



FINLANDIA FOUNDATION
SUOMI CHAPTER

Finnovations

Promoting Finnish Heritage From The Evergreen State to the Golden State

Vol. VII - No. 3



President's Corner

Greetings!

We are halfway through our centennial year celebration and much is going on in Finland and here in Washington. Coming up we have the Singing Fellows of Viipuri visiting on August 28th performing at the United Church of Ferndale. This is a part of their west coast concert tour of the US and Canada.

Most recently Tapio traveled with the North Stars Chamber Orchestra to Finland as a part of the centennial celebration, visiting Helsinki and Vaasa. While in Helsinki these young musicians enjoyed the Esplanade, Suomenlinna Island and a visit to Jean Sibelius's Ainola residence which is now a museum for all to see. During their time in Finland the orchestra performed in Vaasa at two churches and two restaurants and outside of Vaasa at Kauhava. A few of the musicians stopped off in Iceland on the way back. A great time for all.

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There were so many Finns traveling this summer that we canceled our Juhannus summer day celebration, hope they will share some of their adventures in our next newsletter.

Many of you know about me as one of the founding members of our organization and continuous board member. I am honored to be elected president of this organization as we have accomplished so much in a short period of time. A couple of items of note "An Evening with Jean Sibelius 150th Anniversary Concert at Mt Baker Theatre" (the Wade King Singers sang Finlandia in Finnish), the performance by the performer of the year, Marja Kaisla in the rotunda at the Whatcom Museum and Finnish jazz guitarist Olli Hirvonen performance in the Boundary Bay Brewery Garden. But let's not forget our extraordinary newsletters, (Editor Tapio Holma) best of all the chapters, and the fabulous food often prepared by "A Taste of Elegance" (Maria Caceres-Bjorklund).

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I have been traveling to Finland for more that 30 years so it is a second home to me. I do speak some Finnish but my granddaughter is helping Grammy out by becoming fluent in English along with her Finnish and Swedish languages.

Please continue your support for our organization and participate in our activities, particularly this centennial year. Also please submit ideas about our chapter and what items and issues you would like to see our organization address. And lastly, enjoy this wonderful summer weather!!!



Brend Hunt-Holma

Cover Photo: The Statue "Lex" by Walter Runeberg (1838-1920) depicts the lion of Finland, a sword and the shield of the Constitution protecting a maiden, later known as the Maid of Finland with a bear hide as her headdress. This motif is repeated in other places in Helsinki, including the monument to Tsar Alexander II in Senate Square, the ceremonial stairway of the House of Estates and the Presidential Palace.

The Path to Finland's Independence – Part 3

This is the third installment on a series of articles about Finland's path to independence. The first two installments described the Russian oppression in Finland beginning with the February Manifesto of 1899 that aimed to incorporate the autonomous Grand Duchy of Finland into Russia as one of its provinces.

These attempts faced intensive resistance, and ultimately resulted in Finland's Declaration of Independence on December 6, 1917. In less than a year, the Russian Empire vanished, the Soviet Union was born, and Finland declared independence. Because of the rapidly progressing events, both in Russia and Finland, the final part of the story will be in the form of a diary.

Preparations for Armed Resistance: The Jäger Movement

The Jäger movement had its roots in the Finnish academic youth's resistance to Imperial Russia. With the outbreak of the First World War (WWI), the possibility of forming a volunteer unit for the German army was raised in student circles at the University of Helsinki.

The decision was made at the Student House "Ostrobothnia" on 20 November 1914, and the negotiations with German representatives were conducted in Stockholm. The initiative was formally accepted by the German Auswärtiges Amt and military authorities on 26 January 1915.

Finnish activists organized the clandestine nationwide recruitment; approximately 2,000 volunteers crossed the border into Sweden, continuing on to Germany. The recruitment was particularly successful in the province of Ostrobothnia, home to 40% of the volunteers. The volunteers came from all levels of society; approximately half of them came from the rural population and the working class.

