

OULU HALL 2026

THU 19.11. AT 7:30 PM | FRI 20.11. AT 1:00 PM | FRI 20.11. AT 7:30 PM

SAT 21.11. AT 4:30 PM | SAT 21.11. AT 7:30 PM

HANDOUT 5 €

BEYOND THE SKY

Astrophotoraphy and animations **Jukka-Pekka Metsävainio**
Music **Lauri Porra**

Orchestration **Vili Robert Ollila**
Concept and compilation **Lauri Porra**
Translation **Juhani Koivisto**

Dalia Stasevska conductor
Aphrodite Patoulidou soprano
Mari Samuelsen violin
Project Choir
Kristian Heberg choir master
Oulu Sinfonia

Set, Lighting and Video Design **Joonas Tikkanen**
Sound designer **Ilkka Herkman**
Costume designer **Pasi Räbinä**
Dressmaker **Ateljee Chic/Outi Sulkala**
Movement director **Petri Kauppinen**
Make-up **Yanski Sova**
Music organiser **Kristian Heberg**
Subtitles **Marko Pyhähuhta**

Production: **Oulu Sinfonia**

TECHNICAL PRODUCTION

Set, Lighting and Video Design **Joonas Tikkanen**
Mixing **Ilkka Herkman**

Monitor Mixing and Design **Klas Granqvist**
Soundscape Specialist **Tero Hölttä**
Audio System Engineer **Terhi Salo**
Video Operator **Teemu Lehtonen**

Creative Technology Finland
Project Manager **Jukka Virtanen**
Technical Designer **Ville Lehtinen**
Head of Sound / Audio Master **Olavi Köykkä**
Video System Engineer **Lauri Orden**
Lighting System Engineer **Eetu Korhonen**
Followspot Operators **Emmiina Koski**, **Niklas Palmqvist**

Mad Muse Media Oy
Director **Miikka Pyy**
Producer / Cinematographer **Arla Remal**
Cinematographer **Niko Särkiniva**
Cinematographer **Jere Vorne**

Programme Book Design and Layout **Tero Ahonen**

Beyond the Sky is part of the **Oulu2026** cultural programme and the **Lumo Art & Tech Festival**.

THANK YOU

Oulu Hall staff
Sport Services

BEYOND THE SKY (WORLD PREMIERE)

Duration about 1 h (no intermission)

I ARCHĒ

1. PYR AIEZOON
2. CIRCULUS AETERNUS
3. LENTELEVI, LIITELEVI
4. APOLLO

II SIGĒ

1. LE SILENCE ETERNEL
2. METAXIS
3. MORS QUID EST?

III PSYCHĒ

1. THE MIND OF MAN
2. NIL IGITUR MORS EST

IV KOSMOS

1. TAIVAANKANSI
2. KOSMON TONDE

SUBTITLES IN THE MOBILE APPLICATION

You can follow the subtitles with the subtitle application Subtitle Mobile on your own smartphone. Here detailed instructions on how to start using the mobile application.



