

FINNISH CULTURE EVENTS

SPRING 2013



CLAIRE AHO
19 April – 21 July, London

The Photographers' Gallery presents **Claire Aho: Studio Works**, the first solo international showcase of Aho's photographs, a pioneer of Finnish colour photography and a key cultural figure in her homeland. This exhibition will focus on Aho's 1950-70 studio based works, displaying images from the world of advertising, editorial and fashion, alongside original Finnish lifestyle magazines featuring her cover pictures.

Brightly coloured, formally inventive and full of wit, Claire Aho's photographs capture a distinctive era in Finland's history while maintaining contemporary vitality and relevance.

Claire Aho started her career as a documentary filmmaker before eventually setting up her own commercial studio in the 1950s – a formative time in Finnish design. Whether capturing her models in amusing poses or meticulously composing still life scenes, Aho's cutting edge approach to image making was a reflection of the bold and lively atmosphere prevalent in the creative sector in Helsinki at

the time. Her prolific, quality output across a broad range of industries created a demand for her services among leading commercial brands and publications, making her one of the most prominent photographers of the period.

While running her own studio Aho remained in complete control of the space, commanding every stage of the production from casting, styling and construction of sets to liaising with designers, manufacturers, magazines and advertising agencies. This exhibition will look at Aho's inventive working methods and practices within the studio environment as well as her relationship to the models, objects, forms and patterns depicted. Photographs will be hung in loosely themed groups complemented by vintage publications, placing them in the broader context of how they were disseminated and used. Occasional glimpses in the pictures of the machinations of the studio – lighting gear, colour charts, the casual artist portrait – will further enhance the photograph's journey from initial conception to its various commercial applications.



FIVE QUESTIONS WITH MR LORDI

Q: What is the one thing you would most like to change about the world and why?

A: Everyone should see the world like I see it, so it would feel like there are fewer idiots around. That would also be the complete end of hip hop and a new rise of 80's hair metal.

Q: Have you got any lucky underwear?

A: My underwear doesn't feel that lucky, I can assure you. They are working in inhumanly harsh conditions.

Q: What is your favourite excuse to get out of doing something unpleasant?

A: I'm yet to find that out. I have to do a lot of unpleasant things all the time.

Q: What is your ultimate comfort food?

A: Chocolate. Yep, I call it food.

Q: When you were a child, what did you want to grow up to be?

A: Spiderman. But I grew up fat.



OTTO TOLONEN
23 May, London

Otto Tolonen is one of the most successful Finnish classical guitarists. Born in 1980, he has studied music since he was five. He first studied guitar with Andrzej Wilkus at the Espoo Music Institute. He continued his music studies at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki as a student of Timo Korhonen and Jukka Savijoki and got his soloist diploma from the Sibelius Academy with the maximum points in 2005 and received his master's degree in 2008. He has also studied in Weimar, Germany, at Hochschule für Musik "Franz Liszt" with Thomas Müller-Pering and four summers with legendary Oscar Ghiglia at "Accademia Musicale Chigiana" in Siena, Italy. During the years 1995-2009 he won prizes and awards in 20 international competitions from Tokyo to San Francisco and from Australia's New Castle to Finland's Jyväskylä. His latest achievements include the first prizes in the Anders Segovia Competition in Spain and in the Markneukirchen instrumental competition in Germany.

His repertoire spans from the renaissance vihuela and lute works to contemporary music.



CLAIRE AHO
19.4-21.5

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FINNISH CULTURE EVENTS

16 March – 1 April
MIKKO HELENIUS AND MARTIN ALVARADO

Various venues
Argentina's finest and most significant tango vocalist, Martín Alvarado, returns to the UK in March as part of his 24th international tour. Joining him on the 17-day UK tour will be an outstanding pianist and bandoneonista from Finland, Mikko Helenius, with whom Martin is recording his next album. Helenius is a classically trained pianist from Helsinki and studied bandoneon from some of the instrument's Argentine maestros in Paris. The button accordion, which is central to the tango sound, is renowned for being an extremely difficult instrument to play. Helenius is thought to be unique in the world for having mastered the ability to play both the piano and bandoneon simultaneously.
www.musicglue.com/ltangopromotions

21 March – 28 March
FORK – ELECTROVOCAL CIRCUS

Various venues
FORK is one of Scandinavia's most popular a cappella groups and has an unparalleled way of taking crowds of all ages, sexes and music tastes by a storm. FORK is mainly known for magnificent shows which fearlessly combine the various forms of stage art; music, stand-up, theatre, dance and light show that all add up to a humorous, yet elegant show experience. The group also throws in a good dose of love

and self-irony – leaving it up to the audience to find where the line between love and irony goes, and who's laughing at who... Every sound heard by the audience – from pristine vocals to rock guitar riffs and powerful bass lines – is produced live on stage; there are no backing tapes or hidden singers! And the whole package is wrapped up in a glamorous presentation, delivered with FORK'S trademark wit and humour.