The second Russification period ended in the so-called February Revolution in 1917. The Russian Tsar and Grand Duke of Finland, Nicholas II Romanov signed his abdication on March 15, 1917. The mighty Russian Empire had collapsed.



The Final Push for Independence

In Petrograd on March 8, 1917, which happened to be the International Women's Day, large crowds of women poured into the streets demonstrating against the war (WWI) and the shortage of food. The next day, 200,000 people demonstrated in the streets demanding the resignation of Tsar Nicholas II. A general strike stopped most factories in the capital by March 10.

The February revolution started on March 11 when army units joined the demonstrators. The next day, crowds occupied the infamous Shpalernaja prison and freed the mostly political prisoners, including 70 members of the Finnish resistance.

March 15 – Tsar Nicholas II of Russia resigned, and Prince Georgy Lvov headed the new Russian government. Meanwhile in Helsinki, at the request of the Finnish Senate, the Governor General Franz Seyn and his deputy were arrested and taken to Petrograd. That same day, the crews of the Russian Baltic fleet, moored in the Helsinki harbor, rose against their superiors and assassinated many of them.

March 21 – The Finnish Senate ordered the removal of the portraits of Nicholas II in the governmental offices. A new Finnish Senate was appointed, headed by Oskar Tokoi, a social democrat.

March 28 – Justice P.E. Svinhufvud, a future president of Finland, returned from exile in Siberia.

April 4 – The Finnish Parliament assembled for the first time since it was elected in 1916.

(continued on page 4)

April 16 – V. I. Lenin, the exiled Russian revolutionary, returned to the Finland Station in Petrograd from Switzerland where he had found refuge in 1907. The Germans (Russia's principal enemy in WWI) allowed him to travel in a sealed car via Germany, Sweden and Finland as an attempt to destabilize Russia. Lenin published his April Thesis demanding the transfer of governmental power to the Worker's councils, the so-called Soviets.



May 17 – Lev Trotsky, another revolutionary, arrived in Petrograd from his exile in the US.

June 2 – The Finnish Senate started rationing food by issuing coupons based on the physical demand of the jobs. Feeding stock with grains was banned.

June 29 – The Parliament approved legislation granting Jews full citizenship in Finland.

July 14 – The Finnish Parliament approved the 8 hour work day.

July 16 – The soldiers and workers in Petrograd rose against the provisional government. The mutiny was quelled and Lenin had to flee to Finland where he was hidden by his Finnish supporters, most famously the Police Commander of Helsinki.

July 18 – The Finnish Parliament approved the law of Political Powers declaring that the Finnish Parliament has the supreme political power previously vested in the ruler (Grand Duke, i.e. the Emperor of Russia). However, the Provisional Government, still formally representing the supreme political power in Finland, did not sign it into law.

July 21 – The Minister of War, Alexander Kerensky, became Prime Minister of the Provisional Government.

July 31 – The Provisional Government dissolved the Finnish Parliament and ordered a new election.

August 3 – The Russian General Headquarters

transferred one Cavalry Division and an infantry brigade to Finland. The number of Russian troops in Finland rose to 100,000, the largest number ever.

August 17 – The first socialist Prime Minister, Oskari Tokoi, resigned and was replaced by E.N. Setälä, a conservative.

September 9 – the Commander in Chief of the Russian Army, Lavr Kornilov, ordered the 3rd Cavalry Army defending Petrograd to take over the city under military rule. Prime Minister Kerensky accused Kornilov of an attempt to establish a military dictatorship and fired him. Kornilov and his supporters were arrested. The workers arrested in July were released and rifles were distributed for the defense of the city.

October 1 – In the parliamentary elections in Finland, the social democrats lost their majority in the Finnish Parliament.

November 7 – The Bolsheviks led by Lenin overthrew Kerensky's Provisional Government. This was the birth of the Soviet Union.



December 4 – The Senate headed by P.E. Svinhufvud, sent a draft of a Republican Constitution proposal to the Finnish Parliament, and a notice of Declaration of Independence.

