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Edited By: Cassie Revell

FINLANDIA FOUNDATION

Suomi Chapter

FINNOVATIONS

Promoting Finnish Heritage in Whatcom, Skagit, and Island Counties

Vol. VI - No. 4

President's Corner

Greetings!

My name is Maria Caceres-Bjorklund and I look forward to this coming year as the new president, and I thank you for your support. We are excited about the upcoming events as we head into the 100 year celebration of Finland's independence!

A little background on myself: My parents were born in Finland in a town called Kokkola. The both moved to the United States in the early 1960's. They are both from Swedish-speaking Finnish families, so Swedish was the language that was spoken in our home growing up. All of my relatives live in Finland, and growing up we traveled to Finland frequently for visits. We also lived there for one year and attended school there. I am in contact with most of my relatives and try to go to Finland as often as I can.

I hope everyone will join us for our celebration of Finland's independence this December and we look forward to all of the music and events and celebrations that we will partake in this coming year!

Thank you,

Maria



Upcoming Events:

1. Board meeting: November 1, 2017, 6:30PM
2. Finland's 99th Independence Day Reception: Sunday, December 4th between 2 and 5pm at Vinstrology in Bellingham
3. Fundraising Concert at the Leopold: Monday, December 19th at 7:00PM

Hallowmas, not Halloween!?

In Finland, *Pyhäinpäivä*, (All Saints Day or Hallowmas in English), is celebrated when October turns to November. This prominent festival, important to Finnish culture, is celebrated by commemorating the departed. According to Finnish history, All Saints Day traditionally has two meanings: to honor all saints and to remember those who have passed over. In turn, All Saints Day was originally brought together from two successive celebrations.

In Finland All Saints Day is considered a devout and quiet celebration. All Saints Day is typically celebrated by bringing flowers to, and lighting candles on, the graves of close relatives. Surprisingly, the custom of decorating headstones with candles and flowers was not started until after the Second World War. It was recommended to pay a visit to the churchyard in the evening on All Saints Day, as it is supposed to be a beautiful experience. Most Finnish families will visit the churchyard during this day. It is also a popular tradition to attend a church service.



In Finland there is not a tradition for children to go door-to-door for tricks or treats on All Hallows Eve, such as Halloween in the United States. The closest holiday tradition in Finland to an American Halloween is when children dress up like witches on Palm Sunday, and go from door-to-door collecting sweets – very interesting! However, many businesses have started to cater to the traditional Halloween interests of the local and international students. You can go to most large department stores and find stereotypical costumes, decorations, and party favors. Halloween parties have also become popular in Finland, although maybe most people will find any excuse to get dressed up and throw a good party – or eat a ton of candy!

-By Cassidy Yatso

From: <http://blogs.mtu.edu/student-abroad/category/finland/>

Keeping a Sami Tradition Alive

A *joik*, or *yoik*, is a song, but much more than that to the indigenous Arctic folk, the Sami.

It's called a song because that is the simplest way to describe it. However, Ursula Lansman of the Sami musical group Angelit describes it as "a holographic, multi-dimensional living image, a replica, not just a flat photograph of a simple visual memory. It is not *about* something, it *is* that something. It does not begin, and it does not end."

Joiking is one of the longest living musical traditions in Europe. In its most traditional use, it has been considered comparable to the traditional chanting of some Native American cultures.

With the spread of Christianity, it was considered sinful, as were the naturalistic beliefs of the Sami. But it survived and has been revived. Today, *joiks* are performed often with instrumentation, in addition to being sung traditionally. Wimme Saari and Mari Boine are among the best known Sami artists. Frode Fjellheim contributed to the opening song of Disney's *Frozen*: "Song of the Earth."



The joiking of the Sami people of northern Scandinavia is the basis of electrified fusion music by Mari Boine.

Ursula Lansman: "The *yoik* has survived through the centuries. It has renewed itself and changed its meaning but it is still indispensable for the Sami people. To consider the power of the *yoik*, we need only consider how eagerly outsiders have tried to destroy it."

For further information, Google "*Joik*." In addition to articles, many *joiks* are on YouTube. For starters, look for Wimme Saari and Mari Boine.

