



# FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL CAPITAL CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER - February 2015

## EVENTS 2015

Monday,  
March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
7:30 pm

### The Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir sings Sibelius

National City  
Christian Church,  
Washington, DC

Friday,  
March 6<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 pm

### Kalevala Celebration

Embassy of Finland  
Washington, DC

Saturday,  
April 25<sup>th</sup>  
5 pm

### Movie Night

Resurrection Evangelical  
Lutheran Church,  
Arlington, VA

Wednesday,  
April 29<sup>th</sup>  
8 pm

### Apocalyptica

The Fillmore,  
Silver Spring, MD

Sunday,  
May 17<sup>th</sup>  
5 pm

### Sibelius 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Capital City Symphony,  
The Atlas Performing  
Arts Center,  
Washington, DC

Saturday,  
May 23<sup>rd</sup>  
12 noon

### Summer Picnic and Annual Meeting with Baltimore Chapter

Private Beach,  
Annapolis, MD

## Message from the President

Dear Members,

I hope you all are faring well in this colder-than-Helsinki winter weather! Spring is coming soon and so is our chapter's Kalevala celebration on March 6th.

The very talented FFN Performer of the Year, jazz guitarist Olli Hirvonen, will perform with his trio for us. He has described his music as having Finnish folkloric elements to it – please come and enjoy it! The Nordic Dancers will also entertain us. Their enthusiasm for and dedication to

preserving Finnish culture is always reflected in their performances.

We are still seeking donations for our silent auction. If you have anything you would like to contribute please let us know. We would love to have any artwork, tickets, books or services or any other items of interest to our members. If you have contributed in the past and are able to do so again – please do – I just didn't want to bother you every year! We will send out a list of the auction items before Kalevala.

In other news, the Sibelius 150th Jubilee celebration is already underway. There are local concerts nearly every month to honor the 150th anniversary of the birth of FFN's first patron. Please refer to the events listing to see what is happening. Next month we will host a Finnish movie and pizza night and in May we will have a joint summer picnic with the Baltimore chapter by the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. We hope you can join us!

And finally, I'm sorry to end on a sad note, but the board would like to express its condolences to Marja Guercin and family on the loss of her husband and FFNCC member, Rene Guercin. Rene was born in France and was a retired Air France employee and WWII veteran. He was also a painter and generously donated two pieces of beautiful art to our auction last year.

*Kirsti Frenzen Noring*



### FFNCC Board of Directors 2014-2015

**President:** Kirsti Frenzen Noring [president@finlandiadc.org](mailto:president@finlandiadc.org), **1st Vice President:** Stephen Frey  
**2nd Vice President:** Erika Carlson, **Recording Secretary:** Bruce Griffin  
**Treasurer & Membership:** Mikko Mäkäräinen [mmakarainen@gmail.com](mailto:mmakarainen@gmail.com)  
**Newsletter Editor:** Susanna Andersson [finlandiafoundationncc@gmail.com](mailto:finlandiafoundationncc@gmail.com)  
**Members at Large:** Leila Takala, Tabitha Takala, Juha Seppälä, Irina Watkins



*Artwork and design featuring "Aino"  
By Erika Carlson*

*Under the gracious patronage of  
Her Excellency Ritva Koukku-Ronde, Ambassador of Finland,  
and Dr. Hidde Ronde*

*The Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter invites  
you to the*

## **Kalevala Dinner and Silent Auction**

**Featuring  
FFN Performer of the Year Olli Hirvonen  
and The Nordic Dancers**

On Friday, March 6, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

The Embassy of Finland  
3301 Massachusetts Ave., NW  
Washington, DC

Tickets: \$50 for members \$60 for non-members

To register for the Kalevala Celebration at the Embassy,  
please send a check payable to FFNCC to Mikko Mäkäräinen,  
FFNCC Treasurer, 2100 11th Street NW #307,  
Washington DC 20001.

Or REGISTER ONLINE at [www.finlandiadc.org](http://www.finlandiadc.org). Registration  
deadline is on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.



If you haven't heard Jazz Guitarist  
Olli Hirvonen before, you have to go  
and listen to his music on his  
website: [www.ollihirvonen.com](http://www.ollihirvonen.com).

We are so lucky to have him with  
his band at the Kalevala Celebration  
this year. It's going to be amazing!!  
Absolutely insane talent here!



