Arvo Pärt will be given the Year 2008 Léonie Sonning Music Prize was made known in February 2007. To highlight the festive

ceremony of awarding, the Dansk Musik Tidsskrift magazine dedicated a special edition to Arvo Pärt and Estonian music. A book by Henrik Marstal was published "*Arvo Pärt – længslen efter de hvide tangenter*" ("Arvo Pärt – yearning for white keys") and several concerts were held in Copenhagen, one being conducted by Paul Hillier. The audience of the award ceremony concert had an opportunity to hear Arvo Pärt's new composition "These Words...", conducted by Tõnu Kaljuste.

One more act of acknowledgement took place in May. Dr. Angelika Zaupe-Berthold, the Great Ambassador of Austria in Estonia, gave the class I Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art to Arvo Pärt on May 8. As we know, Arvo Pärt was given the Austrian citizenship in 1980, shortly after leaving the then Soviet Estonia, when he was, so to say, "expelled" from the Soviet Union. The composer expressed his deep gratitude for all the kindness, assistance and security given him by the Austrian Government in those difficult days.

All major Estonian music companies performed Arvo Pärt's compositions in 2008, the most active one being the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, who performed Pärt's music at their concerts in Estonia and at most performances abroad.

In February, the choir sung Pärt's music in Iceland; in early May, conducted by Paul Hillier, they performed at the Moscow Easter Festival with Valery Gergiev as the Artistic Director. In May, EPCC performed Pärt's music at the Estonia culture days in Hannover, in Gent, Belgium and in Monfalcone, Italy. In June, conducted by Christoph Poppen, they sung "Te Deum" in Bergisch-Gladbach, Germany; on July 4.-19, at the Cheltenham Festival in Great Britain, EPCC sang the music of Arvo Pärt; the same happened also at the Edinburgh International Festival in August.

EPCC undertook an American tour in November together with Tallinn Chamber Orchestra. The core of the 11 concerts, conducted by Tõnu Kaljuste, was made up of Arvo Pärt's compositions. The concert reviews focused mainly on the presentations of Pärt by the Estonian choir and orchestra.

The major Pärt-performances of Estonian musicians in recent years culminated with the world release of the record "In Principio" at the end of February 2009, issued by the German record company ECM – the "home" of Arvo Pärt's music. Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir and Tallinn Chamber Choir, conducted by Tõnu Kaljuste, perform the first recordings of Arvo Pärt's

compositions on the record.

On the last days of May 2008, Estonian National Symphony Orchestra recorded the title composition of the record "In Principio", plus "La Sindone" and "Cecilia, vergine romana". The recording was preceded by a public concert of the same compositions at the *Estonia* Concert Hall.

ECM, celebrating its 40th year in action, organised a broad advertising campaign to "In Principio". A number of media publications with large circulation published positive reviews.

The music of Arvo Pärt is almost like the business card of Estonian musicians at their performances abroad. Choirs, ensembles and soloists always try to include some of his compositions to their programmes. In addition to Tõnu Kaljuste, Paavo and Kristjan Järvi, also Olari Elts, Andres Mustonen and Anu Tali, to name just the best-known, conducted Pärt's orchestral pieces abroad in 2008.

Other remarkable performances of Arvo Pärt's music by foreign musicians in 2008:

On August 16, Arvo Pärt was in Bever, Belgium, where the choir Aquarius, conducted by Marc Michael De Smet, performed the full version of "Kanon Pokajanen" at the Musica Sacra festival.

On September 6, the Gergiev Festival in Rotterdam, this year named "Heaven and Earth", presented Arvo Pärt's piece "Lamentate", conducted by Valery Gergiev himself (Ralph van Raat at the piano).

There was also one literary event slightly related to the name of Arvo Pärt. In the spring of 2008, major British daily newspapers reviewed Adam Thorpe's novel "Between Each Breath". The hero of the book is composer Jack Middleton who, enchanted by Arvo Pärt's music, visits Estonia, the birthplace of his spiritual paragon, meets a lovely waitress Kaja, thus creating a melodramatic love triangle. Although the book is not directly connected with Arvo Pärt's music, all foreign reviewers pointed out the connection of the world-famous composer with Estonia.

The Varrak Publishers issued the novel in Estonian ("Kahe hingetõmbe vahel"). In November 2008 the author, who is extremely fond of Arvo Pärt's music, attended the presentation of the Estonian translation of his book.

Arvo Pärt's music keeps featuring in new cinematic productions. Samuel Wigley's article "Is it time to give Pärt a rest?" in the British *The Guardian* newspaper caused international dispute. In his essay, the author pointed out the fact that both Hollywood directors and the makers of art-house films make wide use of Arvo Pärt's magical music. Hence



the question: is it too much of a good thing?

Formerly, film directors stretched out for Barber's Adagio, when they needed to emphasize the feeling of mournful solemnity. Now, Wigley says, the first in line seems to be Arvo Pärt's music. He specifies movies from gala nights and festivals, that have won wider recognition in the recent years: the Oscar-nominee "There Will Be Blood", "Times and Winds" by the Turk Reha Erdem, the Tarkovsky-like "Izgnanie" by the Russian Andrei Zvjagintsev – all contain well-known motifs from Arvo Pärt's compositions.

Samuel Wigley reaches a conclusion that the music, which can affect you with stunning intensity even without a screen image, is impeded by the risk of becoming a cliché, if used by the film directors too easily for the creation of certain emotions. On the other hand, this speaks about the true spread of Pärt's music in the cinematic world.

Following the same logic, some reviewers find Pärt's compositions to be over-exploited by modern dancers. A simple search on the webpage of the largest US newspaper the New York Times indicates that dance reviews related to the name of Arvo Pärt and published in the past couple of decades outnumber Pärt-related music reviews by double. Similar tendency seemed to continue in 2008. Something in his music keeps mesmerizing the dancers.

In the middle of December 2008, many newspapers with large circulation published information found in the Internet, according to which the score of Arvo Pärt's Symphony No. 4 was made available in the web several weeks before its first performance by the publisher. Mass media did not emphasize the fact that after almost 40 years, Pärt has composed a new symphony. Instead, they focused on the short text line before the first note in the score – the dedication: To Mikhail Hodorkovsky, Russia's best-known prisoner.

Symphony No. 4, sub-titled as "Los Angeles" (year of completion 2008) was first performed in the modern Walt Disney Concert Hall by the Los Angeles Philharmonic on January 10, 2009, conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen.

The composer, who also attended the concert, was extremely satisfied with the performance. He praised Esa-Pekka Salonen's sensitivity as a conductor and the orchestra. According to Pärt, he was overwhelmed by happiness, when he realized after the completion of this substantial composition that "these notes really can exist the way they have been written" – i.e. there is nothing to amend, as the music sounds exactly as



**Arvo Pärt and Esa-Pekka Salonen.**

intended. This is rare, since Pärt is very demanding towards himself. The critics applauded. Mark Swed in Los Angeles Times called Arvo Pärt's new symphony an event on every level.

The composer, who is living a prolific creative period and whose music is spreading all over the world, was bestowed the lifetime award in the amount of one million Estonian kroons by the Republic of Estonia Culture Award Committee in February 2009 for long-term distinguished creative work. Even before this news made to the press, Arvo Pärt announced that he will give half of the award to the music school of his birth-town Paide for buying new instruments and the other half to the music school of his childhood town Rakvere, where his musical career began.



# **Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir captures audience with unique sound**

**By Anneli  
Ivaste**

“The 26-member choir has a sound that is pure silver, light and flexible and able to create a shimmering atmosphere.” This is how Susan L. Pena, a music critic from the USA, characterized Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir (EPCC) in the newspaper Reading Eagle after the choir’s successful concert at Kutztown, Pennsylvania in November last year. Such impression of EPCC is no exception but rather a rule. Reading concert reviews published in San Francisco Chronicle, The Independent, The New York Times, the following phrases keep coming out: “These vocal artists convey belief in every syllable they sing”, “Immaculate performances, flawless sound.”, “The performances were so fine that they left you feeling like an ingrate, greedily hungry for more.”, “Music-making of heart-stopping beauty”.

Today EPCC, established by Tõnu Kaljuste in 1981, has become the



most famous Estonian music group and one of the most demanded choirs in the world. In addition to home performances, EPCC gives over 20 concerts abroad every season. Concert tours have taken them all over the world: the most northern country has been Iceland and the most southern one Australia, the most westbound country so far is Portugal and the most easterly – Japan. In the season of 2008/09, concert tours with visiting conductors took the choir to the far west and deep east – with Tõnu Kaljuste to the USA and with the famous British conductor Stephen Layton to Hong Kong Arts Festival, China and Seoul, South-Korea. The choir has been invited to reputable festivals like Edinburgh International Festival, Salzburg Festspiele, Abu Gosh Music Festival and Bergen International Festival. EPCC has given two concerts at BBC Proms in the famous Royal Albert Hall in London.

Both – conductors and critics have attempted to analyze the phenomenon of EPCC and think their success lies in the unique sound. Robina Young, the leading producer at *Harmonia Mundi*, the major record company of classical music, who has worked with hundreds of musicians, said: “For me, the secret lies in the choir’s sound that is extremely rare and characteristic only to them. A choir sounds good, if the voices and voice groups are in good balance, their tone is juicy, rich, full of nuance and expressive. I like working with EPCC immensely, since in addition to their great sound, they work very professionally, have flawless intonation and excellent articulation.”

## **On European stages with chief conductor Daniel Reuss**

This is the 28<sup>th</sup> season for EPCC and in a certain way quite special, since the choir has had a new Artistic Director from September. The new Artistic Director and chief conductor of the choir is Daniel Reuss, who took the choir over from Paul Hillier.

Daniel Reuss is a Dutch conductor and belongs among the world’s top musicians. He has been the chief conductor of chamber choir Cappella Amsterdam and RIAS Kammerchor in Berlin. Besides he has worked with the Berlin Concertgebouw Chamber Orchestra, Akademie für Alte Musik of Berlin, Concerto Köln, Schönberg Ensemble, but has also means fresh impulses and new repertoire. With Reuss, his universality is highly estimated – he is equally comfortable with early music, baroque,



**Daniel Reuss.**

romanticism as well as contemporary repertoire. Reuss prepared a programme of the choral pieces of Felix Mendelssohn to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of the famous romanticist. Frank Martin's oratorio "Golgotha" will be recorded together with Cappella Amsterdam and Estonian National Symphonic Orchestra by *Harmonia Mundi*. However, the new general conductor wants to keep EPCC's main focus on Estonian music, since the choir represents Estonian culture in the world. This is why the works of Arvo Pärt and Veljo Tormis stay in the repertoire. The compositions of Cyrillus Kreek are also widely performed.

Speaking of EPCC, Reuss has said he is impressed by their sound that is very rich, full and warm: “The sound of EPCC clearly has a very human component that always touches the audience.”

Daniel Reuss takes the choir to many European countries this spring and summer: in April, a concert was held at the prestigious Wiener Konzerthaus, followed by concerts in two Italian towns – Bressanone and Merano. Festivals will also be attended – Schwetzingen Festspiele in Germany and L'été musical in France. In August, EPCC participates in opera production Mozart's “Idomeneo” in Musical Theater Bremen. In the beginning of the next season, the choir will go to Switzerland and perform with Tallinn Chamber Orchestra in Montreux, St. Gallen and Luzern.

