



PRESS RELEASE 9.1.2024
Free for publication

Dear representatives of the media,

IX JORMA PANULA INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTING COMPETITION 3-7.9.2024.

The application portal for the 9TH Jorma Panula International Conducting Competition 3-7.9.2024 is now open until 1.12.23 - 29.2.2024. As previously, the Viljo and Maire Vuorio Foundation expects many applicants for the competition. In March, an expert group appointed by prof. **Jorma Panula** will select 20 contestants from the applicants for the competition. In April, the winners will be announced. The secretary of the expert group and the competition jury is Music Director **Michael Claussen**.

The competition programme has been finalised. The repertoire to be prepared by the contestants consists of works by *Claude Debussy (Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune and La Mer)* and *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's* arias from the opera *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Jean Sibelius' great Violin Concerto in D minor, Op 47*.
<https://panulacompetition.fi/en/programme>

An orchestral work by Finnish composer **Jukka Tiensuu** has also been specially commissioned for the competition and will be premiered/rehearsed on the 5th of September. Tiensuu is one of the most influential composers of our time. He has composed around 100 works for various ensembles and orchestras that have been premiered around the world. He has received numerous awards for his composing.

Soloists in the competition are among the best in Finland who are also on their way to international careers. Soprano **Iris Candelaria**, a graduate of the Sibelius Academy, won the Lappeenranta Song Competition in January 2023 and made her debut at the Savonlinna Opera Festival last summer. She is now singing at the Finnish National Opera. Baritone **Luke Terrence Scott** holds master's degrees from both the Sibelius Academy and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. He has performed extensively in Finland and participated also in Savonlinna last summer and has been successful in several singing competitions. Both soloists sing arias on the second day of the competition (5th of September) from the opera *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Violinist **Tami Pohjola**, a multiple award winner, has performed extensively in Finland with almost all orchestras and at many music festivals both as a soloist and chamber musician. She is a member of the Borea String Quartet. Tami Pohjola has won numerous prizes in competitions and has been recognised for her humble and skilful approach to music. She performed the Sibelius Violin Concerto with The Halle Orchestra in Manchester, UK, in 2022 and was soloist in the RSO's Independence Day Concert in 6.12.2023. She is currently completing her studies in Switzerland. Pohjola will be the soloist in the competition final on 7th of September, where the Sibelius Violin Concerto will be performed. <https://panulacompetition.fi/en/participants>

The competition, which is open to all, will provide many experiences for the audience. Tickets for the final will go on sale in March at the latest via <https://netticket.fi>.

JORMA PANULA MINIKAPU – Junior Conducting Competition 4 -7.9.2024.

<https://panulacompetition.fi/en/juniorcompetition>

The application portal for the first MINIKAPU - youth conducting competition introduced by prof. Jorma Panula has opened on 1 January and is open until 29 February 2024. The competition is aimed at Finnish and

foreign students of conducting in Finland and will run at the same time as the international competition in Vaasa City Hall.

The first round of the competition will be held on the 5th of September, but the participants can follow the international competition from the 4th of September. With the competition, Maestro Panula wants to further promote the interest of young music students in learning orchestral conducting. The age limit for applicants is 20 years.

Eight applicants will be selected for the competition. The same expert group that selects the international competitors also selects the participants in the MINIKAPU competition.

The jury that will judge the contestants in September consists of Professor **Atso Almila**, who also chairs the jury, conductor **Jukka Iisakkila** and Wasa Sinfonietta conductor **Ville Mankkinen**. The secretary of the MINIKAPU jury during the competition is Festival Director **Milla Virta**.

The repertoire for which the competitors will prepare is *W.A. Mozart's Symphony No 36 in C, 1st movement* and some movements from *Jean Sibelius' work Pelléas et Mélisande (I, IV, Entr'acte)*. Three contestants will be selected for the final, who will also conduct while awaiting the results of the international competition.

In the International Conductor Competition, the orchestra's favorite is also selected among the three finalists. In the MINIKAPU competition, the audience will vote for their favorite while waiting for the results (7.9.).

The long-term teaching of orchestral conducting by Professor Jorma Panula has also yielded fantastic results. Finland is internationally recognized for training good conductors. Most of them have been taught by Maestro Panula. Among the young people now pursuing international careers are conductors Tarmo Peltokoski, from Vaasa, and Klaus Mäkelä.

The website <https://panulacompetition.fi> contains more information about both competitions, the jury, the repertoire and the soloists. The competition participants will be presented in April on the website.

JORMA PANULA'S CONDUCTING COURSE 8.1.- 12.1.2024.

In Vaasa this week at Vaasa City Hall 8-12.1, ten conductor students are participating in the master class in conducting under the auspices of the Panula Academy (<http://panula-academy.com/>).

It is a very international group from the Nordic countries, Europe and Asia in Vaasa. The participants are **Nuutti Huhtilainen, Erno Toikka, Eero Toikka, Riku Okamoto, Nestor Alvarez-Gonzalez, Daewon Kang, Maximilian Leicher, Niklas Tamm, Julien Benichou, Raphael Fellay, Kibum Nam and Nicholas Algot Swensen**.

The course culminates in a Concert on Friday 12.1 at 18.00 in Vaasa City Hall. The programme includes works by *Beethoven, Mozart, Verdi, Sibelius, Ravel, Rossini, and Prokofiev*. The public can freely follow the courses during the week and attend the concert on Friday with free admission.

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