-By Mary Penttinen-King

Kullervo

Kullervo is an ill-fated character from the Finnish *Kalevala* epic. Kullervo, son of Kalervo, is the only tragic character in Finnish mythology. Growing up thinking his family was dead after the massacre of his tribe, he also recognized that he was raised by people who hated him and whom he did not trust, knowing that they were his people's murderers; he was raised by the people of Untamo, his enemy.



Kullervo Blowing in a Herdsmans Horn, by Björn Landström.

Later, he was sold into slavery and mocked and tormented further. When he finally ran away, he finds his family, only to lose them again, and unknowingly seduces and has sexual relations with his sister, whom he thought dead. When she finds out it was her own brother who seduced her, she commits suicide. Kullervo becomes mad with rage, returns to Untamo and his tribe, exterminates them using his powers, and commits suicide. The story of Kullervo differs from all other folktales in that it describes the effects of child abuse. At the very end of the poem, the character Väinämöinen warns all parents about abusing their children.

The theme was used by Filip von Schantz, Robert Kajanus, Jean Sibelius, Grahame Gordon Innes, Armas Launis and Leevi Madetoja in the Finnish culture for poems, music and in literature. An unfinished story by J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Story of Kullervo*, is based on the tale and was published on 27 August 2015.

-By Tapio Holma

Editor's Note: The cover photo of this edition is a painting titled "Kullervo's Curse" done by the Finnish painter Akseli Gallen-Kallela. It depicts a scene from the Kalevala in which Kullervo curses a herd of cows, turning them into bears who attack a woman who tormented him.

New Nordic Heritage Museum Breaks Ground in Seattle

The ground-breaking for the New Nordic Heritage Museum took place in August in the Ballard area of Seattle.

The new 50,000 square museum will be ready in 2018 and plans are on the way to transfer all material from the present museum there soon.

The dignitaries were present to start shoveling the ground and as a representative for Finland, Tapio Holma participated in the ceremonies.



Tapio Holma lends a hand. Photo by Kristiina Hiukka, Vice Consul of Finland.

Suomenlinna

After 30 years of war, Sweden had lost many of its territories in the eastern part of Europe. So the new King of Sweden decided to build three major fortresses on Finnish territory. They were built in Degerby (today Loviisa), Svartholma, and the fortress at Viapori, which was to work as a naval base to protect the Swedish Navy and also work as a storage facility for the future.

The design of the fortress was given to artillery engineer Augustin Ehrensward. When the construction was started there were only 1,500 inhabitants in Helsinki. Most of the financing was received from France, which then was an ally of Sweden.



Suomenlinna is a fascinating destination for the whole family to explore.

Do You Know...

...what these Finnish companies are famous for and how they got their names? Answers below!

1. Abloy
2. Alma Media
3. Serla
4. Nokia
5. Rovio

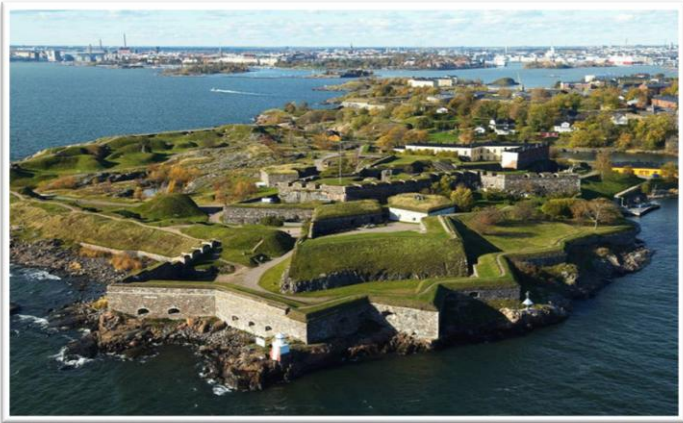
1. A famous lock system. It gets its origin from Tampere locksmith, Carl Johan Abloy.
 2. Publisher of newspapers and owner of Matkari, TV3 in Finland. The name is a pun on the latin phrase *Alma Mater*.
 3. Famous tissue brand. Comes from the Carelian name for "towel."
 4. World-famous phone company. The company's name came from the Nokia town and the Nokianvirta river.
 5. An entertainment company headquartered in Espoo. Famous for creating the game Angry Birds. Rovio is the Finnish word for "pyre."