## **Estonian musicians' triumph in the USA**

In addition to performances in Europe, the concert tours of EPCC in the USA have also become regular. In November 2008, they visited the USA for the tenth time already. Together with Tallinn Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Tõnu Kaljuste, EPCC gave altogether 11 concerts in Mid and East American cities Richmond (State of Virginia), St. Louis (Missouri), Kansas City (Kansas) College Park near Washington, (Maryland), Cincinnati (Ohio), Ann Arbor (Michigan), Cleveland (Ohio), Ithaca (New York), New York, Kutztown (Pennsylvania) and in Toronto, Canada. Compositions of Arvo Pärt, Erkki-Sven Tüür, Toivo Tuulev, Antonio Vivaldi and Tõnu Kõrvits were performed.

American audience received EPCC with great enthusiasm: halls with 500-600 seats in university towns, churches and concert houses were sold out and the critics published positive reviews about the choir, the orchestra and also about Arvo Pärt's and Erkki-Sven Tüür's music in Washington Post, Kansas City Star, Toronto Star and elsewhere. This is what Timothy McDonald wrote in Kansas City Star (8.11.2008): “Estonian music has been the rage in classical circles in recent years, especially the works of Arvo Pärt. Yet another composer's star is rising in the east of Europe: Erkki-Sven Tüür. /.../ The ensemble is one of the world's great exponents of this music and did not disappoint its audience. The performance was magnificent, with singers and instrumentalists employing minimal vibrato but rich tone, wonderfully crafted phrasing and effective dynamic contrast to underscore the meaning of the text.”

One of the most important performances took place at the New York

Community Church on November 17 to celebrate the enactment of the Visa Waiver Program between Estonia and the USA on the same day as well as the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Republic of Estonia.

For many, the year 2008 concert tour culminated in Toronto, described by John Terauds in *The Toronto Star* (21. 11. 2008) as follows: “Every available pew and chair in the spacious, domed, Byzantine-style, century-old Anglican church was taken by people eager not only to hear one of the world’s finest choirs, but also to experience 20th- and 21st-century compositions alongside older fare. /.../ From the first notes, the 26 singers and 20 instrumentalists were models of balance and precision.”

Tõnu Kaljuste also underlined the success of the concert at the Toronto St. Anne’s Anglican Church with Pärt’s “Te Deum” as the highlight. Kaljuste praised the American audience: “There was no typical “choral music audience” and “orchestral music fans” as such. Our concert was attended by people without narrow musical preferences. They spontaneously jumped up and applauded, standing. This made me feel as if we have scored a goal in an important game.”

## **EPCC recordings**

In addition to tight concert schedule, EPCC records 2-3 CDs every season. Several records have won awards, the biggest one being the Grammy Award, won in 2007 for the CD “Arvo Pärt. Da Pacem” (conductor Paul Hillier, issued by *Harmonia Mundi*). However, all their recordings have been sung with uncompromising quality, evidenced by the fact that their records have been among Grammy nominees for ten times. Additionally, they have won *Diapason d’or*, the award of German music critics. Their CDs have repeatedly made to the top of the Billboard charts.

Records have been made under labels like ECM, Virgin Classics, Carus, and *Harmonia Mundi*. EPCC, too, has released own records to perpetuate Estonian quality music. In 2007, the best of Mart Saar’s choral pieces were recorded, last year Cyrillus Kreek’s “Requiem” and “Kreegi vihik” by the Estonian younger generation composer Tõnu Kõrvits. The latest recording by EPCC is Arvo Pärt’s “In Principio” under the label of ECM.





**Tiia-Ester Loitme with Ellerhein Girls' Choir.**



# The Golden Ellerhein

## By Kaie Tanner

Ellerhein Girls' Choir is one of the flagships of Estonian choral music. The choir is known by every Estonian and by most classical music lovers of the world. Their list of accomplishments and number of concerts are imposing and their level of performance has a stably high rate of gold. Moreover, the choir is neither tired, nor do they ever retire on their laurels. On the contrary, they take part in choir competitions almost every year and always get a prize. Usually the first one.

Just out of curiosity, I thumbed the history of Estonia's only international choir competition – the Tallinn Choir Festival. Since their establishment in 1972, Ellerhein has taken part in the competition for six times and won the second prize twice: in 1988, when the choir was conducted by Heino Kaljuste and in 1991, conducted by Tiia-Ester Loitme. In other years they've always got the first prize. This year they participated again and won the Grand Prix.

Ellerhein also gives a lot of concerts, many of what are the performances of large vocal-symphonic compositions. They often perform with Estonian National Male Choir, thus forming a mixed choir. Let us not forget that while ENMC is a professional choir, Ellerhein is made up of high school-aged girls!

Ellerhein has presented the first performances of a number of compositions from Estonian composers and recorded 10 CDs, additionally five CDs with Estonian music for Japanese record companies. They have over 1000 recordings of Estonian music in *Eesti Raadio* (Estonian Public Broadcasting) music library.

Where does the phenomenon of these 70 girls lie? Maybe in their growth environment i.e. music? Girls come to Ellerhein in the first grade; they pass the phases of younger and older children's choir and only then

becomes the time to start singing in the girls' choir. In addition to choral singing, girls learn solfeggio and harmony and get individual voice placing lessons.

Or maybe in traditions? Ellerhein was established 58 years ago (in 1951, under the name of Tallinn Children's Choir; in 1969 they were renamed as Children's Choir Ellerhein) and ever since, their name has evolved into a quality mark. Technically speaking, Ellerhein is a choir studio, giving the girls a diverse singer education plus excellent performing and competing experiences.

Or could the x-factor lie in capable conductors? Heino Kaljuste, the founder of the choir, conducted Ellerhein for almost forty years. After his death, the then assistant conductor Tiia-Ester Loitme took over the choir and works with the girls until today. She is the one, under whose leadership Ellerhein won Grammy – whereas Ellerhein is the only non-professional Estonian choir with the Grammy Award. There are not many choirs, who have managed with just two general conductors in 58 years. Conductors tend to change sooner. But Ellerhein and Tiia-Ester Loitme make a classical example of a choir and a conductor evolving together. Growing up, so to say.

In a good team, maybe? Tiia Loitme always emphasizes that the conductor does not get the results alone. She is assisted with Ellerhein by a assistant-conductor and solfeggio pedagogue Ülle Sander, accompanist Katrin Kuldjärv and vocal coach Eha Pärj (from 2008. Until then, Ester Lepa worked with the girls for over 20 years).

Apparently the quality of Ellerhein is made up of all those factors. And unlike mathematics, the sum here is bigger than the nominal value of the summands. In addition, there comes this something that makes a good result a great one and turns an excellent presentation into breathtaking music.

Last year was full of achievements for Ellerhein, starting from winning the title of the Choir of the Year 2007, attributed by Estonian Choral Association and concluding with the decoration of chief conductor Tiia-Ester Loitme with the Japanese Order of the Rising Sun with Golden Rays and a Rosette. In between these achievements fit the winning of Grand Prix and the accompanying title of the Choir of The World of Kathaumixw at the international choir festival that took place in Powell River, Canada. But they accomplished even more in 2008: Ellerhein gave 30 concerts at home and abroad, recorded music for the Japanese TV-channel Benese TV and for Estonian Public Broadcasting, performed

at the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary concerts of the Republic of Estonia in Hague, Brussels and Paris, performed to Her Royal Highness Queen Beatrixe of Holland at her visit to Estonia, released a CD (Peeter Vähi's "Green Tara" and György Orbán's Mass No. 9) and held their traditional singing camp in Karepa. Additionally, Ellerhein participated in the performance of several large format musical compositions: Villem Kapp's opera "Lembitu" at the ancient Lõhavere settlement, Gottfried von Einem's "Requiem of Animals" and Timo Steiner's "Cocks and Hens" at Tallinn Zoo, plus Gustav Holst's "Planets" in the *Estonia* Concert Hall.

One can barely find a choir in Estonia capable of challenging this impressive list. The working capacity and quality of Ellerhein are worth recognition and their conductor doubtlessly plays a major role in it.

Tiia-Ester Loitme is as special as Ellerhein. In fact, Ellerhein looks like her or she looks like Ellerhein – after all, she's been working with the choir for nearly 40 years, the last 20 ones as the chief conductor. And although she has also worked as a lecturer at Tallinn Conservatory (for six years) and a music teacher and conductor at Tallinn English College (19 years), she is best-known as the chief conductor of Ellerhein – just like her teacher Gustav Ernesaks is memorized by our people as the chief conductor of Estonian National Male Choir. And like Ernesaks, Tiia-Ester Loitme has stood in the conductor's rostrum at numerous Estonian Song Celebrations to conduct the joint chorus made up of thousands of singers.

Tiia-Ester has been attributed tens of honours, titles and awards, but above all, she's a Great Musician, whose interpretations are never boring and who is extremely resourceful with fresh ideas. Meeting her at a concert or in a rehearsal room inspires both the audience and the musicians and she has Her Very Own Place in Estonian music.

### **Ellerhein's Grand Prix awards from international competitions:**

1993 Nantes, France

1995 Takarazuka, Japan

1997 Tolosa (European *Grand Prix*), Spain

2008 Kathaumixw (Choir of the World), Canada

2009 Tallinn, Estonia

2004 Grammy - Jean Sibelius "Cantatas" (Virgin Classics), best performance of choral music.

Girls' Choir Ellerhein, Estonian National Male Choir, Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, conductor Paavo Järvi.

Chormasters: Ants Soots, Tiia-Ester Loitme

Recorder: Maido Maadik

### **Ellerhein's first places from international competitions:**

1997 Giessen (Germany)

1997 Tolosa (Spain)

2000, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007 Tallinn

2005 Ankara (Turkey).

2007 EBU radio competition "Let the Peoples Sing" in Wuppertal (Germany)

### **Awards granted to Tiia- Ester Loitme:**

1995 Gustav Ernesaks Choir Music Award

1997 The Order of the White Star of the Republic of Estonia

1998 Honorary decoration of the City of Tallinn

1999 Woman of the Year

2002 Good Teacher

2002 Honorary Citizen of the City of Tallinn

2003 The Heino Kaljuste Scholarship

2003 The Cultural Endowment annual music endowment

2004 member of the Recording Academy (USA)

2004 The President of the Republic of Estonia Culture Fund Education Prize  
2004 UNICEF Bluebird Annual Prize  
2004 Estonian National Culture Foundation creative scholarship for the most distinguished music teacher of the year  
2004 Grammy Award  
2005 Order of the White Star of the third class  
2008 Honorary member of Estonian Choral Association  
2008 Order of the Rising Sun with Golden Rays and a Rosetta (Japan)  
2009 Estonian Public Broadcasting Musician of the Year 2008



**Tiia-Ester Loitme and the jury of Tallinn Choir Festival 2009.**

## **Estonian Music Festivals, Summer 2009**

### **XV International Evgeny Mravinsky Music Festival**

31/V-10/VI – Narva, Narva-Jõesuu, Sillamäe and Tallinn

### **III Türi Spring Festival**

5-7/VI – Türi town and parish

### **XII Suure-Jaani Music Festival**

17-23/VI – Suure-Jaani and parish

### **XIII Muhu Future Music Festival *Juu Jääb***

25-28/VI – Muhu Island

### **XXIV Viljandi Early Music Festival**

7-12/VI – Viljandi

### **XVI Haapsalu Early Music Festival**

8-12/VII – in Haapsalu

### **Pärnu Opera Days**

10-11/VII – Pärnu

### **XI Hiiumaa Chamber Music Days**

10-12/VII – Hiiumaa Island

### **XI Festival *Music of Seven Towns***

10-18/VII – Kalvi, Mäetaguse, Vaivara, Kohtla-Järve, Sillamäe, Maidla, Narva and Jõhvi

### **Pärnu David Oistrakh Festival**

In July – Pärnu

### **Rapla Church Music Days**

18/VII-9/VIII – Rapla town and county

### **Saaremaa Opera Days**

19-26/VII – Saaremaa Island

### **XVI International String Music Festival *Viiulimängud***

22-26/VII – Haapsalu

### **XXIII Tallinn International Organ Festival**

31/VII-9/VIII – Tallinn, Tartu and Pärnu

### **XV Kuressaare Chamber Music Days**

4-8/VIII – Kuressaare

### **V Birgitta Festival**

13-23/VIII – Tallinn

### **V Tallinn Chamber Music Festival**

26-29/VIII – Tallinn



# **Theatrical August Nights within Medieval Ruins of the Pirita Convent**

**By Heili  
Vaus-Tamm**

The Birgitta Festival is held in Tallinn, within the ruins of the Pirita Convent dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The burnt-down convent has found a new breathing in the festival and revives into intense and dynamic life in August every year. The festival embodies something truly mystic and existential. During the entire year, the solitary ruins stand as a historic monument, the walls stretching towards the sky and the quiet emptiness floating around them. But during the two weeks of the festival, life suddenly bubbles between the walls, day and night. Under the artistic directorship of Eri Klas, the Birgitta Festival combines the dark charm of a medieval convent with the latest in modern musical theatre. We want to show musical theatre in all its variety and richness and present something new every year, something that our local audience has not seen yet.