www.fork.fi/en/fork

21 March
**ESA-PEKKA SALONEN CONDUCTS THE
PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, London SE1
Salonen conducts the final concert in the Lutoslawski series which includes his *Symphony No.4*, alongside works by Ravel. The concert also features soloists Jennifer Koh and Matthias Goerne. The meticulously fashioned soundscapes of Ravel form the perfect musical backdrop to this final tribute to Lutoslawski in his centenary year. *Les espaces du sommeil* ('*The Spaces of Sleep*') is a mesmerising setting of a poem by French surrealist Robert Desnos in which Lutoslawski imagined 'the singer is telling us about his dreams,' while *Chain 2* continues to explore the element of chance that had been an important part of Lutoslawski's music since the 1960s. Esa-Pekka Salonen conducted the premiere recording of the *Fourth Symphony*, the crowning achievement of the composer's distinguished career, just three months before the composer passed away.

6pm Royal Festival Hall:
Pre-concert recital with Esa-Pekka Salonen featuring Polish contemporary music. Free
T 020 7960 4200
www.southbankcentre.co.uk

5 April – 7 April
VON HERTZEN BROTHERS

Various venues
True to their name, the Von Herten Brothers are bonded by blood and this brotherly connection really shines through in the music. It's rare for a progressive and challenging rock album to top the national charts but Von Herten Brothers did it three times – with their 2nd album, *Approach*, with their 3rd, *Love Remains The Same*, and again with their 4th album, 2011's *Stars Aligned*. All three albums have been certified gold in their native Finland. On stage their passionate and huge-sounding music seems to take on another dimension and they're quickly becoming renowned for their wild and energetic live performances. These "mad brothers of rock" sound like Foo Fighters playing Pink Floyd's greatest hits after spending years in India singing Beach Boys.
5.4 Assembly Rooms, London
6.4 Bogiez, Cardiff
7.4 Hard Rock Hell Prog Festival, Rotherham
www.vonherzenbrothers.com

6 April
**VERNERI POHJOLA AT SAGE GATESHEAD
INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL**

The Jazz Lounge, Northern Rock Foundation Hall
4pm
Young Finnish trumpeter Verner Pohjola achieved international acclaim and a five star *Guardian* review with last year's *Aurora* album. The band made a big impression at the 2012 London Jazz Festival, and features Aki Rissanen on piano, Antti Lotjonen on double bass and Joonas Riippa on drums. The band's appearance is supported by Music Finland, ESEK, Arts Council Finland and the Embassy of Finland.

10.30pm

A tribute to the music of AC/DC: Hard rock becomes late night chamber jazz. Award winning German jazz pianist and vocalist Jens Thomas (with Verner Pohjola) has always done the unexpected, such as reinterpretations of film composer Ennio Morricone and North East hero Sting. On this 2012 album on *ACT*, he pays tribute to the heavy metal band AC/DC with a whole new approach to their rock anthems such as *The Jack*, *Highway to Hell*, *Touch Too Much* and *You Shook Me All Night Long*, joined by the superb Finnish trumpeter Verner Pohjola who also appears with his quartet as part of Jazz from the North.

www.thesagegateshead.org

7 April
**ODDARRANG AT GATESHEAD INTERNATIONAL
JAZZ FESTIVAL**

The Jazz Lounge, Northern Rock Foundation
Founded by drummer and composer Olavi Louhivuori, Finnish band Oddarrang delivers a genre-defying musical experience; with influences from jazz, world music and postmodern rock. The group's music has been compared to the cool but moving expression of Icelanders such as Björk and Sigur Rós. The unusual instrumentation of trombone, cello, guitar, acoustic bass and drums, creates an extraordinary, absorbing sonic landscape.

www.thesagegateshead.org

9 April – 24 April
JOHANNA JUHOLA REAKTORI

Various venues
Johanna Juhola is, along with Kimmo Pohjonen and Maria Kalaniemi, one of the great innovators of accordion music. Disruptions are contrasted to beauty, storm to calm, childhood to aging and cheerfulness to pomposity. Unforgettable and impossibly beautiful (Tero Salonen).

www.johannajuhola.net

19 April – 21 July
CLAIRE AHO

Photographers' Gallery (Wolfson Gallery, 2nd floor)
16-18 Ramillies Street, London W1F
See over for more details.
T 0845 262 1618
www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk

26 April
HIM

Dingwalls, Camden Lock, London NW1
Ville Valo brings his love metal to London as HIM promote their eight studio album *Tears on Tape* with a one off gig in Camden.
www.dingwalls.com