The fortress was named Sveaborg, which gave it the recognition of being part of the Swedish Kingdom. Later the name was known by the Finns as Viapori. One time there were some 7,000 workers, mainly from Finland and Sweden. It was supposed to take four years to finish the job but the plans were never materialized fully. Most of the work had to done during summer because the weather in winter made it difficult to get material to the site. Eventually the fortress around Susisaari (one of the adjacent island group) became the bastion of the Swedish navy and the in the middle of the yard of this castle is also the grave of the designer Ehrensward.

The Swedish possession of the fortress ended 50 years later when Russia obtained the fortress in 1809. The Russian period lasted from 1809 to 1917. When Finland became a Grand Duchy of Russia she had her own senate and laws. Viapori was annexed to the military administration of St. Petersburg, and it was a fortress where Russian law prevailed.

(continued on page 5)

Suomenlinna (continued)



Suomenlinna, or Sveaborg, is an inhabited sea fortress built on six islands and which now forms part of the city of Helsinki

The funds were scarce to reconstruct the fortress. The nearing of the Crimean War, however put pressure on refurbishing the fortress. Helsinki had become the Capital of Finland and a lot construction funding was needed for the new capital.

A part of the fortress and many of its buildings were destroyed by bombs in 1855 and the castle yard suffered many losses. This island fortress was a Russian outpost for most of the 1800s and many new barracks and a hospital were built. Of all 4,500 inhabitants of the fortress half were officers and soldiers of various ranks in the Russian army. The civilians, shopkeepers, handicraft folks and builders followed. Also some prisoners were moved to the island's jails.

The population consisted of many nationalities, such as folks from Belarus, Ukraine, Poland and Estonia. There were Jews, Protestants, Muslims and Roman Catholics representing various religions of that time.

After the Russians, the fortress was occupied by Germans for a short period and the fortress was finally given to the Finns in April 1918. The birth of the nation and the civil war (the War for Finnish Liberty 1918-1919) left sad memories of the nature of war. Not only did the Finns have to kick the Russians out of Finland, but they also had to settle the differences between themselves.

As the price for the Independence, some Reds, as they were called, lost their lives as prisoners in Suomenlinna. Of 10,000, over 1,600 most of them died of diseases and hunger. Some were executed for atrocities they had done for the Whites during the conflict.

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Former Mayor of Bellingham WA, Mark Asmundsen, shares a Suomenlinna bunker with the Deputy Chief of Helsinki Police.

The Russian Orthodox church became a Lutheran church. In the winter and continuation wars with Russia from 1939-1945, the fortress became an important artillery center, which helped to save Helsinki from Russian bombers. Because of good Finnish anti-aircraft artillery, most Russian planes had to drop their bombs into the Gulf of Finland and Helsinki suffered only minor damage.

After the War with Russia, many shipyards were established to make ships and boats of various sizes for the Soviet Union as war compensation. This activity came to an end in 1985. The defence forces gave up the fortress in 1973 when the coastal artillery unit was transferred to Santahamina.

Today the fortress is designated as an UNESCO Heritage Site and some 900,000 folks visit the island annually. There are some 800 permanent residents on the island today.

-By Tapio Holma

Concert Tour of Finland By Special Invitation: North Stars Chamber Orchestra to Helsinki-Vaasa-Sweden

North Stars Chamber Orchestra Concert Tour to Finland

Dear Musician,

Here is your special invitation to join our Concert Tour to Finland in June 2017, in celebration of Finland's Jubilee Independence Year.

The North Stars Chamber Orchestra is an elite group drawn from Mt Baker and Fidalgo Youth Symphonies and musicians from the Islands, Seattle, and other areas of Washington.

This trip, June 23-July 4, 2017, will be an exceptionally fine chance to experience one of the most beautiful countries in Northern Europe, and to perform on stage with members of the Vaasa Conservatory, and in Helsinki and towns surrounding Vaasa, Finland.

We are receiving registrations for the next two months, and will give benefit concerts beginning in January, to help raise funds for our continuing overseas musical adventures.