Every night almost 1.5 thousand people stay within the ruins: 1350



spectators and the performers – the orchestra, the choir and the opera or ballet soloists. High feelings are experienced on stage and among the audience; it is not rare for the spectators to stand up and applaud in admiration, interrupting the night rest of the people of Piritu with prolonged bravos.

## **Torchlight and Medieval Cemetery**

Most Estonians have walked between the ruins of the Piritu Convent. But foreign guests stand in awe of the unique festival ground. Vladimir Dudin and Yulia Broido, music critics from St. Petersburg, wrote several months after the festival that they're still under the spell of the locale and that they still sense the convent ground in the August night, lit by torchlight, in their mind's eye. Unconventional is the path, leading the guests to the concert venue between the tarnished crosses of the medieval cemetery. And when darkness falls and the torches are lit, shedding light on the convent galleries, the first impression is received even before the opening chords of the performance have sounded.

One of the leading ideas of the festival is to make the audience part of the performance. In this aspect, the show begins with passing through the convent gates. Everything between the walls makes a reference to the era; even the caterers and sellers of programmes are dressed accordingly, representing either nuns or medieval citizens. Convent liqueur is served for free and one can dine on the monks' terrace. Descending to the wine cellar, exploring the convent passages and finally attending the show from the seats placed between the medieval walls makes you feel to be in another time and space. One of the peculiarities of the festival is that the stage lacks cardboard scenery and the guests do not have velvet armchairs to sit on. Everybody – the performers and the audience – share the same room, made up of genuine, solid and historic walls. It is just the light effects that turn the convent walls into the streets of Buenos Aires, the Siberian forced labour camp or the palace of a Roman Emperor. The outcome is ascetic, yet impressive! The first festival had no roof and this allowed the audience enjoy the performance under the starry sky. In the next four summers, a light transportable roof has been used, as warmth and weatherproofness override romanticism.

## Bright New Opera Performances

The choice of repertoire is influenced by the locale. The audience of the first festival was positively struck by the interpretation skill of the Helikon company from Moscow, namely by their production of Francis Poulenc's nunnery-based opera "Dialogues of the Carmelites" – a story of nuns who prefer death to leaving their convent. The stage design of the Moscow avant-garde theatre was impressive: an opening and closing Cross in the backstage, where the characters moved and through what the nuns went to get guillotined...

The Moscow opera companies Helikon and Novaya Opera have performed at all five festivals. Our reason of liking them is their high artistic level, quick adaptation, extreme working capacity and last but not least – their performances that are always given with utmost devotion. The organisers have not been able to find the combination of similar qualities from elsewhere. However, by the year 2010 we have planned to extend the festival geographically and move westward in search of new performers.

One of the underlying ideas of the festival is to emphasize the productional side of presentations: even the performances of oratorios and concerts are always adapted for the stage. All opera performances have been selected among the cream of today's modern productions. Each year, performances related to the topic of a convent either by plot or idea have been the peak of the programme: in addition to the already mentioned "Dialogues of the Carmelites", the audience gave a hot reception to Piazzolla's tango-opera "Maria de Buenos Aires", the oratorio "Jeanne d'Arc", staged by Honegger, Britten's opera "The Turn of the Screw" and the opera by Shostakovich "Lady Macbeth of the Mtsenski District".

The programme of the festival always includes one major classical opera and one opera from the 20<sup>th</sup> or the 21<sup>st</sup> century, shows ballets from different eras, stages oratorios and introduces one new music theatre genre to the audience. Last year, this new line was represented by the production of "The Rise and Fall of a Musician", basing on Gidon Kremer's biography and performed by Kremer himself and a duet of comedians (Igudesman and Joo), making the audience laugh and ponder over the tumbles of history.

Another principle of the festival is to stage a new production using Estonian resources only. This year Mare Tommingas, the choreographer of the Tartu *Vanemuine* Theatre, will direct the oratorio "Time to Love",



Helikon's production of "Falstaff".

written by composer Tauno Aints on the lyrics by Leelo Tungal. This will be a choreographic vision of love. The amalgamation of archetypal body language with the technical means of expression of modern theatre will be thrilling. The performance of the oratorio “Time to Love” on August 13, 2009 will be the kick-off to this year’s festival.

The Moscow opera theatre Helikon, bringing along a stack of bold ideas, will be the guest theatre this summer. We will see the well-known grand opera by Giuseppe Verdi – “Falstaff” as well as Umberto Giordano’s “Siberia”, worthy of attention and exploration, both directed by Dmitri Bertman. Beautiful Italian opera melodies, physical travel from the high society of St. Petersburg to a Siberian prison camp and spiritual journey to love and redemption will make it an unforgettable performance. Speaking of ballet, the most thrilling experience will obviously be the production of Aram Khachaturian’s “Spartacus” – a stunningly lively picture of the lavish lifestyle of ancient Rome and the revolt of the gladiators against Rome. The other productions of the Moscow National Academic Ballet Theatre are well-known classics – the time-honoured “Swan Lake” by Tchaikovsky and the more modern “Romeo and Juliet” by Prokofiev.

The Art Director of the festival, Maestro Eri Klas, will thrill the audience with the exhilarating evening of opera jazz “Opera@Jazz”, where people can listen to classical opera hits from the whole world and their jazz arrangements.

The convent as an ancient stronghold of religion is an interesting stand for performances basing on the beliefs of different nations of the world. This year, we will offer you “The Voice of the Ocean”, which demonstrates the inner peace and power of the Orient. People of the Occident are particularly enthralled by the message on how to find inner peace in the midst of chaos and how to grow this peace into a mighty river running into the ocean. This powerful message will complete the festival on August 23 and the audience will remain waiting new theatrical experiences in August next year.



**Song and Dance Festival.**



# Year 2008 in Short: Musical Events

Compiled by  
Kersti Inno

## JANUARY

**1/1** Anu Tali conducts Estonian National Symphony Orchestra (ENSO) at New Year's concert in the *Estonia* Concert Hall, soloist is tenor Jean-Pierre Furlan (France).

**6/1** Tallinn Baroque Orchestra, conducted by Toomas Siitan, celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Tallinn Methodist Church with a concert "*Concerto Grosso*".

**10/1** Annual awards night of the Estonian Cultural Endowment – Estonian Cultural Endowment year 2007 annual award for music goes to composer Jaan Rääts for distinguished long-term creative activity; the annual award for folk culture is given to the artistic directors of the 10<sup>th</sup> Youth Song and Dance Festival "*Ilmapuu*" Aarne Saluveer and Maido Saar. Annual music awards are also given to Erkki-Sven Tüür for a brilliant creative year, to Helen Lokuta for momentous stage roles, to Jaak Sooäär for the promotion of jazz music, to Ivi Tivik for outstanding pedagogic work, to Tiit Paulus for long-time work as a musician and pedagogue, to Mikk Üleoja for recording the music of Mart Saar, to Tiina Mattisen for the compilation of "Biographical Lexicon of Estonian Music", to Jüri-Ruut Kangur for the advancement of youth involvement in orchestral music.

**11/I** Olari Elts conducts the Dresdner Sinfoniker orchestra, among other numbers the programme also includes Symphony No. 5 by Erkki-Sven Tüür.

**12-27/I** Pärnu Contemporary Music Days (Artistic Director Andrus Kallastu) – Twenty years from the beginning of Pärnu Contemporary Music days.

**14/I** The debut night of the first Estonian singer on the stage of London Royal Opera – mezzo-soprano Monika-Evelin Liiv performs the role of Flora in Giuseppe Verdi's "La Traviata" (partners Anna Netrebko, Jonas Kaufmann and Dmitri Hvorostovsky).

**18/I** Estonian National Symphony Orchestra (ENSO) opera gala at the *Estonia* Concert Hall with soloists from Vienna: mezzo-soprano Annely Peebo and baritone Morten Frank Larsen. The event is conducted by Nikolai Alexeev.

**24-25/I** Nordic Symphony Orchestra gives Winter Concerts in the *Estonia* Concert Hall and in Tartu Concert House. The concert is conducted by Anu Tali, soloist Renaud Capuçon, a French violinist-virtuoso.

**27/I** The annual award night of the Estonian Choral Association at the *Estonia* Concert Hall. The awards are given to the Choir of the Year – Ellerhein Girls' Choir (conductor Tiia-Ester Loitme) and to the male choir Forestalia (Alo Ritsing and Ilmari Johansson); Conductor of the Year – Aarne Saluveer; Conductor-pedagogue of the Year – Ave-Maria Sild; Brass-band of the Year – Estonian Youth Brass (Aavo Ots, Valdo Rüütelmaa, Priit Sonn); Orchestra Conductor of the Year – Valdo Rüütelmaa; Young Conductor of the Year – Maarja Soone; Sponsors of the Year – the City of Tallinn, Rapla County Government and AS Kalev; Organizers of the Year – Aet Maatee (organizer of the summer Youth Song and Dance Festival "Ilmapuu lävel") and Riho Leppoja (organizer of Estonian Mixed Choirs' Association event in Tartu); Deed of the Year – 10<sup>th</sup> Youth Song and Dance Festival "Ilmapuu lävel"; Choral record of the Year – "Luule, see ei tule tuulest" (Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir (EPCC) and Mikk Üleja).

**31/I** The life story "Vootele Veikat. Lauluga ja lauluta" is presented at Estonian Theatre and Music Museum. This is the first comprehensive survey of the biography and creative life of the then first baritone of the Estonia Theatre, including also the recollections and thoughts of the singer himself.

**31/I** Estonian National Male Choir, conducted by Kaspars Putniņš, performs six compositions, dedicated by Gavin Bryars to the same choir,

at the *Estonia* Concert Hall. Three compositions are performed for the first time.

**31/I-10/II** 19<sup>th</sup> Baroque Music Festival (Artistic Director Andres Mustonen).

## **FEBRUARY**

**5-7/II** First time in Paris – the performance of Eduard Tubin's Symphony No. 5. is performed by Orchestre de Paris under the baton of Neeme Järvi.

**13-17/II** Music Festival "Perfect Silence", organized by Tallinn Philharmonic and the record company ECM (Artistic Director Erkki-Sven Tüür).