## FFN Performer of the Year: Jazz Guitarist Olli Hirvonen

Olli Hirvonen is a Finnish jazz guitarist currently based in New York City. He is the most accomplished Finnish guitarist of his generation, having already been chosen as the Artist of the Year of the Pori International Jazz Festival 2011 and having an international career well on it's way.

Born in the city of Lappeenranta, a lakeside town in southeast Finland, he began his musical studies at the age of nine at the local music institute with classical guitar and piano.

After finishing high school in 2008, Hirvonen began his studies at the prestigious jazz department of Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, where he got to study with Tim Hagans, Raoul Björkenheim and Teemu Viinikainen. He finished his Bachelor's degree in June 2011.

In August 2011 he relocated to New York City to pursue his Master's degree at the Manhattan School of Music, where he had a chance to study with such jazz luminaries as Rodney Jones, Dave Liebman, Jim McNeely, John Riley and Phil Markowitz. His curriculum there also included composing classical and electro-acoustic music. He graduated in the spring of 2013 with excellent grades.

Hirvonen has been performing with his own ensembles all around the world since 2008. These performances include festivals in Finland and abroad, including the main stage of Pori Jazz, the most famous jazz festival of Finland, Kennedy Center Nordic Cool 2013 Festival, UCLA European Jazz Festival, Sounds NEW Contemporary Music festival in UK and Tudengijazz in Estonia, and numerous clubs in New York and around, such as Cornelia St. Cafe, Bar Next Door, Bitter End, Stone Pony, Rockwood Music Hall and Caffè Vivaldi.

Hirvonen was nominated as the Artist of the Year of the Pori Jazz 2011 festival, which is one of the highest and the most visible recognitions in the Finnish jazz scene. Included in the award, his trio also worked as the house band for the 2011 festival.

The other ensembles he has been performing with are the international sextet Life Size, the trio Ohne, a winner of the Finnish Young Nordic Jazz Comets competition of 2010, and the big bands Umo Jazz Orchestra and The Great Helsinki Swing Big Band.



Photos and text:

Olli Hirvonen website, [www.ollihirvonen.com](http://www.ollihirvonen.com)

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Jean Sibelius

Few Finns are more known internationally than composer Jean Sibelius. 2015 marks the 150th anniversary of Sibelius' birth, which will be observed in a number of ways throughout the year.

Born on December 8th, 1865, in Hämeenlinna, Sibelius grew up in the wake of the Romantic Nationalism movement that dominated the 19th century. Throughout Europe, composers, artists, writers, poets, and scholars indulged their creativity and produced works based on their local and national heritage. Sibelius was no exception. At fifteen he devoted himself to becoming a violin virtuoso. By the time he graduated from high school, Sibelius chose to forego a law career in favor of life as a full-time composer and musician.

Sibelius' musical proclivities took him throughout Europe and even to America. He studied in Vienna and Berlin, and spent time in other Nordic countries as well as in the UK, France, and Germany. He appeared in America in 1914, having been named composer of the year at the Norfolk Music Festival.

Throughout his life, Sibelius was a prolific and versatile composer. He authored seven symphonies and a number of other works up through the 1920s. One of his most famous is the symphonic tone poem "Finlandia." Many of his other pieces, such as The Swan of Tuonela and the Karelia Suite, drew on themes from Finnish mythology and folklore. Sibelius also found inspiration in the natural world. Though he composed no large scale works for the last 30 years of his life, Sibelius continued writing, even making efforts to compose an eighth symphony. His influence continues to live on in contemporary Finnish music.

After Sibelius' death, Finns continue to celebrate Sibelius' legacy by observing his birthday as a flag day and as a day of Finnish Music. This year, Finnish cultural institutions worldwide will pull out all the stops to commemorate his 150th anniversary. In addition to countless concerts and performances, musicians playing a broad range of instruments will compete in numerous competitions. This includes an international composition competition for the first time ever.

2015 will see a number of publications as well. The Sibelius Birth Town Foundation and Karisto, in partnership with the Finnish Ministry of Education, will publish a collection of essays entitled My Sibelius, which will appear in Finnish, Swedish, English, and German. The Sibelius Society of Finland will be putting out a new critical edition of Sibelius' works.

Members of the Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter can look forward to Sibelius-related festivities in their own area. On May 17th, the Capital City Symphony will be performing his work in a special anniversary celebration. Strathmore Music Center in Bethesda will host the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra as they perform Sibelius' Seventh Symphony on June 6th. We advise our members to pay attention to our website and e-mail updates as more events are added to the calendar.