December 6 – The Finnish Parliament approved the Senate proposal for the Constitution with 100 votes for and 88 social democrats against. The social democrats had their own counterproposal about achieving independence by negotiations with the Russians, not by unilaterally declaring it. The Constitution stated that Finland is an Independent Republic. The Senate was authorized to take measures to request recognition from foreign powers of its independence.

The Declaration of Independence was received in Finland without much ado. When the Finns opened their morning newspapers on December 7, on the first page they could read that the Senate proposal for an independent Republic had been approved by the Parliament by a margin of 12 votes.

December 14 – The Senate demanded immediate removal of the Russian troops in Finland.

December 15 – The German Empire and the new Soviet Union declared armistice.

December 18 – Lieutenant General C. G. E. Mannerheim, the future Commander-in-Chief for four Finnish wars, returned to Finland from Petrograd. He had served in the Russian army during the Russian-Japanese war and WW1.

December 22 – Peace negotiations between The Soviet Union and Germany commenced in Brest-Litovsk in White Russia.

December 31 – The Council of People's Commissars of the Soviet Union recognized the independence of Finland.



By Kai Rekola



Finlandia Foundation Suomi Chapter Membership Form

JOIN US!!! Or RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
 DUES: Single \$25/yr Couples/Family \$30/yr
 Supporting \$50 Lifetime \$300

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone/Email _____

Dues Enclosed \$ _____

Newsletter donation \$ _____

My donation to FFSC _____

Grant & Scholarship \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Please check here if you **DO NOT** wish to be acknowledged as Donor to FFSC ☐

I would like to see my chapter support the following: _____

I would like to volunteer ☐ New/returning member ☐ Renewal ☐

Dues and donations are tax deductible. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Return this form with your dues in the enclosed envelope to:

Finlandia Foundation Suomi Chapter - P.O. Box 2544 Bellingham WA 98227

Finland Becomes One of the First Nations to Test Universal Basic Income

Earlier this year, Finland launched a pilot program to test a universal basic income (UBI) policy by giving 2,000 of its citizens €560 (\$624) every month for two years.



This program is dramatically different from traditional safety net systems. The payments are completely unconditional, and recipients can spend the money however they want. They are not required to prove they are actively looking for work, and even if they find employment, they will not lose their income from the UBI program.

Five months into the program, organizers are starting to see some promising results. One participant in the program told *The Economist* that he is now actively seeking work and feels less stressed. Of course, this one anecdotal example cannot speak for the whole of the program, which is still in its infancy, but it is encouraging.

In anticipation of the rise of automation, other UBI programs are being tested all around the world. Some programs, such as GiveDirectly's trial in Kenya, are being spearheaded by nonprofits.

Others are being undertaken by corporations, such as Y Combinator's plan to give a basic income of between \$1,000 and \$2,000 a month to participants in Oakland, California.

As is the case in Finland, governments are also testing the waters of UBI. At the end of last year, the government of Prince Edward Island unanimously voted to work with the Canadian government to establish a pilot UBI program, and India is currently exploring the possibility of such a system as well.



Not only could UBI replace the income lost as automated systems continue to replace human workers, experts also believe that having such a safety net would spur more innovation as the fear of failure would be reduced. People equipped with the knowledge that they will be able to provide for themselves should they fail will be more willing to take bigger risks, which could result in a spike in innovation that would help us all.

By Patrick Caughill
Futurism.com

The Health Benefits Of Sauna

"Jos viina, terva, tai sauna ei auta, niin tauti on kuolemaksi" ("If alcohol, tar, or sauna does not bring the cure, the disease is fatal"). This saying from the ancient times tells us about the main cures used at the time.

The health benefits of sauna are well known. It is also a quick weight loss method, used mainly by boxers. Of course, you just lose water, which is soon replenished. Finns are also known for their hardiness: If you survive extreme temperature changes, your body can take anything. A nice, hot sauna and a roll in the snow (I love it!), or a plunge into an ice cold lake will strengthen your heart. When I was young (a LONG time ago!!), I experienced many times a change of 300 degrees or more over just a few minutes.