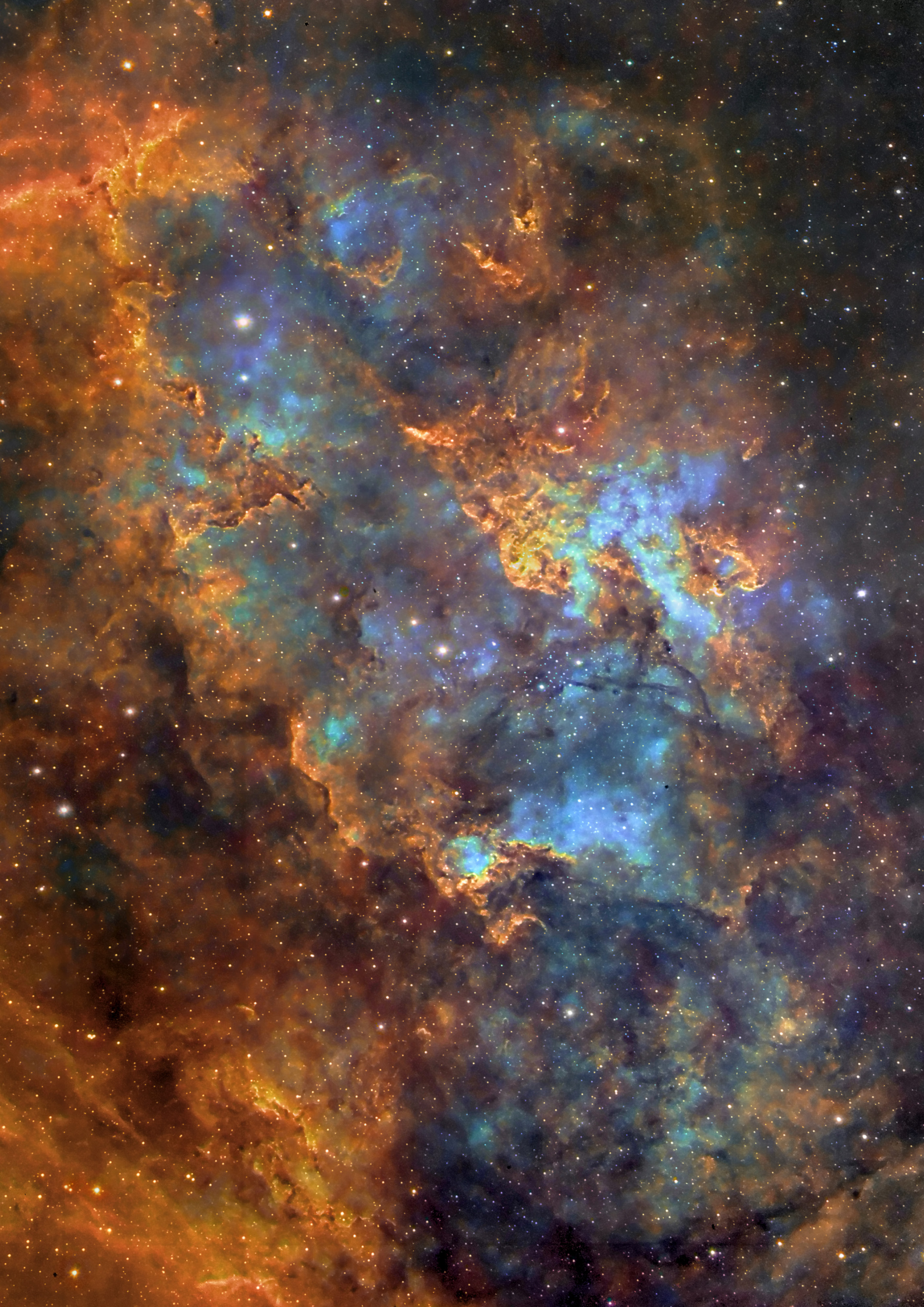


Before the performance

1. Download the Subtitle Mobile (Loitsut Oy) application to your own phone from the App Store or Google Play: https://m.subtitles.cloud
2. Remember that your phone must be fully charged when you arrive. The application consumes battery.

At the performance

1. Make sure the phone is on silent or activate Do not disturb mode.
2. Follow the application's instructions and enter the code BTSK or read the attached QR-code with the camera.
3. Select subtitle language (Finnish, English).
4. Subtitles appear automatically when the performance starts.
5. You can adjust the screen brightness by touching the screen and dragging the adjuster that appears along the top edge of the screen.
6. You can also change the subtitle language in the upper right corner.
7. You can exit the subtitle view by pressing the X symbol in the upper left corner.
8. Close the program after the performance.





A UNIVERSE PAINTED WITH LIGHT AND TIME

For me, *Beyond the Sky* is a natural continuation of nearly three decades of work photographing distant nebulae from my own observatory in Oulu. My individual images take shape slowly. Over tens, sometimes hundreds of hours, the camera gathers ancient light arriving from space. Everything visible in the images is based on real observational data. Nothing is added, nor are colours painted onto the images afterwards. My tools are light, time and patience.

In *Beyond the Sky*, these images break free from the frames of individual works of art and become part of the music, movement and space. **Lauri Porra's** music breathes with the images, creating its own perspective alongside them.. Together, image and music can convey something of a scale that is impossible to comprehend through numbers alone.

In the face of the cosmos, we are small, but not insignificant. We are part of the same matter and history as the stars we gaze upon. I hope the work offers audiences a moment to pause, to wonder and to see their own place as part of something infinitely vast – not separate from the universe, but within it.