For complete information on Sibelius' 150th Anniversary Celebrations written in English, please refer to <http://sibelius150.org>.



Text: Erika Carlson Photo: Wikipedia

## The Finnish Expatriate Parliament meeting in May

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament (FEP) -- a forum that allows Finns living abroad to collectively decide on issues that they deem important -- is holding a meeting in early May. On behalf of FFNCC, Marja Snyder is going to introduce a motion to make the process of holding dual citizenship easier. You can find out more about the organization at: [www.usp.fi](http://www.usp.fi)



**FINNISH EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT**  
ULKOSUOMALAISPARLAMENTTI - UTLANDSFINLÄNDARPARLAMENTET

### An initiative from FFNCC for the Finnish Expatriate Parliament

The day the Finnish citizenship law changed, on June 1, 2003, to allow “dual nationality” (citizenship) was one of joy and cause for celebrations for many of us. At last we could move from being green card holders to full U.S. citizenship. And no more would we lose our Finnish citizenship in the process.

What had not been made widely known to us newly “dual citizens” is that each of us must inform the Finnish Population Registry (Väestörekisteri ) about acquiring that second citizenship. This is done after the fact, and it is mandatory. The guidelines for registering do not sound all that bad, but the picture changes when one attempts to get it done. That is when it becomes clear that the current guidelines found online, at the Registry’s site, not only differ from those which Finnish consular staff provide, but that they are incredibly tangled and complicated.

To change the situation, I began to think about the Finnish Expatriate Parliament (FEP). It was the activism primarily of this organization that got the Finnish Nationality law changed in 2003. I had been FFNCC’s representative to the FEP for several years and also a deputy speaker for the U.S. and Latin America for some more – when reforming the Nationality law was THE issue.

To advocate in Finland on behalf of its member organizations, the FEP solicits initiatives from them. It seems to me that pushing for a change to simplify and streamline the process of registering one’s new citizenship with the Finnish Population Registry is a worthwhile cause and thus makes for a solid initiative.

Therefore, the Board of FFNCC has sent an Initiative to the FEP about this matter. The recommendations of the initiative (it is too long to attach it here in its entirety) are:

- 1) That Finnish Consulates receive authority to verify, on behalf of the Finnish Population Registry, original U.S. Naturalization Certificates and to inform the Registry of the fact.
- 2) That U.S. Naturalization Certificates need not be translated into Finnish.
- 3) That, if needed and after consular verification of an original, a Finnish citizen may mail to the Population Registry a copy of it bearing a consular stamp.

Only the Population Registry can reform the process, but it should benefit them to hear from us about the current problems.

Marja Oksajärvi Snyder, [marjanposti@hotmail.com](mailto:marjanposti@hotmail.com)

## The Tapiola Chamber Choir

The Tapiola Chamber Choir will be coming to the East Coast in June 18-29 as part of the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Jean Sibelius. FFN is bringing them to perform concerts in New York City, Philadelphia, Wilmington and the DC area.

The choir is scheduled to perform at the International Serenade Choir Festival [Classical Movements, Inc. - Serenade! Washington, DC Choral Festival](#) on June 25, 26 and 27, and at the Millenium Stage at the Kennedy Center on June 28.

It would be a HUGE help if we could find housing in private homes in the DC area between June 25 and June 28 for at least some of the 30 choir members. Would you be able to provide accommodations for all or part of their stay in DC? If so, please contact pianist Marja Kaisla: [mjkaisla@yahoo.com](mailto:mjkaisla@yahoo.com).



## The Finnish-American Chamber of Commerce, Inc. – Washington (FACC-W)

**FACC-W is looking for someone to fill the Membership and Events Coordinator (MEC) position.**

It is a contractor position that would involve about eight hours of work per month, although it can vary. The primary point of contact and supervisor related to the duties is the Chairperson/President of FACC-W.