The mental health benefits of sauna manifest in calmness and tranquility.

Recent studies on sauna and Dementia/Alzheimer's have demonstrated major differences between people who take sauna once a week and those who take it several times a week. Researchers from the University of Eastern Finland followed 2,000 men for 20 years and found that men who took sauna four to seven times a week were 66% less likely to develop Dementia compared to users who took sauna only once a week. Similar results were found with Alzheimer's. Lead researcher professor Jari Laukkanen said: "It is a well known fact that cardiovascular health affects the brain as well." He continues: "The sense of well-being and relaxation during the sauna bathing may also play a role."

By Asko Haimalanen

*Adapted from the Finnish American Reporter,
January 2017*

Finland Breaks Skinny-Dipping World Record!

Preliminary figures show that Finland has taken the world title for most people skinny dipping at the same time, as a crowd of 789 hit the cold water of Linnunlahti Bay in Joensuu on July 15.

A few weeks earlier, the Ilosaarirock music festival had set a challenge for its ticketholders: "We invite you to join us in an effort to gather 1,000 skinny dippers and break the Australian-held Guinness World Record for naked swimming." The event was scheduled for 2pm on the second day of the festival.

Even though the festival was sold out on Saturday, shortly before the mass dip in the cold water was scheduled, things didn't look good. Just a few hundred people were starting to undress. But then fate intervened: the sun came out and encouraged more of the crowd to strip. By the time the last green-hatted person had entered the water, the official head count was 789, just three swimmers

over the previous record achieved by The Fig Group at Perth's South Beach on 8 March 2015.

The festival reports that the swimmers had to stay in the water for five minutes in order to break the record. After some initial splashing and screaming, the crowd spontaneously broke into song when they heard there were only 30 seconds remaining, singing the Finnish national anthem to celebrate the country's centennial.



Adapted from YLE News

POSTCARD



Hello to Finn Suomi, Bellingham Chapter!

I just wanted to report that the North Stars Chamber Orchestra had a wonderful trip to Vaasa, Finland! Meeting the friendly, hospitable people who live there and who took such good care of us was such a joy, especially Mr. Rolf Nordman, and the Vaasa Mayor, Tomas Hayry, as well as those awesome families who opened their homes to our students.

Our concerts there with the students from Kuula Institute were very well received and all of the students enjoyed playing together so much!

A young organist performed Sibelius' Finlandia piece with us in a large cathedral in Vaasa.

FROM : _____

It was very thrilling to have so much sound filling that beautiful space! We visited the Replot town, and surrounding area, and gave another joint concert there with friends and students from the Kuula Institute. What a truly special time.

We really want to thank all of you for your interest and support!

Sincerely,
Sharyn Peterson, Director,
North Stars Chamber Orchestra
Mt. Baker Youth Symphony
Peterson Conservatory



Simo-Hayha: The White Death

Simo Hayha is considered the most prolific and famous sniper who ever lived.

When I was a kid, I heard stories about several skilled marksmen during the wars. To my great surprise, Simo was born in my hometown and lived only about 20 miles from me and my family (1950 through 1969). In my hometown there is an exhibit about his life at the only Simo Hayha and Kollaa Museum.

Simo Hayha was born in 1905 in a small farming community near the current Russian border. Finland was a semi-autonomous Grand Duchy from 1809 until her independence in 1917. Hunting and fishing were important activities, so kids learned to use guns early in life. Life and the wilderness made Simo a very tough, yet patient, man.

In 1925 he served a mandatory one year service in the army. There he received many awards for his marksmanship. Later he joined the Civil Defense Guard (comparable to the National Guard in the USA), where he received a great deal of training and target shooting. From the distance of about 500 feet, he was able to hit a mark 16 times per minute!