J-P Metsävainio
astronomical photographer, visual artist



J-P METSÄVAINIO

astronomical photographer, visual artist

Oulu-based astronomical photographer and visual artist **Jukka-Pekka Metsävainio** has been photographing deep-space objects for nearly 30 years. His works are based on real observational data and long exposures, combining scientific precision with visual artistic expression.

Among Metsävainio's major works is *The Northern Milky Way*, created between 2008 and 2026, a mosaic spanning 145 degrees of the sky and based on approximately 2,200 hours of exposure. Metsävainio has collaborated with **Sir Brian May** on two stereoscopic 3D books: *Cosmic Clouds 3-D* (2020) and *Islands in Infinity: Galaxies 3-D* (2025). His images have been selected for *NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day* twenty times.

Metsävainio won third place in the Astronomy Photographer of the Year competition in 2014 and received the Stella Arcti Award in 2009. He has appeared as an invited speaker at international conferences and serves as an expert judge for the Royal Astronomical Society's RAStroPhoto competition. His works are held in collections and public locations including the Smithsonian Institution, the Royal Observatory Greenwich, the Vatican Observatory, Oulu Art Museum and Tampere Art Museum.



LAURI PORRA

composer

If anyone can truly be said to have roots deep in classical music, it is **Lauri Porra**. He is a direct descendant of **Jean Sibelius**. Although audiences around the world may still know Porra primarily as the bassist of the power metal band **Stratovarius**, his musical life extends far beyond this. He is also a composer and a creator of artistic programmes.

As a composer, Porra's name appears not only on his own recordings and in films and other media, but increasingly in the programmes of classical orchestras. In 2024, he received a Jussi Award, Finland's national film award, for his music for the film *Stormskerry Maja*. His works have been performed by orchestras including the BBC Concert Orchestra, the Seattle, Iceland and London Symphony Orchestras, the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra, Sinfonia Lahti, the Finnish National Opera Orchestra and the Vantaa Orchestra, of which he has been Artistic Director since 2021.

Porra is the Artistic Director of the Turku Music Festival and develops programmes for the Unelmien Heinola festival, which he founded in 2020 together with his wife, conductor **Dalia Stasevska**. Lauri Porra has also created soundscapes for Finnair, the Moomins and the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs' country branding initiatives, among others.

BETWEEN WONDER AND THE WORLD BEYOND

When I began planning the composition of *Beyond the Sky*, my first point of reference was **J-P Metsävainio's** magnificent images of space. I began searching for a narrative for the work by bringing together ancient philosophical and scientific texts with recordings associated with space exploration. My idea was to create a kind of miniature opera, reflecting on the fundamental questions of human existence in the light of the stars and infinity. Just as in the universe itself, time and its passage are relative. We explore the subject through a kind of prism, from different perspectives and across different periods of time. In the final movement, *Kosmon Tonde*, time initially seems almost to flow backwards.

The texts I have assembled draw on the history of human thought, including passages from **Heraclitus**, **Lucretius**, **Seneca**, the *Kalevala*, **Darwin**, **Schopenhauer** and **Pascal**, among others. Heard in their original languages, these texts form a whole that explores humanity's relationship with eternity, and the nature of both the universe and humankind.

Soprano **Aphrodite Patoulidou** gives voice to the human presence in the work – curious, searching and ultimately surrendering. **Mari Samuelsen's** violin represents the cosmic realm, ever-present yet never offering a direct answer.

Beyond the Sky is a celebration of the beauty of the universe, a meditation on the cycle of existence. It does not seek answers but instead dwells upon the questions themselves. Above all, I am filled with gratitude and wonder at having had the opportunity to be part of such a creation.

Lauri Porra
Composer



DALIA STASEVSKA

conductor

Having rapidly risen to the highest levels of the international music scene, conductor **Dalia Stasevska** has established herself as a distinctive and determined musical voice, a boundary-breaking innovator and a fearless advocate for change. Stasevska is Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra and served as Artistic Director of Sinfonia Lahti and the Sibelius Festival from 2021 to 2025.

This season, she makes her conducting debuts at both the Royal Opera House in London and the Metropolitan Opera in New York. These follow numerous successful orchestral debuts around the world, including with the Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestras, at the Glyndebourne Festival Opera and with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra. This season, alongside return invitations, her series of major orchestral debuts continues across Europe, the United States and Australia. She has appeared several times at the BBC Proms, conducting the Last Night of the Proms in 2022 and the First Night in 2023.