Homestays with local Finnish families, and scenic train and boat journeys, make this a unique opportunity! A boat trip to Sweden is included. We will extend an invitation to the Vaasa youth musicians, to visit us in the USA, so it will be a true exchange program. Well-trained musicians, ages 13-22 are encouraged to apply to play in the North Stars Chamber Orchestra.

Costs will be lower than previous tours, due to generous homestay opportunities, and a Finnish volunteer tour manager, Mr. Tapio Holma. We are looking at approximately \$1000 for airfare, plus about \$770 for hotel in Helsinki, the train, the bus, the boat to Sweden, and some administrative costs. The food estimate will depend on details from the host families. Our fundraising concerts last Spring really helped lower the costs for those who performed in them, and with that experience, we hope to do even better.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested, so that you can book our flight (round trip Vancouver - Iceland - Helsinki) and we can secure proper housing, music instrumentation, ground transportation, and rehearsal schedules for the benefit concerts and the tour. Adult chaperones may elect to accompany the group.

We would be honored to have you join us! Please contact me with any questions.

Sharyn Peterson, Director, sharynpeterson@hotmail.com, 360-421-2527



Finland TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

Name: (last, first, middle)

.....

Age:.....Instrument(s).....Sex.....Birthdate.....

Address:

City.....State:.....Zip code:.....

cell phones:.....e-mail.....

Parent's name.....

& address (if different from above).....

.....

cell phones.....e-mail.....

Personal reference: Private or school teacher's name:

.....

Email:.....

Phone numbers:.....

Years of experience on your instrument:.....recent solo or significant group performance piece showing your advancement level:.....

.....

Other performance history and/or awards.....

.....

Payments for this tour: \$350 registration fee (non-refundable)
Remaining installments to be paid each month, final payment due May 1, 2016
Send payments to: PCMA, PO Box 1702 Mt Vernon WA 98273
Please write Prague on the outside of the envelope

Contact the Director: sharynpeterson@hotmail.com or 360-421-2527
[see more tour info at www.pcmusical.org](http://www.pcmusical.org)



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

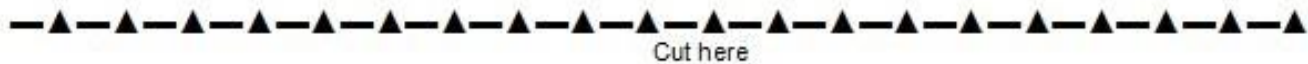
I would like to see my chapter support the following: _____

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



Petäjävesi Old Church

The Petäjävesi Old Church (Finnish: *Petäjäveden vanha kirkko*) is a wooden church located in Petäjävesi, Finland. It was built between 1763 and 1765, when Tavastia (Häme) was still a part of Sweden. The bell tower was built in 1821. It was inscribed in 1994 on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The church went out of use in 1879 when the new church was built. The old church has retained its original appearance and its interior decoration exceptionally well.

The church was built as the chapel for the area of Petäjävesi, which has belonged to the congregation of Jämsä. The local people had been given permission to build a graveyard and a small village church at their own expense by the crown as early as 1728. However, because the trip to Jämsä was long, it took about 35 years until the construction began. The church was planned and built by Jaakko Klemetinpoika Leppänen, a church builder from Vesanka. In 1821 the windows were enlarged and the sacristy was moved from the northern part of the church to the east.

The bell tower was also added by Erkki Leppänen, the grandson of the original builder.



After the new church was built, the old remained abandoned for a long time. Only the cemetery around the church and the bell tower were in use. In the 1920s an Austrian art historian Josef Strzygowski noticed the architectural and historical value of the church and since 1929 it has been restored several times. In 1994 it was approved in the UNESCO's World Heritage Sites representing typical eastern Scandinavian wooden church tradition.

**-By Kaj Rekola
(Adapted From Wikipedia)**

Arilyn – One of Coolest Nordic Augmented Reality Companies Leaps Into U.S. Market

Virtual (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) technology and their application are increasingly gaining attention around the globe. The opportunities on the market have not gone unnoticed by Finnish and Nordic VR and AR companies that have been showcasing their business in the U.S. One of these companies is Finnish Arilyn – an AR platform provided by a creative technology startup Robust North Ltd. We had the pleasure to meet Arilyn’s CEO and co-founder Emmi Jouslehto last week and talk a little bit about Augmented Reality, its possibilities, and what makes Arilyn special.