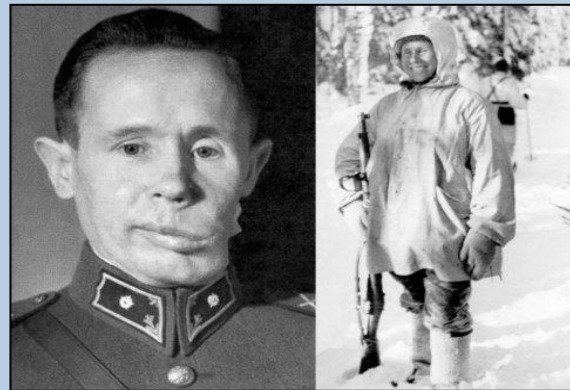
In November 1939, the Soviet Union attacked Finland. Hayha was called to defend our homeland at Kollaa Joki (River), where the fiercest battles were fought. "KOLLAA KESTAA!" ("KOLLAA WILL NEVER BREAK!") was the war cry at that time. The Soviets sent about 160,000 soldiers against a small number of Finns. Once there were only 32 men fighting against over 4,000 enemies!!

There are several reasons why Finland was able to keep the Soviets at bay: SISU, extremely cold weather (many enemy soldiers came from warm Ukraine), disorganization, and most importantly "Motti" tactics. Finns would hide in the surroundings, hit from all directions and

then disappear immediately. Camo clothing made out of sheets made them hard to spot.

Simo Hayha's involvement in the Winter War was legendary. Dressed in white winter camouflage, carrying his Sako M/28-30 rifle or Suomi sub-machine gun, ammunition and dry tack for a day, Simo would scope the best spot for shooting. To avoid being detected, he cooled his breath with snow and used only metal sights on his rifle.

Simo was no ordinary sniper: Over the course of 100 days he killed over 500 enemies. The longest distance he shot was about 1,500 feet! The Soviets gave him the nickname "The White Death." He brought terror to the enemy and was a target for numerous counter sniper and artillery attacks. On March 6th, 1940, he was hit in the jaw by an explosive round from a Soviet sniper, which put him into an 11-day coma, from which he awakened on the last day of the Winter War.



Simo Hayha earned numerous awards and is the only Finn to jump in rank from Corporal to Second Lieutenant. Despite losing part of his jaw, he lived to the age of 96. He was a very humble man. He often said, "I did, what I was ordered, as well, as I could."

The exhibit at the Museum located in the barracks of the Civil Defense Guard is titled: Simo Hayha: Marksman, Hunter and Farmer.

*By Asko Hamalainen
Adapted from Wikipedia*

Viipurin Lauluveikot: The Singing Fellows of Viipuri

The male choir of Viipuri was established in late 1800. As early as the 1870's the city of Viipuri was a place where singing was popular but actual choir life did not exist. In some small circles the idea was to gather men together and form a choir.

In the autumn of 1895 Hovio Ikeudenviskaali (clerk at the local court), Alexander Schroder, and a military doctor named Ivar Wallgren called a number of city dwellers together to establish a new choir.

There was a lot of enthusiasm surrounding this new hobby, which united the local male population. The group stayed together a couple of years and then ventured into the public sphere. In 1897 they had their first concert where they performed ten songs, three of which were in Finnish. The choir got its name and presented itself as Wiborgs Sonarbroder, WSB.

Alexander Schroder's dream had come true, but then had come true but then came suddenly to an end when he died that summer as a young man, aged 39. In 1897 the choir appointed architect Allan Schulman as a Maestro. He had been a singer in another choir, Muntra Musikanter, and he had also directed the Student Union male choir. He would be the Maestro for the Viipuri choir for the next 30 years.

In 1899 the Choir decided to acquire an American-made Grand Piano from Steinway & Sons, although it was much more expensive than others. This grand piano can be found, even today, in the rehearsal room of Karelia

House in Helsinki.

In 1901 the Choir made its first foreign tour to St. Petersburg where they were invited by a German choir, which was based in the Russian Capital at that time. The 10 year jubilee concert in 1907 was celebrated amongst its members and the choir decided to acquire its own flag which came to existence later in 1908.