**15-17/II** RTÈ Living Music Festival in Dublin is dedicated to Estonian composer Arvo Pärt. 23 compositions by the composer are performed at six concerts. The opening night is conducted by Estonian conductor Tõnu Kaljuste.

**16/II** 10<sup>th</sup> Piano Ensemble Festival at the Tohisoo Manor.

**16-17/II** EPCC, conducted by Daniel Reuss, performs at the Salurinn Concert Hall in Kopavogur, Iceland. "Three Island Songs", written by Tõnu Kõrvits, have their first performance at the concert. The programme of the second concert includes additionally the compositions of Cyrillus Kreek, Arvo Pärt and Mart Saar. The concert is dedicated to the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Republic of Estonia and it belongs to the concert series "Musical Gift from Musical Country".

**22/II** Presentation of CD "*Varahoidja*", recorded by organist Professor Hugo Lepnurm at the Tallinn Methodist Church.

**24/II** The year 2007 culture awards of the Republic of Estonia are given for notable creative achievements. The national culture awards are given to Aarne Saluveer and Maido Saar (artistic idea and realization of the 10<sup>th</sup> Youth Song and Dance Festival), Erkki-Sven Tüür, Dmitri Bertman, Arvo Volmer, Neeme Kuningas and Ene-Liis Semper (production of the opera "Wallenberg" at the *Estonia* National Opera), Ants Soots (recording of the compositions of Veljo Tormis).

**24/II** First performance of the cantata "*Aeg armastada*" (libretto by Leelo Tungal), ordered from Tauno Aints for the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Republic of Estonia, at the Tallinn Jaani Church. Conductor: Mikhail Gerts. Performers: Estonian National Male Choir, ENSO, soloists Jassi Zahharov and Urmas Pöldma.



**28/II** First performance of “Sketches Of Thule” by Amstel Quartet and organist Pieter van Dijk at Amsterdam Orgelpark. The composition was ordered from Tõnu Kõrvits.

## **MARCH**

**1/III** 8<sup>th</sup> Estonian Young Violoncellists’ Festival in Tartu.

**5-20/III** Tallinn Music High School is on concert tour in Australia. Concerts are held in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. Among others, the programme also includes works by Estonian composers Heino Eller, Rudolf Tobias, Ester Mägi and Jaan Rääts. First performance of a composition written by Timo Steiner especially for the orchestra’s Australia-tour.

**7/III** First performance of Galina Grigorjeva’s “*Elu öö*” (text Innokenti Annenski) and arrangements for male choir of Alfred Schnittke’s Choral Concert by Aare Kruusimäe (text Grigor Narekazi) by Estonian National Male Choir, conductor Kaspars Putniņš.

**16-23/III** VI Children and Youth Music Festival *Muusikamoos* in Pärnu.

**19/III** First performance of several compositions by Estonian composers – “Ballade” by Timo Steiner, “Variations on the theme “*Ma tänan sind*”” (Estonian religious folk tune from Pärnu-Jaagupi) by Tõnu Kõrvits and “*Cadenza*” by Toivo Tulev – at a concert, held to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Estonian pianist Peep Lassmann.

**27/III** Musical Stage Performance Awards are given on International Theatre Day to Dmitri Bertman (for impressive imagery in Erkki-Sven Tüür’s opera “Wallenberg” at the *Estonia* Theatre and in Offenbach’s opera “Tales of Hoffmann” at the *Vanemuine* Theatre) and to Mart Madiste (brilliant performance of the role of Hoffmann’s “Tales of Hoffmann” at the Vanemuine Theatre and for the Duke’s role in Giuseppe Verdi’s “Rigoletto” at the *Estonia* Theatre).

**27/III** A concert is held in Copenhagen Royal Library *Black Diamond* by Estonian National Male Choir, conducted by Mikhail Gerts. The programme includes the première of Urmas Sisask’s “Spell for Denmark” – a piece dedicated to Denmark. The concert is dedicated to the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Republic of Estonia and belongs to the series of concerts “Musical Gift from Musical Country”.

## APRIL

**1/IV** In addition to the works of Mussorgsky and Schubert, Ain Anger, the bass soloist of the Vienna Staatsoper, performs Ülo Krigul's "Three Songs on Lyrics by Indrek Hirv", ordered especially for this concert held in the Glass Hall of Vienna Musikverein.

**3/IV** Tallinn Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Juha Kangas, celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> birthday with the concert "Illuminations" at the House of the Blackheads. Soloist: soprano Aile Asszonyi.

**3/IV** Estonian pianist Ivari Ilja is Dmitri Hvorostovsky's piano partner at the latter's solo night in the Stern Auditorium at the New York Carnegie Hall. The concert belongs to the concert series "Great Singers".

**3-15/IV** XIII Estonian Music Days. A festival of Estonian Composers' Union 2008. (Artistic Directors: composers Timo Steiner and Ülo Krigul). More than 30 premieres are held, including Helena Tulve's Violin Concerto, a portrait concert of Jüri Reinvere and many others.

**4/IV** The Year 2008 Heino Eller Award is given to young composer Tatiana Kozlova at Estonian Theatre and Music Museum.

**10-15/IV** VI Harpsichord Days in Tallinn (Artistic Director Imbi Tarum).

**10/IV** NYDD Ensemble performs at the Marathon XXI festival initiated by Olari Elts at the Rennes Opera. Speaking of Estonian music, the programme includes Helena Tulve's "Lijnen", Erkki-Sven Tüür's "Oxymoron" and Arvo Pärt's "Fratres". Composers Helena Tulve and Erkki-Sven Tüür attend the festival and lecture at a conference, held by the university.

**11/IV** "Helios Helios" – a composition for two violoncellos and orchestra, ordered from composer Tõnu Kõrvits – has its first performance at the opening night of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra's festival "Cellissimo" (soloists Pei-Jee Ng and Pei-Sian Ng). The main composition of the closing night (18. IV) is Symphony No. 6 by Eduard Tubin.

**12-13/IV** National Wind Instrumentalists' competition is held in Tartu, attended by 32 young musicians. The winners: Oksana Sinkova (flute), Andres Kontus (trombone) and Jaan Ots (trumpet).

**12-14/IV** Tallinn Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Eri Klas, gives a concert at the Finlandiatalo in Helsinki, at the Sibeliusstalo in Lahti and at the Tamperetalo in Tampere, Finland. The programme includes first performance of Helena Tulve's violin concerto "*Höbevalge*", dedicated to Finland (soloist Jaakko Kuusisto). The programme also includes: Ülo

Krigul's "Presence" (first performance), Erkki-Sven Tüür's Cello concerto (soloist Silver Ainomäe), Arvo Pärt's "*Labbé Agathon*" (first performance in Finland, soloist Helen Lokuta) and Jaan Rääts's Concerto for Chamber Orchestra. The concerts are dedicated to the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Republic of Estonia and belong to the series of concerts "Musical Gift from Musical Country".

**16-27/IV** XIX Tallinn International Jazz Festival "*Jazzkaar*" (Artistic Director Anne Erm). Musicians from six continents and 16 countries perform at 52 concerts.

**24/IV** The Hamburg Symphonists are conducted by Andres Mustonen in Laeiszhalle. Among other pieces, the programme also includes Arvo Pärt's "*Für Lennart in memoriam*" and Symphony No. 3.

**23-30/IV** 25 pianists attend the 7<sup>th</sup> Estonian Pianists' Competition. The winner is Maksim Schura (EMTA), II award is given to Ruslan Strogiiy (Tallinn Music High School), four finalist diplomas go to Margus Riimaa, Andre Hinn, Jaan Ots and Johan Randvere. The special award of the Estonian Piano Teachers' Union is given to Aleksandra Kamenskaya for the presentation of Lepo Sumera's works. The special award of Estonian Composers' Union is given to Margus Riimaa for the best presentation of the compulsory composition – Helena Tulve's new composition "Three Songs". The award of the festival "Piano 2008" – a concert at the same festival – is given to two pianists: Maksim Schura and Andre Hinn.

**29/IV** Estonian Public Broadcasting presented the fifth record in the series "Estonian composers". Galina Grigorjeva's compositions "*Valge prelüüd*" and "*Kant*" and Erkki-Sven Tüür's "*Psalmoodia*", "*Conversio*" and "*Raerituaal*" are on the record. Perddformers: Hortus Musicus, Latvian Radio Choir, Tallinn Chamber Orchestra and EPCC.

## MAY

**2-3/V** First performance of Urmas Sisask's Mass No. 5 "Chateau Rocher" in Tallinn and Tartu. Performers: Taniel Kirikal, St. Michael Boys' Choir, Tartu Boys' Choir and orchestra Collegium Consonante, conducted by Lehari Kaustel.

**4/V** The Berlin Philharmonic, conducted by Simon Rattle, gives a concert in the *Estonia* Concert Hall in Tallinn – the major event of the concert season in Estonia!

**5-6/V** The evening of short operas of Estonian Music and Theatre Academy at the Kanuti Guild Hall in Tallinn: first performances of

Monika Mattisen's "DMeeter" and Age Hirv's "Tuleloitsija".

**5-6/V** EPCC, conducted by Paul Hillier, performs Estonian music at the Moscow Easter Festival: Arvo Pärt's "Kanon pokajanen", "Nunc dimittis" and "Bogoroditse dievo", Veljo Tormis's "Laulusild" and Cyrillus Kreek's "Psalms".

**7-10/V** Estonian Young Violinists' Competition is held in Pärnu. In the final round, the competitors have to play Eino Tamberg's new composition "Violin's Games with Orchestra". The winner is 22-years old Mari Targo, who is also given the award for the most fascinating performance of the compulsory piece; Danae Taamal gets the special award of Estonian Concert and Pärnu City Orchestra, the second award and the Pärnu Philharmonic special prize; the third award is given to Kristiina Kostrykina and the youngest participant's award goes to Ida Teppo.

**8/V** Dr. Angelika Saupe Berchtold, the Great Ambassador of Austria in Estonia, gives the first class Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art to the Estonian composer Arvo Pärt at the Kadriorg Palace. The award is attributed to Arvo Pärt by the President of the Republic of Austria Dr. Heinz Fischer.

**14-16/V** Pärnu International Opera Music Festival *PromFest* (Artistic Director Erki Pehk). Puccini Gala (dedicated to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Giacomo Puccini) in Jõhvi, Pärnu and Tallinn. Performers are the earlier winners of the Klaudia Taev Competition together with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Orchestra.

**16/V** Presentation of the book "Composer Jaan Rääts", published by Estonian Music Information Centre (EMIC).

**17/V** Over the period of 75 years, the Estonian National Opera (ENO) once again stages Richard Wagner's opera "Tristan and Iseult". The presentation is directed by Neeme Kuningas, artistic design by Ervin Õunapuu. Musical Director is Arvo Volmer. The role of Tristan is performed by Heikki Siukola from Finland and Peter Svensson from Austria, the role of Iseult by Irmgard Vilsmaier from Germany and Heli Veskus, the soloist of the *Estonia* Theatre. Other cast: Helen Lokuta, Juuli Lill, Rauno Elp from the *Estonia*, Atlan Karp from the *Vanemuine* and many others.

**16-20/V** 9<sup>th</sup> International Isabella Yuryeva Competition of Old Russian Romances in Tallinn (Artistic Director Olga Bunder).

**21/V** Presentation of the DVD of Erkki-Sven Tüür's opera "Wallenberg" in the ENO White Hall. The opera enjoyed sensational success the year before.