Augmented Reality is about adding virtual content to the physical environment, i.e. literally augmenting the real world by adding a virtual dimension. This can be information, entertainment, visual content, or often all of these. From the user’s perspective the difference from Virtual Reality is that VR goggles are not necessarily needed – a smartphone or a tablet can be enough. “Virtual Reality isolates you from the real world and you step into a totally different environment, the virtual one,” Emmi Jouslehto explains.



Arilyn – high-end Augmented and Virtual Reality technology inspired by the spirit of Nordic nature

Jouslehto sees endless possibilities in Augmented Reality that are not limited to only marketing and entertainment. “So far we have focused on marketing, entertainment, and commercial settings because that’s where the clients have been more receptive and ready to apply this technology – but then again there is a vast amount of possibilities to apply it elsewhere too. The Education sector is one example; there has been a lot

of interest in utilizing this technology in teaching. The Industrial sector is another one; they have been interested in how AR solutions could be used in providing, for example, maintenance instructions,” Jouslehto says.

Considering the ongoing technological change and the information-rich world we live in, people today are selective in their consumption of both commercial and non-commercial media content. This is exactly where Jouslehto sees a market opportunity for AR solutions and specifically for Arilyn.

“The big change that will probably happen is that we start to think about Augmented Reality as a new media channel instead of seeing it as a marketing trick for individual campaigns,” Jouslehto explains. She is expecting this shift to happen soon, probably in the course of the next couple of years.

Jouslehto compares it to the previous leaps companies have taken in adopting new technology, such as making a website in the 1990s or, later on, optimizing websites for mobile viewing, both of which took place rather rapidly. The pattern was basically the same: a new technology is first adopted only by a small group of pioneers, but soon becomes the standard as a result of the changing marketplace and the technology becoming more accessible to everyone. Jouslehto says that Arilyn aims to be one of the pioneers in this field by offering the most versatile AR platform that allows their clients to create engaging content and memorable experiences for the consumers.

Arilyn’s tech platform is the same for all of their clients, allowing the company to have customers around the world. And since there is a lot of interest in the U.S. for Augmented and Virtual Reality at the moment, Arilyn is now exploring business opportunities in that market.

This week Arilyn’s first project in the U.S. sees the daylight in the recently renovated main hall at Union Station in Washington, D.C. Using Arilyn’s platform the client Premier Tourist and Landmark Association (PTALA) has created an AR experience that brings the history of this venue alive. The experience will open to the public on October 14.

**-By Niina Lehtimäki
(Adapted from an article on Findland.org)**

Finnish Pioneers in North America

Recreation vehicle business is as popular as an apple pie in America. People buy and rent RV autos more than ever before. Some people approaching their retirement even sell their homes and start traveling alone or in caravans to visit various parts of North America. Visiting National Parks and relatives they have not seen for years. Under the same roof you have a hotel and a restaurant and modern RVs even have comfortable air conditioning, showers and gourmet kitchens.



The Finns have found this type of travel form suitable to study our continent and see it as the best way to see America. The Finnish caravans started to conquer USA in 2009 when the first RV caravan group made its first trip from Las Vegas to study the southwest states of America. During this first trip there were some 53 folks participating and the trip lasted one month.



By now more than ten trips have materialized. The last one just a few months ago from Vancouver, British Columbia to Alaska. Last Frontier left the participants of 12 RVs memories comparable to those who experienced Lapland Fever from time to time.

Most of the trips planned have lasted four to six weeks. As a special event two of the trips lasted three months. Most of the traveling to see the New World has been in the West. California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona, which can offer some of the best sightseeing in the States. Also the east coast states and Florida have been in the program and the famous Route 66 has been traveled three times by the Finns.

All trips have been organized by OK travel agency in Helsinki. The whole travel package has included rental of vehicles, flights and some local services in various destinations. As guides for these trips Peter and Anneli Geitel, who have many years' experience in RV travel, the best of the America has become known to many. Some participants have repeated some of these more than twice. Some want to travel independently and meet only occasionally at some points during a route. The others may want to drive in caravan formation and enjoy the travel in "together mood." Choice is yours and the requirement for route selection is up to each individual.