*Responsibilities include:*

- Membership communication and information, including annual dues management
- Event/luncheon organization including catering arrangements, receiving guests, etc.
- Managing event invitations, including invoicing
- Management and maintenance of relevant membership and other databases
- Website management

*Requirements and qualifications:*

- Experience with organizing events
- Customer service orientation
- Desire to promote Finnish-American cooperation; interest in working on enhancing Finnish-American business relations
- Home office computer with up-to-date Microsoft Office software
- Familiarity with contact marketing software and Paypal payment system are a plus

*For more Information: Please contact Kimmo Kartano at: (202) 549-4448 or [Kimmo\\_Kartano@hotmail.com](mailto:Kimmo_Kartano@hotmail.com)*



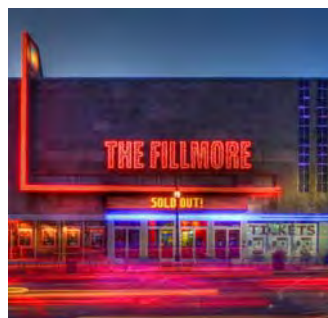
**National City Christian Church,  
Washington, DC**



**Resurrection Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
6201 Washington BLVD,  
Arlington, VA**



**Embassy of Finland  
3301 Massachusetts Avenue,  
NW, Washington, DC**



**The Fillmore,  
Silver Spring, MD**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30 pm

**The Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir sings Sibelius**  
National City Christian Church, Washington, DC

Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm

**Kalevala Celebration with Jazz Guitarist Olli Hirvonen**  
Embassy of Finland, Washington, DC

Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, details TBA

**American Scandinavian Association Sibelius Program**  
Chevy Chase, MD

Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 5 pm

### **Movie Night**

Resurrection Lutheran Church  
6201 Washington Boulevard, Arlington, VA

Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 8 pm

### **Apocalyptica**

The Fillmore, Silver Spring, MD

Thursday - Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>

**NSO and Leonidas Kavakos, violin: Sibelius' Violin Concerto**  
The Kennedy Center, Washington, DC

Thursday - Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>

**NSO and Leonidas Kavakos, conductor and violin:  
Sibelius' Pelléas and Mélisande**

The Kennedy Center, Washington, DC

Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm

### **Nightwish**

The Fillmore, Silver Spring, MD

Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 5 pm

### **Sibelius 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Capital City Symphony,  
The Atlas Performing Arts Center, Washington, DC

Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12 noon

**Summer Picnic and Annual Meeting with Baltimore Chapter**  
Private Beach, Annapolis, MD

Thursday - Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>

### **Tapiola Chamber Music Choir**

Choral Festival, Washington, DC

Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>

### **Tapiola Chamber Music Choir**

The Millenium Stage,  
The Kennedy Center, Washington, DC

## Thank you for becoming a Life Member and Welcome New Members!

### ❖ Life Member Dale Milton

- ❖ Geraldine Fagan and Rick Fitzgerald
- ❖ Jan Pakonen Foley and Richard Foley
- ❖ Olivia Roca and Juho Honkasilta
  - ❖ Hanna and Steve Lin
  - ❖ Sari and Brent Mott
  - ❖ Jukka-Pekka Strand
  - ❖ Laura Tilus-Korhonen
- ❖ Kayla Lahti and Alex Wellman

**The Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter is open to anyone who is interested in the Finnish Culture in the Greater Washington, D.C area.**

Single Membership: \$20 for individual members

Family Membership: \$25 for family members living in the same household

Student Membership: \$15 for any person who is enrolled in an educational institution

**Lifetime Membership: for any person who would like to become a Lifetime member, the dues are fifteen times the family membership fee**

Visit: [www.finlandiadc.org](http://www.finlandiadc.org) / Membership



**Finlandia  
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Inspiring, celebrating and connecting the Finnish-American community since 1953.

Sign up for the free, monthly E-News for the latest from our parent organization Finlandia Foundation National:

[www.finlandiafoundation.org](http://www.finlandiafoundation.org)

### Useful links:

- Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter - [www.finlandiadc.org](http://www.finlandiadc.org)
- Finlandia Foundation National - [www.finlandiafoundation.org](http://www.finlandiafoundation.org)
- Finnish Children's School - [www.suomikouludc.org](http://www.suomikouludc.org)
- Finnish Language School Association, USA - [www.finnschool.org](http://www.finnschool.org)
- Finn Spark, Inc (Kipinä-Kerho) - <http://finnspark.homestead.com>
- Finnish Lutheran Congregation - [www.finnchurch.org](http://www.finnchurch.org)
- Embassy of Finland, Washington, DC - [www.finland.org/Public/Default.aspx](http://www.finland.org/Public/Default.aspx)
- American Scandinavian Association - <http://scandinavian-dc.org/>

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