These "Viipuri Boys" were known in St. Petersburg and their reputation eventually

reached Europe. In 1908 they received an invitation to come to Berlin, Germany where Berliner Liededtafel celebrated their 25th anniversary. There were 22 singers directed by Schulman and as their soloist they featured opera singer Vaino Sola, a tenor.

The choir held a composition contest in 1912 and 1916. In 1916 several Finnish composers gave to the choir's repertoire several songs which were composed just for them.

The next year saw the Russian Revolution begin and Finland was filled with unrest as it struggled for Independence. Conflict took the lives of two Viipuri Choir members during this time.



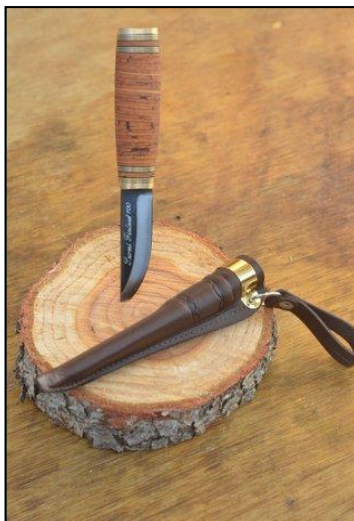
In 1922 Schulman retired and conductor Lauri was elected as a new leader. He served as director until 1927. From 1929-1933 composer and conductor Felix Krohn took the baton. Felix had been working as a teacher for Vyborg's Music institute. After the war, the Music Institute was transferred to a new place and Krohn became the permanent director of the Viipuri Choir until his death in 1963.

Theodor Björkjlund served from 1933-1941 as Vyborg Singing Fellows' artistic director. He was an excellent organist (Oscar Merikanto's student). Under his leadership the choir made a concert tour in Tallinn, Estonia, Warsaw, Poland and Hungary at the Palace of Budapest.

Opera singer Jorma Huttunen (a tenor) was a soloist in the choir during the Central European concert tour. These concerts were full of hits.

Viipurin Lauluveikot is also the only Finnish male choir to which the honorary professor and patron Jean Sibelius has composed a march of honor.

By Olli Patosaari



From the World Capital of *puukko* manufacturing, Kauhava. The blade is carbon steel and the handle is pressed birch bark. The sheath is made from genuine leather. Made exclusively for Finlandia Foundation Suomi to celebrate Finland's Centennial in 2017. Price: \$165.00.

Finlandia Foundation Suomi Has a New Board!

Hi All,

This is to inform all of you that in our annual meeting on April 29, 2017 the new board for Finlandia Foundation Suomi was elected for the 2017 - 2018 fiscal year, which began July 1.

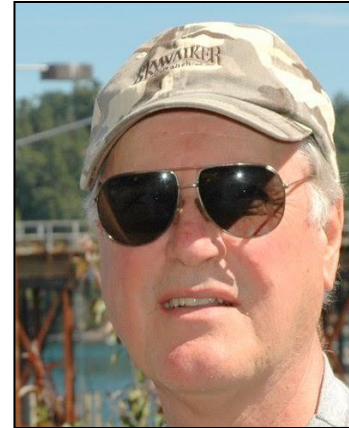
New Officers:

Brend Hunt-Holma - President Elect
Asko Hamalainen - Vice President Elect
Mary Penttinen King - Secretary Elect & Membership
Joel Rautiola - Treasurer Elect
And the following Members at Large: Carol Makela, Pasi Virta and now the recently appointed Darrel Koistinen.

Congratulations to all of you!

I wish you all pleasant summer holidays. Bring back good stories we can publish in our fall newsletters.