American RV camping is different from the European type. The vehicles usually are bigger and better equipped. The RV has everything you need to make your trip comfortable. Kitchen with all appliances, sanitary comfort with shower and toilet facilities and hook-ups for the electricity that is available in camping areas. Cooking can take place inside the vehicle or outside in camping areas. Grilling is popular, and an occasional bonfire is necessary to enjoy the western atmosphere among friend travelers.

Pioneers (Continued)

Rental service companies have become familiar and repeat customer contacts have helped to make trips successful with new information about new roads and sightseeing possibilities. The first trip was done together with Cruise America. Now we are working with El Monte, although the last trip to Alaska was an exception, which was worked with a Canadian company.



Next spring 20 RV caravans start in Chicago and will end in Santa Monica. The historical highway Route 66 will be traveled through seven states from the Midwest to the West. Points of interest will include many historical places such as Springfield (Lincoln's birthplace), Gateway to the West (Arch by Saarinen in St Louis), Santa Fe in New Mexico, etc. The Caravan starts in early April and ends up in Santa Monica on the 8th of May.

The plans with preparation for the route and its major attractions are presently developed for participants to consider. First and foremost, during the trip it is our purpose to promote Finland's Centennial and bring Finland to the awareness of the people of various localities on the route.

The RVs will be furnished with the Finnish flags (besides the Old Glory) with license plate FIN 100, if allowed, and some requisite material of Finland to be distributed on the route.

Yours in Finnish Centennial Caravan,
Peter Geitel

More information on the caravan can be obtained:
In Finland: peter@geitel.fi
In USA: tapiok@comcast.net



New Saarinen Documentary Airs in December

One of the greatest names in mid-20th century architecture is the subject of a new documentary, *Eero Saarinen: The Architect Who Saw the Future*. The Finnish-American designer is known for the monumental Gateway Arch in St. Louis, among other landmarks.



*Above Left: Eero Saarinen examines his design for the Gateway Arch in St. Louis
Above Right: The finished product*

A recipient of a grant from FFN, the 70-minute film was produced and directed by Peter Rosen, who will screen it at the FFN Joint Chapter Meeting in November. The documentary premiered at the Cranbrook Museum of Art in suburban Detroit and was featured at the Architect and Design Film Festival in New York City in September. It will air as part of the PBS American Masters series in December.

(Adapted from the Finlandia Foundation National Newsletter, October 2016)



Viipurin Lauluveikot

Viipurin Lauluveikot is a Finnish male choir that was founded in Viipuri in 1897 and is one of the oldest men's choirs still active in Finland. After the Second World War, the choir moved from Viipuri to Helsinki because Finland had lost Viipuri to the USSR.

Many prominent composers and conductors and soloists have worked with Viipurin Lauluveikot. The honorary marches of Viipurin Lauluveikot were composed by Jean Sibelius in 1920 (named *Kunniamarssi 1921*) and 1929. Sibelius was later named as an honorary member of the choir. Viipurin Lauluveikot performs the compositions of Jean Sibelius, Oskar Merikanto and Felix Krohn, and of Bach, Lowell Mason, Händel and Beethoven for instance.

The choir is very active both in Finland and abroad. It has visited England, Japan, Hungary, Lithuania, China and the USA. In 2012 the choir had a 115-year anniversary tour to its previous hometown in Viipuri and to St. Petersburg, Russia.

One of the traditional concerts is the First Advent Sunday concert in the JohanneksenkirKKo church in Helsinki. The choir performs every year in the National Independence day flagging ceremony on the sixth of December in Helsinki at Tähtitorninmäki 9:00 am local time. Radio transmission of the event is sent worldwide by the Finnish Broadcasting company YLE. This ceremony is the beginning of the Finnish Independence Day every year.



Viipurin Lauluveikot, Finland's second oldest choir will visit the US West Coast in 2017. Concerts will be in August in Seattle, Bellingham and Vancouver and in early September in San Francisco and Los Angeles.



Finlandia Foundation *Suomi Chapter*

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Bellingham, WA
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