Alongside her conducting career, Dalia Stasevska has taken an active role in supporting Ukraine following Russia's invasion, raising funds and personally delivering aid packages to the front line. In recognition of this work, President **Volodymyr Zelenskyi** awarded her the Order of Princess Olga, Third Class, for her services to Ukraine. In 2025, Dalia Stasevska and her brothers, documentary filmmaker and cellist **Lukas Stasevskij** and journalist and pianist **Justas Stasevskij**, received the European of the Year recognition award.

KUVA: VEIKKO KAHKONEN



PHOTO: DANIEL NARTSCHICK

APHRODITE PATOULIDOU

soprano

Greek soprano **Aphrodite Patoulidou** quickly established herself on the international stage after singing the role of Anne Truelove in **Igor Stravinsky's** opera *The Rake's Progress* in 2018. Patoulidou is equally at home in the music of **Mozart**, **Mahler**, **Strauss** and contemporary composers, yet her artistic pursuits extend far beyond the traditional classical stage. She is interested in the dialogue between folk music and the classical tradition and is an accomplished player of the nyckelharpa, or Swedish keyed fiddle. Alongside music, she is also a photographer and visual artist.

This season, she appeared as a soloist in J**ean Sibelius's** *Kullervo* under **Esa-Pekka Salonen** and in *Luonnotar* under **Dalia Stasevska**, sung operatic roles in Berlin and Cologne, and performed music by the alternative rock band Radiohead, alongside numerous classical solo engagements. It was the Finnish band Nightwish that inspired Patoulidou to pursue singing studies at the age of 15, and she has since collaborated with several metal music artists. She has a particularly warm relationship with Finland and Finnish musicians. Under Dalia Stasevska's baton, she has performed around the world.

PHOTO: ANDREA GJESTVANG



MARI SAMUELSEN

violin

There are no boundaries in violinist **Mari Samuelsen's** musical universe. For her, the works of **Bach** and **Beethoven** belong to the same continuum as those of contemporary composers such as **Max Richter**, **Caroline Shaw** and **Philip Glass**. Samuelsen is an internationally sought-after soloist who has performed with actress **Tilda Swinton**, electronic music artists **Jeff Mills** and **Dubfire**, and multimedia artist **Philipp Geist**.

Her first solo recording, *Nordic Noir*, which reached the top of the Norwegian pop charts, featured music from the television series *The Killing*, *The Bridge* and *Broadchurch*. Samuelsen records exclusively for the Deutsche Grammophon label.

Conductor Dalia Stasevska is already a familiar collaborator to Samuelsen. Following the concert in Oulu, their collaboration will continue in the spring, when Samuelsen appears as a soloist with the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra under Stasevska's baton.



PROJECT CHOIR

Kristian Heberg choir master

I SOPRANO

Heidi Harinen
Sanna Jäälinoja
Birgitta Kropsu
Irene Lankila
Sinikka Littow
Henna Luomaranta
Hilla Nättilä
Petra Rissanen
Tilda Santapakka
Ulla Savolainen
Elina Sivonen
Malla Sormunen
Aliisa Tiittanen
Ulla Tolppa
Elisa Vilmi

II SOPRANO

Kaisu Ainassaari
Outi Aine
Minna Joki-Luomala
Leila Jyväsjärvi
Anna-Maija Kauppila
Elina Liimatta
Katriina Litola
Minttu Luomala
Jonna Nyrhinen
Teija Oivo
Satu Ojala
Tuula-Liina Rees
Hannele Tuoma
Satu Tähtinen

I ALTO

Päivi Ahokas
Terhi-Liisa Autioniemi
Kaisu Hiltunen
Maija Huhtinen
Aino Häli
Iitumaari Ikäheimo
Pirjo Ilvesviita
Hannamaria Koukkari
Kati Käkelä
Kaija Paakki-Tiainen
Minna Palo
Jaana Pulkkinen
Päivi Tossavainen
Kirsi Valtiala
Kaisa Vähänen
Anneli Österman

II ALTO

Sinikka Autio
Kirsikka Eskelinen
Pirkko Hautamäki
Elli Hyyryläinen
Iina Jerkku
Katri Leppälä
Hannele Nykänen
Leena Pääkkönen
Ulla Riekki
Paula Riihimäki
Anna Salmi
Marjo Välimaa