**22/V** The prestigious Danish music award – the Léonie Sonning Music Prize is given to Estonian composer Arvo Pärt in the Danske Radio (DR) concert hall. The Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra, vocal ensemble and choir, conducted by Tõnu Kaljuste, perform Pärt's music at the award concert in Copenhagen. Among other Pärt's compositions, "These words..." have its first performance at the concert. Related to Pärt-week, also other events take place in Copenhagen: on May 20, Pärt's compositions are performed by Athelas Sinfonietta Copenhagen and ARS Nova Copenhagen, conducted by Paul Hillier at the Garrison Church; A book by Henrik Marstal is published: "Arvo Pärt – Yearning for White Keys"; A photo exhibition "Pärt Known and Unknown" is held in the gallery of the Council of the Ministers of the Nordic Countries; Dorian Supini's film of Arvo Pärt "24 preludes on one Fugue" is shown.

**24/V** ENSO, conducted by Olari Elts, gives a concert at the Stockholm Berwaldhallen in Sweden. This is also the first performance of Toivo Tulev's "Future Continuous", a composition dedicated to Sweden. The programme also includes Erkki-Sven Tüür's Symphony No. 5. The concert is dedicated to the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Republic of Estonia and belongs to the series of concerts "Musical Gift from Musical Country".

**25/V-6/VI** XIV International Eugenie Mravinsky Music Festival in Narva (Artistic Director Anatoly Schura).

**28-31/V** VII Pärnu International Choir Festival (Artistic Director Ave Sopp).

**29/V-1/VI** Türi Spring Festival (Artistic Director Iren Lill). First performance of a song-and-dance spectacle "Lopi and Lapi" by Tõnis Kaumann.

## JUNE

**1-6/VI** The Cyrillus Kreek Days in Haapsalu as part of Nargen Festival. In addition to Kreek, the compositions of his friend Peter Süda are included to the programme to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of Kreek.

**1/VI-31/VIII** Nargen Festival (artistic director Tõnu Kaljuste). 57 concerts and performances are held at various seaside venues all over Estonia.

**5/VI** ETV presents the portrait-film "*Dirigendi kõla*" of Estonian conductor Eri Klas. Directors: Helle Karis and Peeter Murdmaa.

**7/VI** Punk Song Festival in Rakvere. 1500 singers participate.



***"Eesti meeste laulud".***

**7/VI** Premiere of "*Eesti meeste laulud*" at the Tallinn Kultuurikatel (centre of alternative culture). Stage performance by Peeter Jalakas, basing on the music of Veljo Tormis, Music Director Tõnu Kaljuste. Certainly one of the highlights of Estonian music life in summer 2008!

**9-13/VI** Tallinn Guitar Festival (Artistic Director Tiit Peterson).

**9-13/VI** Galina Grigorjeva's composition "*Kant*" in the performance of Hortus Musicus and Tatiana Kozlova's chamber piece "*Circles*" in the performance of Ensemble U: represent Estonia at the International Composers' Rostrum in Dublin.

**10/VI** Conductor Eri Klas and publishing house Revelex present a photo-album "*Eri Klas. Kultuuri suursaadik*".

**12/VI** First performance of the mixed choir and string version of Arvo Pärt's "Stabat Mater" in the Vienna Musikverein as part of the Vienna Festival. The composition is performed by Tonkünstler-Orchester and the Singverein choir, conducted by Kristjan Järvi.

**15-23/VI** Suure-Jaani Music Festival (Artistic Director Andres Uibo). 22 events: the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Republic of Estonia, 800 years from the beginning of the Estonian's struggle for freedom, commemorated by Villem Kapp's opera "Lembitu", jubilee of the Kapp composers' dynasty.

**18-21/VI** 7<sup>th</sup> Estonian Young Composers' Festival in the Tartu Jaani Church.

**22/VI** Concert of male choir compositions by Veljo Tormis in the Aichi Art Centre in Nagoya, Japan. Tokai male choir is conducted by Ants Soots and Chifuru Matsubara.

## JULY

**1-5/VII** Ellerhein Girls' Choir, conducted by Tiia-Ester Loitme, win the Grand Prix and the title of "The Choir of the World at Kathaumixw" and I prize in the category of youth choirs at the international choir competition in Powell Rivers, Canada. Their programme includes a *capella* choir music from Estonian composers Arvo Pärt, Veljo Tormis, Cyrillus Kreek and Mart Saar.

**2-6/VII** XV Haapsalu Early Music Festival (Artistic Director Toomas Siitan).

**3-7/VII** XII Muhu Future Music Festival "Juu Jääb" (Artistic Director Villu Veski).

**4/VII** Estonian Public Broadcasting presents Timo Steiner's author record "Pilved tulevad vahele", covering the composers works from 1999 to 2007. The record materialized thanks to Tallinn Chamber Orchestra, Voces Musicales, Tallinn Music High School children's choir, the conductors Tõnu Kaljuste and Risto Joost and many others.

**5/VII** Violoncellist Allar Kaasik gives a solo concert of Estonian contemporary music at West Gork Festival in Bantry, Ireland. The programme includes Tüür, Sink, Grigorjeva, and Pärt.

**6-13/VII** XXIII Viljandi Early Music Festival (Artistic Director Neeme Punder).

**8/VII** ETV Girls Choir, conducted by Aarne Saluveer, performs in St. Paul's Cathedral in Knightsbridge, London together with Royal College of Music Choir, conducted by Prof. Joy Hill. They give the first performance

to Urmas Sisask's choral work "*Veni Creator Spiritus*". The concert is dedicated to the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Republic of Estonia and it belongs to the concert series "Musical Gift from Musical Country".

**8/VII** EPCC, under the baton of Paul Hillier, gives a concert in St. Francis Abbey at the Saint Donat Festival in Croatia, performing compositions by Nikolai Kedrov, Arvo Pärt and Urmas Sisask and Sergei Rachmaninoff's "All-Night Vigil".

**10-13/VII** Võru Folklore Festival with performers from Slovakia, Sweden, Norway, Poland, Lithuania, Mexico, Belgium and of course, Estonia.

**11/VII** EPCC, conducted by Paul Hillier, perform pieces by Veljo Tormis, Arvo Pärt, Cyrillus Kreek and Urmas Sisask at Cheltenham Festival. The concert is preceded by this year's composer of the festival Veljo Tormis. ETV Girls' Choir, conducted by Aarne Saluveer, give three concerts at the festival. Their programme is called "Estonia and Veljo Tormis".

**11-12/VII** VI Pärnu Opera Days. Helikon Opera from Moscow performs in the Pärnu Concert Hall.

**11-13/VII** X Hiiumaa Chamber Music Days (Artistic Director Mart Ernesaks).

**11-18/VII** X Music of Seven Towns Festival (Jõhvi, Mäetaguse, Sillamäe, Kohta-Järve, Narva, Kiviõli, Illuka, and Kalvi).

**15/VII** Tallinn Music High School chamber orchestra, conducted by Risto Joost, wins I prize at the competition "Youth & Music in Vienna".

**16/VII** Nõmme Music School chamber choir, conducted by Indrek Vijard, returns with Gold Medal from XIV International Ecclesiastic Choir Music Festival held in Preveza, Greece.

**16-27/VII** Festival "Glasperlenspiel in Tartu" (Artistic Director Peeter Vähi).

**18-29/VII** Pärnu David Oistrakh Festival. A memorial to the life and music of the world-famous violinist David Oistrakh on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary (Artistic Director Allar Kaasik).

**20/VII-9/VIII** XVI Rapla Church Music Festival. 16 church concerts are held in Rapla, Türi, Hageri, Järva-Jaani, Suure-Jaani, Vahastu, Velise, Järvakandi, Kullamaa, Kärü, Juuru and Vigala.

**21-27/VII** I Saaremaa Opera Days (Artistic Director Arne Mikk).

**23-27/VII** XV International String Music Festival "*Viiulimängud*" in Haapsalu.



## AUGUST

**1-10/VIII** XXII Tallinn International Organ Festival. 29 concerts are held in Tallinn, Pärnu, Tartu, Iisaku, Valga and Valjala. (Artistic Director Andres Uibo).

**1.-10/VIII** Arbo Valdma's international piano school "*Klaveri SUVE-UNiversiteet*" in Pärnu. 25 pianists from Japan, Spain, Austria, Germany, Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia, Norway and Estonia participate.

**5-9/VIII** XIV Kuressaare Chamber Music Days (Artistic Director Andres Paas).

**9-17/VIII** IV Birgitta Festival in the ruins of the Pirita Convent in Tallinn. Performers: Moscow Novaya Opera, Imperial Russian Ballet, Kremerata Baltica, Fine 5, Mixed Choir Latvija, ENSO and soloists (Artistic Director Eri Klas).

**10-16/VIII** XIII Võru Brass Music Days.

**11/VIII** EPCC, conducted by Paul Hillier, performs compositions of Veljo Tormis, Toivo Tulev and Arvo Pärt at Edinburgh Festival.

**12/VIII** EPCC, conducted by Paul Hillier, performs Rachmaninoff's "All-Night Vigil" at BBC Proms in Royal Albert Hall.

**15/VIII** Premiere of musical spectacle "*Ruja*" (on the life and work of Estonian legendary rock-band with Rein Rannap as their leader and composer) by Ojasoo-Semper-Rannap on the *Vanemuine* open-air stage in Tartu.

**18-23/VIII** IV Tallinn Chamber Music Festival (Artistic Director Pille Lill).

**19/VIII** Night Song Festival "*Märkamisaeg*" at Tallinn Song Festival Ground.

**28/VIII-28/IX** XV Orthodox Music Festival "Credo" (Artistic Director Valeri Petrov). The festival of traditional Orthodox music.

**30/VIII** First performance of Peeter Vähi's new composition "Call of Sacred Drums" at Grafenegg Festival in Austria.

**30-31/VIII** First performance of Timo Steiner's composition "*Kuked ja kanad ehk monument muneja-kukele*" at the Tallinn Zoo. Performers: soloists Anneli Peebo and Rainer Vilu, ENSO, Ellerhein, Estonian National Male Choir and Nargen Opera choir, conducted by Tõnu Kaljuste.

## SEPTEMBER

**1/IX** First performance of Tõnis Mägi's school oratorio "*Tarkus*" at the

Tallinn Jaani Church. Performers: Tõnis Mägi, Chalise, ETV Girls' Choir and Ensemble U:, conducted by Arne Saluveer.

**2/IX** *Harmonia Mundi* issued Toivo Tulev's author record *Songs*. His compositions were recorded by EPCC and Tallinn Chamber Orchestra under the baton of Paul Hillier.

**10-12/IX** Opening concert of the new ENSO season. Conductor Nikolai Alexeev and solo violinist Sarah Chang. First performance of Eino Tamberg's "Festivo".

**21-24/IX** X Autumn Festival of the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre (Artistic Director Taavi Kerikmäe). Belgian composer Wim Henderickx is the main guest of the festival.

