



2007 Sibelius Festival performer pianist Tuomas Kyyhkynen

New Directions

10th Annual Sibelius Academy Music Festival

*Tuesday, July 29 to
Saturday, August 2, 2008*

The Bridge readers are cordially invited to the 10th Annual Sibelius Academy Music Festival Tuesday, July 28, through Saturday, August 1, 2008. A variety of concerts and other events will take place at Finlandia University and community venues, including the Finnish American Heritage Center, at least one John Haro-designed church, and a Copper Country art gallery.

“At their annual meeting in July 2007, members of the Finnish Council in America (FCA) were asked by new Finlandia president Philip Johnson to become involved in curating the annual classical music festival,” says FCA

member Karen Reynolds. “A task force is working on the project together with Finlandia University staff and faculty and its music department, and the Sibelius Academy.” The FCA members who volunteered to serve on the Sibelius Festival Task Force are Reed Harris, Susan Kenny, Karen (Hill) Reynolds, and Roger Reynolds.

“This year’s Sibelius Festival is taking a new direction,” notes Karen Reynolds. “The task force is planning a varied and innovative menu of events. In addition to the superlative annual concerts enjoyed by many in the area, the 2008 festival will give students and the community multiple opportunities to become personally acquainted with the young Finnish musicians.”

Preliminary festival plans include a series of seminars, informal gatherings, three major concerts, opportunities for discussion, community events, and mini-concerts at smaller venues.

When Susan Kenny noticed an advertisement for a 2000 Sibelius Festival concert, she felt enough of a kinship with the music and her Finnish roots to invite the musicians to her home for dinner. This is how she met former Finlandia president Bob Ubbelohde and joined the FCA. “When volunteers were needed to continue the Sibelius concert tradition, I instinctively raised my hand,” Kenny says. Kenny is a financial consultant with AG Edwards. She has played the flute professionally and sings alto in the Sheboygan Symphony Chorus. Her father grew up in the Copper Country.

Reed Harris was also introduced to the Finnish Council by Bob Ubbelohde. Harris works for KUD International LLC, a program management and development firm in Santa Monica, Calif., where he is a project analyst and assistant to the president. Harris has Finnish roots and family in the western Upper Peninsula town of Wakefield.

Third generation Finnish American Karen (Hill) Reynolds grew up playing shuffleboard at Suomi College before she took music theory classes from her father, Suomi College Music Director Arthur J. Hill, who led the college’s flagship choir from 1946 to 1967. Karen is a professional musician. She joined the FCA in 1999.

Roger Reynolds is a Pulitzer prize-winning composer whose work often employs the most current computer technology. He recently premiered his composition *Sanctuary* (for percussion quartet with real-time computer processing, spatialized sound, and sonic color lighting) at I.M. Pei’s East Wing Atrium of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Reynolds’s *ILLUSION* was premiered in 2006 by Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Los Angeles Philharmonic New Music Group.

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