TENOR

Jorma Ainassaari
Marko Eronen
Erkki Hurskainen
Juhani Miettunen
Kalevi Mursula
Jan Schwenzer
Lauri Tuovinen

BARITONE

Antti Kananen
Antti Kauppila
Otava Lankila
Olli Liinamaa
Ari Oja
Sakaria Pouke
Jorma Pulkkinen
Antti Ukura
Markku Vaitiniemi
Sampo Westerberg

BASS

Hannu Haataja
Mikko Lindholm
Markus Lumme
Antti Palsola
Henri Routavaara
Arttu Vilmi

JOONAS TIKKANEN

set design, lighting and video designer

Joonas Tikkanen graduated from the Tampere School of Art and Communication in 2012, specialising in lighting and video design. He has worked in the field since 2005 and completed his first design projects in 2008. He has created visual designs for numerous productions across dance, theatre, music, circus and installation art.

His recent work includes *Sonetter* at Gothenburg City Theatre; **Lauri Porra's** *BAS-SO*, performed on the steps of Senate Square during the Helsinki Festival; *La Vie en Rose* for the Finnish National Ballet; Oulu Sinfonia's *Leonard Bernstein: MASS*; Tero Saarinen's dance production Wedge; *and Kulla Gulla* and A Chorus Line on the main stage of Stockholm City Theatre.

ILKKA HERKMAN

sound design

Ilkka Herkman is a Helsinki-based sound designer, mixing engineer and music producer with nearly 40 years of experience in the industry. He has been responsible for the sound design and mixing of more than 3,000 concerts and has worked on over 400 recordings. His credits include numerous gold and platinum records.

Herkman specialises in a cappella and orchestral music. He has worked with numerous Finnish and international symphony orchestras and has collaborated with the vocal ensemble Rajaton since 1999.

His major productions include the closing concert of Finland's centenary of independence celebrations, the *Classical Trancelations* concerts, Kimmo Pohjonen's *Uniko*, the Finnish National Opera and Ballet's arena tour, and Katri Helena's farewell concert at the Olympic Stadium in 2025.

KRISTIAN HEBERG

choir master

Kristian Heberg has been Artistic Director of the **Oulu Chamber Choir** since 2016. He began his studies in choral conducting at Madetoja Music Upper Secondary School before pursuing further studies in choral and orchestral conducting at the Sibelius Academy's Open University, and through numerous masterclasses. His musical education has also encompassed music theory, composition, music education and piano.

Alongside his work with the Oulu Chamber Choir, Heberg serves as Artistic Director of the South Ostrobothnian Male Voice Choir Jussit. His guest conducting engagements have included appearances with the Seinäjoki, Vaasa and Kemi City Orchestras, as well as the Wasa Sinfonietta.

Heberg is also actively involved in Finland's choral organisations. He has served for many years on the boards of the Finnish Mixed Choir Association and the Finnish Choral Conductors' Association, among others, and is currently Executive Director of the Finnish Male Choir Association.

PASI RÄBINÄ

costume design

Pasi Räbinä is Finland's first Artist Professor of Costume Design for the Performing Arts. His career spans 40 years in opera, theatre and contemporary dance, with costume designs for more than 100 productions. His most recent work includes *The Addams Family* at Turku City Theatre (2025) and **Mozart's** *The Magic Flute* at Oulu Theatre (2024). His opera and musical theatre credits also include *Fidelio*, *Orpheus and Eurydice*, *La Bohème*, *Messenius and Lucia*, *The Tales of Hoffmann*, *My Fair Lady*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Cabaret*.

Räbinä also works as an independent artist and curator. In 2026, he curated two international exhibitions at Oulu Art Museum: *Tomorrow's Wardrobe* and **Yuima Nakazato's** *Glacier*. His work has been featured in numerous exhibitions in Finland and abroad, including a recent exhibition at the 2024 Iitti Music Festival, *Art Couture* in collaboration with visual artist **Moosa Myllykangas** at Oulu Art Museum and Gallery Harmaja, and *The Weight of Beauty* at the Theatre Museum in Helsinki. The latter exhibition was accompanied by a publication produced in collaboration with Aalto University.

OULU SINFONIA

Oulu Sinfonia is Finland's northernmost symphony orchestra, originally founded in 1937 and municipalized in 1961. Present name, Oulu Sinfonia was adopted in 2005. The orchestra has 61 professional full-time musicians.