**23-27/IX** Viljandi Guitar Festival (Artistic Director Ain Agan).

**30/IX** Presentation of the book "*Ester Mägi. Elu ja helid*", published by Estonian Music Information Centre.

## OCTOBER

**1/IX** Award ceremony "International Music Day. Music Awards 2008" at the *Estonia* Theatre. At the ceremony, 12 music awards from Estonian Cultural Endowment Music Endowment and Estonian Music Council are delivered to: Ester Mägi – composition award, NYVD Ensemble – interpretation award, Toomas Siitan – award for indispensable and outstanding work for the promotion of music life, Maigi Pakri – for long-time outstanding pedagogic work, Tiia Järg – for pedagogic activities and a series of broadcasts at *Klassikaraadio*, Lembit Saarsalu – for high-class representation of Estonian jazz at home and abroad, soloists and conductor who performed B. Britten's opera "The Turn of the Screw" at Birgitta Festival – for outstanding artistic achievements at the year 2008 Birgitta Festival, Monika Mattiesen – for chamber opera "*DMeeter*", Anto Pett – for taking Estonian art of Improvisation to top international level, René Eespere – for prolific creative activity, Corelli Music – for the concert series enriching Estonian music life, Harry Traksmann – for high-class performance as a soloist, chamber musician and the concert-master of orchestras.

**1-5/IX** XIII International Tartu Early Music Festival "Orient et Occident" (Artistic Director Raho Langsepp).

**1-5/IX** Tartu Youth Choir, conducted by Riho and Kadri Leppoja, win the first place and Golden Diploma at the competition "Venezia in Musica".

**7/IX** World premiere of Helena Tulve's composition "L'équinoxe de l'ame"

at Monte Carlo Salle Garnier. The piece was ordered by Foundation Prince Pierre de Monaco from the laureate of the Foundation's year 2006 music award. Performers: soprano Arianna Savall and NYDD Ensemble string quartet.

**10,12 X** First performance of Erkki-Sven Tüür's Symphony No. 4 "Magma" in the USA by New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Neeme Järvi (soloist Evelyn Glennie). The composer attends the premiere and gives lectures on his music at the music departments of four US universities: New York University, Juilliard School, Princeton University and Montclair State University.

**11-19/X** IV International Heino Eller Violinists' Competition. 22 violinists from seven countries participate. The first prize is shared by Linnea Hurttia from Finland and Magdalena Filipczak from Poland, the second prize is not given and the third prize goes to Liis Joamets from Estonia.

**13/X** Estonian National Male Choir, conducted by Ants Soots, performed at Walestonia 2008 Festival in Swansea. Their programme includes compositions of Mart Saar, Ester Mägi, Gustav Ernesaks, Eduard Tubin, Tarmo Lepik, Veljo Tormis and Aare Kruusimäe.

**17/X** Premiere of Mari Vihmandi's opera "*Armastuse valem*" at the Estonian National Opera. Cast: Helen Lokuta, Rene Soom, Riina Airene, Angelika Mikk, Janne Shevtshenko, Kristina Vähi, Juuli Lill, Andres Köster and Priit Volmer. Director: Liis Kolle, Music Director: Arvo Volmer.

**21/X** World premiere of Arvo Pärts "*O Antiphonen*" at Musikgebouw in Amsterdam. Performers: Conjunto Ibérico and soloist Giovanni Sollima (violoncello), conductor: Elias Arizcuren.

**23/X** Premiere of Galina Grigorjeva's cycle for mixed choir "Nature morte" by EPCC, conducted by Daniel Reuss at the St. Nicholas Church in Tallinn.

**23-24/X** World premiere of Erkki-Sven Tüür's Viola Concerto "Illuminatio" in Sonderborg and Kolding, Denmark. Performers: Lars Anders Tomter and South-Jutland Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Vladimir Ziva.

**24-28/X** VI International Pianists' Festival *Klaver* (Artistic Director Lauri Väinmaa). Guests of the festival: Steven Hough, Paul Lewis, Pascal Rogé, Nikolai Tokarev, Sergio Tiempo, Arkadi Volodos, Frederic Rzewski. Estonian pianists Sten Lassmann and Ralf Taal perform with solo programmes.

**26-27/X** V Festival of Jewish Culture Ariel in Tallinn (Artistic Directors:

Jaan-Eik Tulve, Ilya Sundelevich and Jaan J. Leppik). Main guest is clarinet-virtuoso David Krakauer with Klezmer Madness ensemble.

**30/X-2/XI** Tartu Academic Male Choir conducted by Alo Ritsing wins the Golden Diploma at choral competition “Praga Cantat 2008”. Their programme includes choral songs by Gustav Ernesaks, Eduard Tubin, Konstantin Türnpu and Alo Ritsing.

**30/X-21/XI** VII International Guitar Music Days “*Fiesta de la guitarra*” (Artistic Director Kristo Käo).

## NOVEMBER

**3/XI** A new CD is released by EPCC with recordings of Cyrillus Kreek’s „Requiem C minor” and Tõnu Kõrvits’s “*Kreegi vihik*”. The choir and Tallinn Chamber Orchestra are conducted by Tõnu Kaljuste.

**3-20/XI** EPCC and Tallinn Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Tõnu Kaljuste, are on concert tour in North-America. 11 concerts are held in the USA and Toronto, Canada, performing the compositions of Arvo Pärt, Erkki-Sven Tüür, Toivo Tulev and Tõnu Kõrvits.

**12/XI** Estonian National Male Choir presents the CD “*Mu isamaa on minu arm*” with music composed by Gustav Ernesaks, recorded to celebrate his birthday anniversary.

**12/XI-14/XII** Gustav Ernesaks 100 Festival. Ernesaks, also known as the Song-Papa (1908–1993), was a legendary conductor, composer, pedagogue, organiser and general director of the song festivals. Choral concerts are held all over Estonia, male and female choirs hold singing competitions, exhibitions, conferences, a museum night and a gala concert are held as part of this grand jubilee festival. In addition, *Klassikaraadio* airs Age Raa’s and Kersti Inno’s series of 6 broadcasts “*Song-Papa’s Legacy*”. The first night of the documentary “*Laulutaadi hümnid*” at ETV on 12/XII.

**16/XI** 18 soloists and ensembles participate in XI Estonian Young Musicians’ Competition-Festival “Con Brio 08”. The winner is pianist Jaan Kapp, who is also given the first awards of Eesti Kontsert, Estonian Television, *Klassikaraadio*, ENSO and the *Vanemuine* Symphony Orchestra. The EMTA award, just like the second prize of the *Vanemuine* Symphony Orchestra and that of *Klassikaraadio* are given to Indrek Leivategija; Association of Estonian Professional Musicians award is given to clarinetist Helena Tuuling and string quartet *Prezioso*.

**21/XI** Concert-DVD recording of Rudolf Tobias’s oratorio “*Joonase lähetamine*” at the *Estonia* Concert Hall. Conductor: Neeme Järvi.

Performers: ENSO, Oratorio Choir, chamber choir Voces Musicales, ENO Boys' Choir, soloists Pille Lill, Merle Silmato, Juhan Tralla, Rauno Elp and Johann Tilli. Presentation of the book "*Joonase sõnum*" and the full and short scores of the oratorio, issued by Vardo Rumessen and the Varrak Publishers.

**24/XI** Crown princess Victoria gives the Sweden Royal Academy of Music Christ Johanson Composer Award to Estonian composer Mirjam Tally for her orchestral composition "*Turbulence*" in the Academy of Music Big Hall at Nybrokajen, Stockholm.

**28/XI** Presentation of Maren Ülevain's book "*Ununenud lauluõpetaja*". The book tells about Ludmilla Hellat-Lemba, the singing pedagogue of Tallinn Conservatory.

**29/XI-17/XII** Christmas Jazz: 30 concerts, musicians from 10 countries and concerts in 6 Estonian towns.

## DECEMBER

**9/XII** Presentation of jubilee-album "*Gustav Ernesaks. Mu isamaa on minu arm...*" at Estonian Theatre and Music Museum.

**10/XII** Lapland Chamber Orchestra and chamber choir Seitakuoro perform Tõnu Kõrvits's "*Kreegi vihik*" at their Christmas concert in the Rovaniemi Church, Finland.

**12/XII** Results of the competition of new compositions, dedicated to the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of Gustav Ernesaks, are made public in the Estonia Concert Hall: II prize – "*See väike maa*" by Alo Ritsing, III prize – "*Pane tuli põlema*" by Riine Pajusaar and "*Sa elama jää igavesti*" by Alo Ritsing.

**15/XII** Conductor Tiia-Ester Loitmäe is decorated with the Order of the Rising Sun at the reception given in honour of the Emperor of Japan. The order is accompanied by a letter of honour bearing the seal of the Imperial Palace and signature of the Prime Minister of Japan. Loitmäe receives the decoration for long-term contribution to the advancement of Japanese choral music.

**29/XII/2008–9/I/2009** III Tallinn Winter Festival (artistic director Pille Lill).



# Books and Scores 2008

## BOOKS

**Humal, Mart.** *Uuringuid tonaalstruktuuridest : sissejuhatus ja neliteist analüütilist etüüdi = Studies on tonal structures : introduction and fourteen analytical studies (from the series: Studies of music theory No 3).* Tallinn: Eesti Muusika- ja Teatriakadeemia, 2007. 196 pp. ISBN: 9789985949696

**Ross, Jaan.** *Kaksteist loengut muusikapsühholoogiast = Twelve lectures on music psychology.* Tartu: Tartu Ülikooli Kirjastus, c2007. 189 pp. ISBN: 9789949117901

**Pilliroog, Ene.** *Lembit Verlin.* Tallinn: Eesti Naislaulu Selts, 2007. 58 pp. ISBN:9789949154326  
Estonian choir conductor Lembit Verlin (1917–2004).

**Heinapuu, Uno.** *Vootele Veikat. Lauluga ja lauluta = Vootele Veikat. With singing and without].* Tallinn: Eesti Teatri- ja Muusikamuuseum : SE&JS, 2007. 127 pp. ISBN: 9789985985618.  
Estonian opera singer Vootele Veikat (1907 –1980).

**Järvela, Uno.** *Peateema: soomepoisi ja koorijuhi mälestusi = Main theme: memoirs of an Estonian “Finnish boy” and conductor.* Tallinn: SE&JS, 2008. 270 pp. ISBN: 9789985854839  
Memoirs of a conductor who fought in the Finnish Infantry Regiment 200 during World War II.

**Käo, Kristo.** *Kitarrikoool – võti praktilise kitarrimängu maailma = Guitar school – a key to the world of practical guitar playing.* Tartu: Kitarrikooli Kirjastus, 2007. 132 pp + 1 CD-ROM. ISBN:9789949155569

**Mätlik, Heiki.** *Kitarriaabits = ABC of guitar playing.* Tallinn: Valgus, c2006. 86 pp + 1 CD. ISBN: 9789985681916.

**Ojakäär, Valter.** *Sirp ja saksofon = Sickle and saxophone.* Tallinn: Ilo, c2008. 659 pp. ISBN: 9789985578704.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> book about pop music in Estonia, the Estonian “grand old man” of pop and jazz music writes extensively about the pop music scene in Estonia in 1945-1960.

**Raud, Mihkel.** *Musta pori näkku = Black mud in the face.* Tallinn: Tammerraamat, c2008. 280 pp. ISBN: 9789985991862.  
Memoirs of a young estonian rock musician in 1980s.

**Sarv, Mari.** *Loomiseks loodud: regivärsimööd traditsiooniprotsessis = Made for creating: runic verse in the process of tradition.* Estonian Folklore Archives, Dissertations. Tartu: Eesti Kirjandusmuuseumi Teaduskirjastus, 2008. 183 pp. ISBN: 9789949118069.

**Penjam, Tiia.** *In moto perpetuo: koorijuht Silvia Mellik [choir conductor Silvia Mellik].* Tallinn: Eesti Naislaulu Selts, 2008. 143 pp. ISBN: 9789949156832.

**Rumessen, Vardo.** *Joonase sõnum: Rudolf Tobias ja tema oratoorium “Joonase lähetamine”= Jonah’s message: Rudolf Tobias and his oratorio “Jonah’s Mission”.* Tallinn: Varrak, 2008. 319 pp. ISBN: 9789985317587.