All the best,
On behalf of the Board of
Finlandia Foundation Suomi,



Tapio Holma

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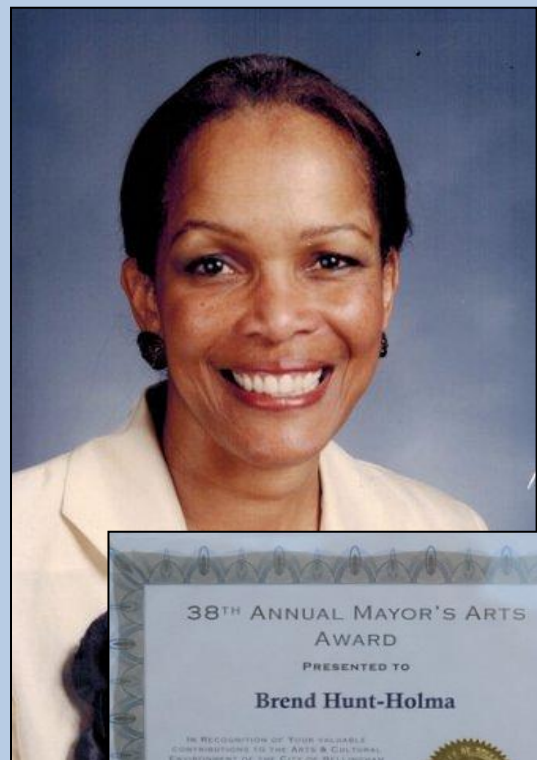
Congratulations!

to Finlandia President Brend Hunt-Holma in being chosen to receive a Mayor's Arts Award from Bellingham Mayor Kelli Linville. Mrs. Holma received her award on Wednesday May 3, 2017 at the Mt. Baker Theater and was one of only 10 award recipients.

This year the Mayor honored a broad range of artists, advocates, organizations, and performances that have significantly contributed to the arts in our community. Award winners were chosen based on nominations submitted by community members.

Mrs. Holma has dedicated many years' work to various arts-related projects in Bellingham, including those for the school district, the Pickford Theatre, Allied Arts, and other great local organizations.

Way to go, Brend!





Upcoming Centennial Events on the West Coast:

HÄMÄRÄ Monodrama

Seattle, Washington - Fri, September 1st

HÄMÄRÄ is a riveting monodrama for soprano and cello that grapples with how our formation of identity is determined by language, landscape and longing. A unique multimedia and multilingual piece, HÄMÄRÄ celebrates Finnish and Finnish-American heritage, and the multiple perspectives embodied within the multicultural individual.

Reflecting our deeply held values that live theater unites people by giving voice to subtle feelings that can't always be expressed, HÄMÄRÄ provides a crucial opportunity for diverse audiences to come together in meaningful conversation about identity and belonging.

Selected as a part of the international Finland 100 program, HÄMÄRÄ will premiere in Seattle in September, 2017.

More information: <http://www.hamara-twilight.com>

Sibelius Inspiration Concert

Various Dates, Times and Locations (see below)

Cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azejian will tour the U.S. in October and perform their Sibelius Inspiration multimedia concert.

The concert is an all-encompassing experience: by the means of music, video, sound and light, the audience is transferred into the world that inspired the Finnish national composer Jean Sibelius. The concert takes the listener to the world of Sibelius' home and the floral splendor of the Ainola garden, to the magical moss forest at dusk, and on the top of the impressive Koli to the midst of a thunder storm. Sibelius' compelling music, the narration and the videos filmed for the concert bring the Finnish nature, as seen by Sibelius, palpably close to the listener.

West Coast Dates:

Seattle, Washington - October 14th

Portland, Oregon - October 17th

San Diego, California - October 22nd

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.sibeliusinspiration.com/calendar>

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The Singing Fellows of Viipuri

Viipurin Lauluveikot

The Finland Centennial Jubilee West Coast Concert Tour of US and Canada



Seattle, Washington
Sunday, Aug. 27, 3pm
University Unitarian Church

Bellingham, Washington
Monday, Aug. 28, 7pm
United Church of Ferndale

Vancouver, BC
Tuesday, Aug. 29, 7pm
Michael J. Fox Theatre
Burnaby

San Francisco, California
Sunday, Sept. 3, 3pm
Finn Hall Berkeley

Los Angeles, California
**Thursday, Sept. 7
7:30pm**
Herbert Zipper Hall



For tickets to these concerts please visit www.ffsuomi.com or call 360-714-8600.

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"Music Knows No Borders"