The repertoire of the Oulu Sinfonia is based on classical season concerts and completed with diverse contents such as opera, cinematic concerts, ethnomusic and jazz concerts as well as concerts for families and children. The orchestra also steps out of its home in various formations, to take its music to many locations around town.

The orchestra's Chief Conductor since January 2022 has been **Rumon Gamba**, who took up the post after a long tenure by **Johannes Gustavsson** (2013–2021). During the past decades, the post of Artistic Director was held by been **Urpo Pesonen**, **Paavo Rautio**, **Onni Kelo**, **Rauno Rännäli, Ari Angervo**, **Peeter Lilje**, **Arvo Volmer**, **Dmitri Slobodeniouk** and **Anna-Maria Helsing.** Principal Guest Conductors have been **John Storgårds**, **Susanna Mälkki** and **Jaakko Kuusisto**.

Oulu Sinfonia has made several recordings, including the opera *Messenius and Lucia* by **Olli Kortekangas** (the orchestra's composer-in-residence-from 1997 to 2009) as well as the whole orchestral production by **Leevi Madetoja**, an album of violin concertos by **Uuno Klami** and **Einar Englund**, opera arias by **W. A. Mozart**, guitar concertos by **Kimmo Hakola** and **Toshio Hosokawa**, an album full of rarely recorded music by the Swedish symphonist **Ludvig Norman**, rock artist **Ismo Alanko's** pieces arranged for symphony orchestra and *Sininen Pallo* -album for children. *Overtures From Finland*, an album of Finnish overtures was published in August 2023; *Aili Ikonen & Oulu Sinfonia: Valo*, featuring works by **Aili Ikonen**, was published in August 2024, the album *Pictures From Finland*, inspired by the Finnish landscape, was released in August 2025 and *Scenes From Finland* including music for scene and screen, was released in August 2026, all conducted by Chief Conductor Rumon Gamba.

PRODUCTION OULU SINFONIA

Maija Kuusisto General Manager
Jukka-Pekka Peltoniemi Executive Manager
Saara Niemelä Orchestra Manager
Rauno Rankinen Production Manager
Heli Perkkiö Marketing Manager
Helena Mäkelä Sales and Outreach Manager
Esa-Tapio Lukka Music Librarian/Stage Manager

I VIOLIN

Mikko Sorri, I concertmaster
Heidi Ilmolahti, principal
Zoe Hodi, sub-principal
Romuald Gwardak
Johanna Korhonen
Tiina Kortelainen
Oksana Kumpulainen
Aino Liikanen
Mia Ohenoja
Ismo Sirén

II VIOLIN

Paolo Vuono, principal
Iida Zelenski, sub-principal
Emma Dahl
Yuuki Forslund
Laura Kangas
Anna-Briitta Karjalainen
Marjukka Lahes
Anne Somero
Sari Suihkonen
Toni Tuovinen

VIOLA

Johanna Tuikka, principal
Susanna Raudasoja, sub-principal
Helinä Nissi
Henna Pakkala
Anna-Maija Rousselle
Emiliano Travasino

CELLO

Akito Goto, principal
Olli-Pekka Kajasviita, sub-principal
Anna Erlich
Janne Varis
Harri Österman

DOUBLE BASS

Antoine Greuzard, principal
Anne Seppänen, sub-principal
Terhi Hoisalo
Fanni Hoppari

FLUTE

Albert Stupak, principal
Emma Tessier, sub-principal
Carlotta Petri

OBOE

Matti Kettunen, principal
Paula Nurila, sub-principal
Antti Turtiainen

CLARINET

Michał Konopiński, principal
Jeanne Manouck, sub-principal
Kenneth Sjöwall

BASSOON

Joao Gigante, principal
Ann-Louise Wägar, sub-principal
Lorenzo Leone

FRENCH HORN

Lauri Vasala, principal
Matias Nässi, sub-principal
Pasi Salminen
Jukka Yletyinen

TRUMPET

Thomas Petit, principal
Pasqual Llopis, sub-principal
Joel Guahnich

TROMBONE

Jukka Myllys, principal
Wen Hong Low

TUBA

Nodoka Watanabe, principal

TIMPANI

Petri Hänninen, principal

PERCUSSIONS

I-Han Fu, principal
Nathan Archer

HARP

Katilyne Roels

KEYBOARDS

Maarit Peltoniemi

OULU



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