**Tartes, Heino.** *Põlvamaa löötpillimängijad 1892–2007.* Saverna: H. Tartes, 2008. 121 pp. + 1 CD. ISBN: 9789949180127.

**Vesilind, Priit J.** *The Singing Revolution: how culture saved a nation* (based on the film “The Singing Revolution”). Tallinn: Varrak, 2008. 178 pp. ISBN: 9789985316238

**Vurma, Allan.** *Voice quality and pitch in singing : some aspects of perception and production.* Tallinn: Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre Dissertations, 2007. 100 pp. ISBN: 9789985979723.

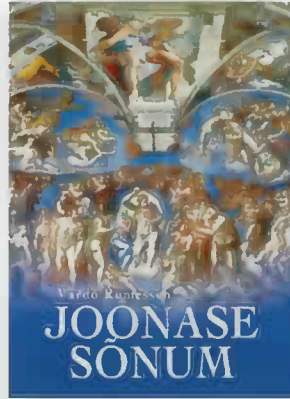
*Eesti muusika biograafiline leksikon. 2. köide, N–Y = Biographical lexicon of Estonian music. Vol 2, N–Y.* Foreword by Peep Lassmann, edited by Tiina Mattisen. Tallinn: Eesti Entsüklopeediakirjastus, 2008. 630 pp. ISBN: 9789985702994

*Eesti rahvapille = Folk instruments in Estonia.*  
Compiled by Igor Tõnurist.  
Tallinn; Viljandi: Ajakirjade Kirjastus, 139 pp +1 CD. ISBN: 9789949443413  
Texts and pictures about Estonian folk instruments.

*Eri Klas: kultuuri suursaadik [ambassador of culture],*  
text by Ivo Parbus. Tallinn: Revelex, 2008. 197 pp. ISBN: 9789985956397.  
Interview with Estonian conductor Eri Klas.

*Ester Mägi: elu ja helid [life and sounds],* text by Evi Arujärv, Tiia Järg. Tallinn: Eesti Muusika Infokeskus, c2008. 191 pp + 1 CD. ISBN: 9789985962336.  
Interview with “grand old lady” of Estonian composers Ester Mägi; includes bibliography and catalogue of works.

*Helilooja Jaan Rääts = Composer Jaan Rääts,* text by Evi Arujärv, Timo Steiner. Tallinn: Eesti Muusika Infokeskus, c2008. 215 pp + 1 CD. ISBN: 9789985962329.  
Estonian composer Jaan Rääts; includes bibliography, discography and catalogue of works.







*Heino Eller in modo mixolydio*, texts by Reet Remmel and Mart Humal. Tallinn: Eesti Teatri- ja Muusikamuuseum : SE&JS, 2008. 197 pp + 1 CD. ISBN: 9789985985649.

Biography, memoirs and photo albums of Estonian composer and professor Heino Eller; includes bibliography, discography and catalogue of works.

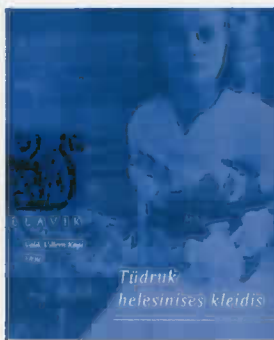
*Kuldne Trio: ausalt ja avameelselt = Kuldne Trio: honestly and openly*, text by Mihkel Smeljanski, Jüri Vlassov. Tallinn: Eesti Ekspressi Kirjastus, 2008. 188 pp ISBN: 9789949444021.

Popular Estonian band Kuldne Trio (The Golden Trio) about themselves with humour.

*Lilian Semper: kestvas valguses [in continuing light]*, edited by Ija Remmel, foreword by Urve Lippus. Tallinn: Eesti Muusika- ja Teatriakadeemia, 2008. 136 pp.

Short essays about Estonian pianist and piano professor Lilian Semper (1933–2007) by her students.

*Tekste modernismist, 2: muusika ja arhitektuur = Texts about modernism,*



2: *music and architecture*, colloquium texts from Pärnu Days of Contemporary Music 2005 and 2006). Tallinn: Scripta Musicalia, c2008. 105 pp. ISBN: 9789985975817. Main themes: Olivier Messiaen as teacher; history of music and architecture; includes bibliography and index.

*Tüdruk helesinises kleidis: valik Villem Kapi kirju = Girl in a light blue dress: a selection of letters by Villem Kapp*. Compiled by Tiiu Tosso. Tallinn: Eesti Teatri- ja

Muusikamuuseum : SE & JS, 2008. 78 pp. ISBN: 9789985985625. Letters by Estonian composer Villem Kapp (1913–1964).

## SCORES

**Eespere, René.** *Epigramm I – VII* [for tenor/sopran/baritone/mezzosopran/soprano and piano]. Tallinn: Eisenberg, c2006 – 7 separate publications, 3-8 pp each.

**Ernesaks, Gustav.** *Kogutud soololaulud* [*Complete songs* for voice and piano]. Tallinn: Eesti Meestelaulu Selts, 2008. 71 pp.

**Jürjo, Tuuliki.** *Narva lastealbum: orelipalade kogumik* [*Children's album from Narva town : collection of organ pieces*]. Narva: EELK Narva Aleksandri kogudus, 2008. 44 pp.

**Lepik, Tarmo.** *Viis haikut* naiskoorile [*Five haiku* for female choir]. Tallinn: SP Muusikaprojekt, 2008. 25 pp.

**Marguste, Anti.** *Mäng neljale saksofonikvartetile* [*Play for four* for saxophone quartet]. Tallinn: SP Muusikaprojekt, 2008. 16 pp.

**Naisoo, Uno.** *Pidulik avamäng* [*Festive overture*], arranged by Arvi Miido. 1 wind orchestra score (21 pp) + 40 parts. Tartu: Puhkpilliorkester Tartu, 2007.

**Pajusaar, Riine.** *Kaelkirjak õpib tantsima* [*The giraffe learns to dance*]: 20 piano pieces for children. Harjumaa: R. Pajusaar, 2007. 57 pp + 1 CD.

**Pärt, Arvo.** *An den Wassern zu Babel sassen wir und weinten* für Posaune und Kammerorchester (1984/1995). Wien: Universal Edition, c 1995 (2008). 8 pp.

**Pärt, Arvo.** *Da pacem Domine* für Chor (SATB) und Streichorchester (2004/2006). Wien: Universal Edition, c2007 (2008). 5 pp.

**Pärt, Arvo.** *Estnisches Wiegenlied* für Frauenchor (SATB) oder zwei Frauenstimmen und Streichorchester (2002/2006). Wien: Universal Edition, c2006 (2008). 3 pp.

**Pärt, Arvo.** *Fratres* für Posaune, Streichorchester und Schlagzeug (1977, 1993). Wien: Universal Edition, c1994 (2008). 13 pp.

**Pärt, Arvo.** *Pari intervallo* für Klarinette, Posaune und Streichorchester (1976, 1995). Wien: Universal Edition, c1995 (2008). 4 pp.

**Pärt, Arvo.** *Passacaglia* für eine oder zwei Violinen, Vibrafon (ad lib) und Streichorchester (2003/2007). Wien: Universal Edition, c2007 (2008). 8 pp.

**Pärt, Arvo.** *Scala cromatica*, Trio piccolo für Violinen, Violoncello und Klavier (2007). Wien: Universal Edition, c2007 (2008). 3 pp.

**Regi, Aadu.** *Noored sõbrad*, marss [*March "Young friends"*] - 1 wind orchestra score (12 pp) + 36 parts. Tartu: Puhkpilliorkester Tartu, 2007.

**Reimann, Villem.** *Dramaatileine süit keelpilliorkestrile* [*Dramatic suite for string orchestra*]. Tallinn: Concerto Grosso, c2008. 24 pp.

**Siirak, Arnold.** *Marss Sõdurid* [*March Soldiers: The cheering horn*] arranged by Arvi Miido. - Score for Wind Orchestra (7 pp) + 42 parts. Tartu: Puhkpilliorkester Tartu, 2005.

**Tobias, Rudolf.** *Joonase lähetamine*: oratoorium viies pildis Piibli tekstile viiele solistile, kahele segakoorile, lastekoorile, orelile ja orkestrile [*Jonah's mission*: oratorio in five pictures on texts from the Bible for 5 soloists, 2 mixed choirs, children's choir, organ and orchestra. Stockholm: Gehrman's Musikförlag : Estonian Classics, c2008. Piano score (336 pp) and 1 orchestra score (423 pp).

**Tormis, Veljo.** *Jäta päike paistma!*: mitmesugust meeskoorile [*Let the sun shine!*: miscellany for male choir]. Tallinn: SP Muusikaprojekt, c2008. 77 pp.

**Tubin, Eduard.** *Kogutud teosed* IV seeria, XVIII köide, *Klaveriteosed* [*Complete works. Serie IV. Volume XVIII, Piano works*], edited by Vardo Rumessen. Tallinn: Rahvusvaheline Eduard Tubina Ühing; Stockholm: Gehrmans Musikförlag, 2007. 152 pp.

**Wunderlich, Maria.** *Laulumõnu: lastelaulud* [*Joy of singing: children's songs*] + 12 phonograms. Tallinn: SP Muusikaprojekt, 2008. 125 pp.

*Eesti algupärased õigeusu kirikulaulud. 1. osa* [*Original sacred songs of the orthodox church in Estonia. Vol. 1*], compiled by Kristi Sarapuu, edited by Madis Kolk. Tallinn: Eesti Apostlik-Õigeusu Kirik, 2007. 224 pp.

*Eestirootsi rahvakoraalid* [*Estonian-Swedish folk hymns*], compiled by Sofia Joons. Tallinn: Rootsi Hariduse Selts, 2008. 87 pp.

*Laulgem Jumalale: katoliiklik lauluraamat* [*Let us sing to God: a catholic songbook*], compiled by Philippe Jourdan. Tallinn: Eesti Apostellik Administratuur, 2008. 350 pp.

*Uued pillilood pärimusmuusikas* [*New ethno music pieces*], compiled by Sandra Sillamaa. Viljandi: S. Sillamaa, 2008. 44 pp + 1 CD.

*V Nordic-Baltic choir festival 2008: Tartu – Estonia 05.08 – 10.08. 2008* [songbook]. Tallinn: Estonian Choral Association, c2008. 76 pp.

*ÜhesHingamine* [*Breathing Together*], 25<sup>th</sup> Song Festival, 18<sup>th</sup> Dance Festival: July 2-5 2009: 6 song books for different choir types for the Song Festival. Tallinn: Eesti Laulu- ja Tantsupeo Sihtasutus, 2008. Song books for male, toddlers', boys', mixed, children's and female choirs.



# Selected Sound Recordings 2007-2008

## CLASSICAL

*30 aastat Eesti kitarrimuusikat = 30 years of Estonian guitar music.*

Tallinn: Eesti Kitarriselts, 2008. – 1 CD (53'31")

*Association of Estonian Professional Musicians (AEPM) = Eesti Interpreetide Liit (EIL).* Tallinn: AEPM, 2008. – 2 CDs (59'41", 79'26")  
Contemporary and near contemporary Estonian and Western romantic music performed by best performers in Estonia.

