

Since 1999, Finlandia University and the Sibelius Music Academy have collaborated to bring a taste of Finland's musical excellence to Michigan's Upper Peninsula and the Midwest. This annual international event promotes the enjoyment and appreciation of contemporary and traditional Finnish classical music, and strengthens Finnish-American ties with modern Finland. More than 50 Sibelius students have performed as part of this festival.

The Sibelius Academy

Music and performing arts education, from pre-school to post-graduate, is an integral part of Finland's exceptional public education system. For the most accomplished student-musicians in Finland (and for musicians around the world) the Sibelius Academy is the destination for the best and brightest. The prestigious Sibelius Academy, founded in 1882 and named for Finnish composer Jean Sibelius, is one of the largest and most successful music academies in Europe. The Academy has trained renowned musicians such as Osmo Vänskä, Music Director for the Minnesota Orchestra; Jukka-Pekka Saraste, previous conductor of the Toronto Symphony orchestra; and Esa-Pekka Salonen, conductor for the Los Angeles Philharmonic.



Finlandia University

Finlandia University, founded in 1896 as Suomi College, is the only private university in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and one of 28 colleges and universities affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is the only university in North America founded by Finnish immigrants. Located in the beautiful, rugged Upper Peninsula town of Hancock, Michigan, Finlandia University is a learning community dedicated to academic excellence, spiritual growth and service. It offers baccalaureate and associate degrees in the disciplines of liberal studies, business, fine art and design, and health sciences.

Finnish-Americans

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, of the 623,573 people of Finnish ancestry in the U.S., 38% (238,786) live in the three-state region of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Michigan has the largest Finnish population in the nation with 17% (101,351) of all citizens claiming Finnish ancestry. Over 45% (46,000) of these people reside in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and 82% (38,000) of these live in Finlandia University's six-county primary service area. This represents the single largest concentration of Finnish Americans in North America.

Links to Additional Information

Finlandia University: <http://www.finlandia.edu/>

Sibelius Music Academy: <http://www.siba.fi/eng/>