*Eesti heliloojad. V = Estonian composers V / performed by Hortus Musicus, conductor Andres Mustonen.* Tallinn: Eesti Rahvusringhääling, 2008. – 1 CD (64'6")

**Ernesaks, Gustav.** *Mu isamaa on minu arm = My native land, my dearest love / performed by Estonian National Male Choir.* Tallinn: RAM, 2008. – 1 CD (69'51")

**Järvi, Teet.** *Estonian cello / performed by Teet Järvi (violoncello), Vardo Rumessen (piano).* Bühl: Bella Musica, 2008. – 1 CD (77'17")

**Kreek, Cyrillus.** *Requiem c-moll for tenor, mixed choir and orchestra. Kreegi vihik [Kreek's notebook] by Tõnu Kõrvits.* Tallinn: Eesti Filharmoonia Kammerkoor, 2008. – 1 CD (69'55")

**Kuusk, Ivo.** Ivo Kuusk. Tallinn: I. Kuusk, 2007. – 2 CDs (41'36", 75'29").  
Ivo Kuusk (1937-), tenor, Estonian opera singer.

**Käo, Kristo.** *The dance album / performed by Kristo Käo (guitar).* Tallinn: Kitarrikool Records, 2008. – 1 CD (41'4")

**Leibur, Arvo.** *Euroopa virtuosid [European virtuosos]* / performed by Arvo Leibur, violin, Mati Mikalai, piano. Tallinn: A. Leibur, c2008. – 1 CD (48'45")

*Ludvig Juht – legend = Legendary Ludvig Juht – a memorial to his work* / performed by Lea Leiten (piano), Kaupo Olt, Mati Lukk, Jüri Lepp (double bass), Arvo Leibur (violin), Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Arvo Volmer, Toomas Vavilov. Tallinn: K. Olt, 2007. – 1 CD (77'06").

Ludvig Juht (1894-1957), the great Estonian double bass player, worked at the Boston Symphony.

**Oja, Eduard.** *Vaikivad meeleolud = Silent moods* : chamber music. Tallinn: Estonian Classics, 2008. – 1 CD (64'38")

**Lepnurm, Hugo.** *Varahoidja = Treasure keeper* / performed by Hugo Lepnurm (organ). Tallinn: Tomson : Kriisa : Taniloo, c2008. – 2 CDs (73'38", 62'5")

**Oja, Iris.** *Russian songs* / performed by Iris Oja (mezzo-soprano), Roger Vignoles, (piano). Burbank: Harmonia Mundi USA, 2008. – 1 CD (57'53")

**Paganini, Niccoló.** *Cantabile : music for violin and guitar* / performed by Arvo Leibur (violin), Heiki Mätlik (guitar). Tallinn: A. Leibur : H. Mätlik, 2008. – 1 CD (58'36")

**Pärt, Arvo.** *Berliner Messe* / performed by Jurgen Petrenko, organ, Elora Festival Singers and Orchestra, [conducted by] Noel Edison. Hong Kong: Naxos, 2008. – 1 CD (52'12")

**Pärt, Arvo.** *Fratres* / performed by Hungarian State Opera Orchestra, [conducted by] Tamas Benedek. Hong Kong: Naxos, 2008. – 1 CD (79'3")

**Pärt, Arvo.** *Passio*. Hong Kong: Naxos, 2008. – 1 CD (61'50")  
ensemble Tonus Peregrinus conducted by Antony Pitts

**Steiner, Timo.** *Pilved tulevad vahele = But Clouds Get In The Way*. Tallinn: Eesti Rahvusringhääling, 2008. – 1 CD (77'56")

*Stella Matutina = L'Etoile du Matin = Morning star = Morgenstern /*  
performed by Vox Clamantis (artistic director Jaan-Eik Tulve), Weekend  
Guitar Trio. France: Mirare, 2008. – 1 CD (70'55")

**Tormis, Veljo.** *Vision of Kalevala = Nägemus Kalevalast /* performed by  
Estonian National Male Choir, conducted by Ants Soots. Tampere: Alba,  
2007. – 1 CD (68'4")

**Tormis, Veljo.** *Visions beyond Estonia = Nägemusi muult mailt /*  
performed by Estonian National Male Choir, conducted by Ants Soots.  
Tampere: Alba, 2007. – 1 CD (67'13")

**Tormis, Veljo.** *Choral music /* performed by Holst Singers, conducted by  
Stephen Layton. London: Hyperion, c2008. – 1 CD (71'50")

**Tulev, Toivo.** *Songs /* performed by Robin Blaze (countertenor),  
Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, Tallinn Chamber Orchestra,  
conducted by Paul Hillier. Burbank: Harmonia Mundi, 2008. – 1 SACD  
(63'45")

**Tulve, Helena.** *Lijnen.* München: ECM, 2008. – 1 CD (59'56")

## **JAZZ**

**Aimla, Siim.** *The finest groove /* performed by Siim Aimla (saxophone),  
Alexi Tuomarila (piano), Tuomas Timonen (drums), Ara Yaralyan  
(bass). Tallinn: S. Aimla, 2008. – 1 CD (45'3")

**Arder, Helin-Mari.** *I'm starting to like you /* performed by Helin-Mari  
Arder (voice), Andy Fite (guitar and voice). Eesti: H.-M. Arder : A. Fite,  
2008. – 1 CD (64'47")

**Bastos, Sergio.** *Contrasting colors /* performed by Sergio Bastos & Raivo  
Tafenau Band. Tallinn: R. Tafenau, 2008. – 1 CD (49'16")

**Hanson, Hedvig.** *Kohtumistund = The hour of meeting /* performed by  
Hedvig Hanson. Eesti: Music Maker, 2008. – 1 CD (53'2")

**Kontus, Rebecca.** *Inglite pisarad = Angel tears /* performed by Rebecca  
Kontus, (vocals), Luke Henri Lembit Peipman (piano), Taavo Rimmel

(double bass), Ahto Abner (percussion). Tallinn: U.L.A.Jazz, 2008. – 1 CD (78'12")

**Paulus, Tiit.** *Thelonious Mongist Saaremaa valsini = From Thelonius Monk to the Waltz of Saaremaa* / performed by Tiit Paulus, Jaak Sooäär (guitars), Villem Õunpuu (song and talk). Tallinn: T. Paulus : J. Sooäär, 2008. – 1 CD (43'53")

**Ruben, Tanel.** *Kogutud rikkus = The riches collected* / performed by Tanel Ruben, feat. Kristjan Randalu & Kadri Voorand. Tallinn: T. Ruben, 2008. – 1 CD (46'14")

**Rubina, Sofia.** *My sun.* Tallinn: Umblu, 2007. – 1 CD (54'43")

**Veski, Villu.** *Life jazz party* / performed by Villu Veski (saxophone). Eesti: Juu Jäab, 2007. – 1 CD (52'13")

## ETHNO

*Estonian folk music compilation 07/08.* Tallinn: Estonian Traditional Music Center, 2007. – 1 CD (71'43")

*Handi hullus = Khanty madness* / performed by Ro:toro. Tallinn: Ro:toro, 2008. – 1 CD (44'54").

Two women on bagpipes and 3 guys on other instruments play tunes from Western Siberia as well as their own music.

*Kalyna* / performed by Svjata Vatra. Viljandi: Svjata Vatra, 2008. – 1 CD (54'52"). Ukrainian leader with Estonian friends.

*Kirmas = Village party* / performed by Siidisõsarõ. Tallinn: Siidisõsarõ, 2008. – 1 CD (67'32").

Setu singers.

*Kolmas = The third* / performed by Virre+. Eesti: Virre, 2008. – 1 CD (49'14").

4-member acoustic band, violins, traditional dance or lyrical tunes. Featuring Children's choir of the Estonian TV.

*Lätsi tarrõ tagasi = Went back inside* / performed by Zetod. Värska:



Verska Kultuurikeskus, 2008. – 1 CD (64'57").

Folk rock from young guys from the region in South-East of Estonia called Setumaa.

**Torop, Toomas.** *Viron vakka: Eesti rahvatantsud = Estonian folk dances / instruments played by Toomas Torop, Jaan Sommer (violin and accordion).* Eesti: Eesti Rahvatantsu ja Rahvamuusika Selts, 2008. – 1 CD (66'53")

*Vanstõtsjat - Ilolatsõ' =Keepers - Children of Joy / performed by Tsibihärbläseq and Toorama.* Eesti: Tsibihärbläseq, 2008. – 1 CD (54'35").

Girls singing in Setu choir style from Estonia and multi-voice group of men from Mordva oblast in Siberia.

## ROCK, ALTERNATIVE, OTHER

*Dagerrotüübid =Daguerrotypes : a concert-installation / music by Sven Kuntu, performed by Eriti Kurva Muusika Ansambel [Especially Sad Music Orchestra].* Tallinn: MKDK Records, 2008. – 1 CD (44'50") + 1 DVD (49'39"). Flute, violin, double bass, saxophone and sounds. Serious last performance and recording by the often hysterically theatrical music group that existed 1990–2007.

*Eesti rocki annalid=Annals of Estonian rock / performed by Kolumbus Kris.* Tallinn: Elwood, 2008. – 3 CDs (50'58", 70'35", 52'15")

**Ehala, Olav.** *Olav Ehala: 47 parimat laulu =47 of the best songs.* Tallinn: Muusikaladu Elvis [distributor], 2007. – 2 CDs (59'13", 65'40"). Film- and stage music by composer Olav Ehala (1950-) performed by a myriad of Estonian artists and ensembles.

*Ei tea, kumb? =Wonder which of them? / performed by Indigolapsed.* Eesti: Indigolapsed, 2007. – 2 CDs (43'6", 44'9"). Estonian original ethno-pop.

*Here comes The Sun.* Eesti: Crunch Industry, 2008. – 1 CD (44'12"). Rock band The Sun.

*Hit the cello* / performed by cello quartet C-JAM. Eesti: Sintos Invest, 2008. – 1 CD (32'24"). Guys with classical background play in all styles.

*Iivakivi =An ancient boulder rock* / created and performed by Metsatöll. Tallinn: Metsatöll : Nailboard, 2008. – 1 CD (52'35"). Heavy metal.

**Kerli.** *Love is dead* / performed by Kerli. USA: Island, 2008. – 1 CD (47'57"). Estonian girl making a break-through in rock-pop.

**Kikerpuu, Kustas.** *Kustas Kikerpuu : 48 parimat laulu =48 of the best songs.* Tallinn: Hitivabrik, 2007. – 2 CDs (71'58", 77'11"). Songs by Kustas Kikerpuu (1937-2008) performed by a myriad of Estonian artists, orchestras and ensembles, recorded in the 70s.

*Läbi halli kivi =Through a rock of gray* / performed by Taak. Tallinn: Nailboard, 2008. – 1 CD (53'13"). Hard rock.

*Loomad on lahti =Animals got loose* / performed by Compromise Blue. Tallinn: Compromise Blue, 2008. – 1 CD (51'41"). Rock-blues mix.

*Rock Hotel.* Tallinn: Elwood, 2008. – 3 CDs (66'58", 64'49", 65'49"). 30 years of the Estonian rock band.

**Urb, Tarmo.** *Live* / performed by Tarmo and Toomas Urb. Tallinn: Urb Brothers, 2007. – 1 CD (63'25"). Brothers Urb singing in duet with guitar, folk-meditative pop.

*Compiled by Helen Põldmäe*

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The background image shows a serene landscape at dusk. A calm body of water in the foreground reflects the soft, orange and yellow light of the setting sun. In the distance, a dense forest of evergreen trees is silhouetted against the sky. In the lower right foreground, a stage or performance area is visible, illuminated with vibrant blue and white lights, suggesting a musical event. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and artistic.

**MUSIC**  
**in Estonia**