4 May
THE IDEALIST

Brighton Fringe Festival
A new play by RADA-educated Finnish actor and dramatist Maria Kivinen and her performance group Odd Stumble. Based on true events, the Idealist is an absurd look at the distortion caused by dictatorship, oppression, misunderstanding, and the truth behind dolphins. Set in 1917 Russia, Antti Penttinen sets off for the big city to pursue his dream of enhancing the communist regime through the use of song. Antti is soon confronted with the reality of a society rift with distrust and struggles with his naive idealism in a world that seems to be sinking into darkness. More dates to be announced.
www.oddstumble.org

8 May – 12 May
LORDI: TO BEAST OR NOT TOUR BEAST –TOUR

Various venues
With their operatic heavy metal and monster-movie stage persona, Lordi seemed a most unlikely choice to represent their native Finland in the 2006 Eurovision Song Contest. So just imagine how many jaws hit the floor when the group not only claimed top honors, but also earned the most points in the venerable event's history. Vocalist Tomi Petteri Putaansuu, aka Mr. Lordi, assembled Lordi in 1996 in Stockholm, Sweden, following a concert headlined by his favorite band, Kiss.
www.lordi.fi

12 May
**A SCREAM AND AN OUTRAGE FEATURING
PEKKA KUUSISTO**

Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2
Philip Glass and Nico Muhly perform some of *Glass's Etudes for Piano*, whilst artists including Nico Muhly, Shara Worden (My Brightest Diamond) and violinist Pekka Kuusisto present David Lang's death speaks, a work created from 32 extracts of Schubert songs, each of which details Death speaking to the living.
T 020 7638 8891
www.barbican.org.uk/music

16 May
**ESA-PEKKA SALONEN CONDUCTS THE
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA**

Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, London SE1
Esa-Pekka Salonen conducts an all-Shostakovich programme including a concert performance of his unfinished satirical opera *Orango* recently orchestrated by composer Gerard McBurney. The satirical opera *Orango* was sketched out while Shostakovich was writing *Lady Macbeth* of the Mtsensk District. He and his librettists conceived 'a political lampoon against the bourgeois press' involving a human-ape hybrid, but when the librettists failed to deliver their script in time for the planned 15th anniversary of the Revolution, the whole thing was dropped.
www.southbankcentre.co.uk

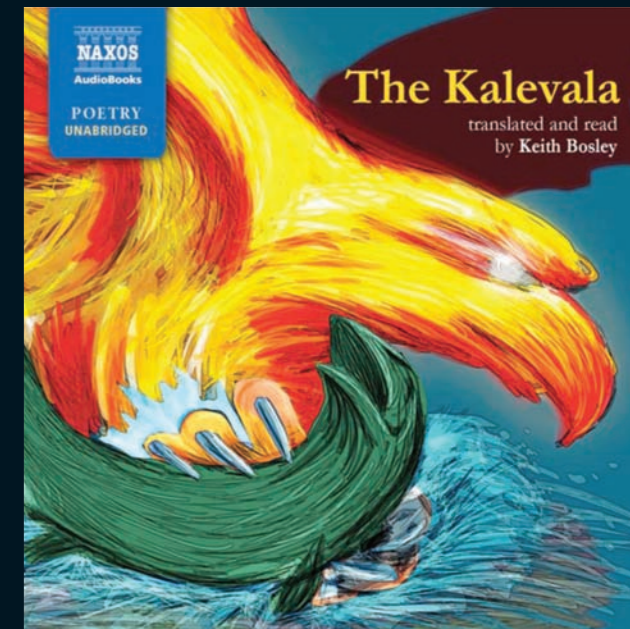
23 May
OTTO TOLONEN

Purcell Room, Southbank Centre, London SE1
See over for more details.
This is a special concert dedicated to LACCS's 30th Anniversary, with music by Heitor Villa-Lobos, Leo Brouwer, Benjamin Britten, John Dowland, Adam Vilagi and Hans Werner Henze. A mixture of baroque, modern and Latin guitar music of all times.
www.southbankcentre.co.uk

30 May
**ESA-PEKKA SALONEN CONDUCTS THE
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA**

Salonen marks the centenary of one of the most famous premieres in musical history – Stravinsky's primitivist ballet *The Rite of Spring*. Showered throughout by a torrential hail of farmyard noises from the gallery, the whole thing ended in uproar with the young conductor, Pierre Monteux, and his musicians fleeing for their lives. Puccini, who was in the Paris audience that night, described it as 'the creation of a madman.' Yet Stravinsky claimed that he was merely 'the vessel through which the Rite passed.' Opening the concert is Debussy's no less groundbreaking *Prelude à l'après-midi d'un faune*. 'From that moment,' wrote Pierre Boulez, 'music began to beat with a new pulse'. Programme: Claude Debussy's *Prelude à l'après-midi d'un faune*, Edgard Varèse's *Amérique* and Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. Esa-Pekka Salonen conducts, with Philharmonia Orchestra.

6pm Royal Festival Hall:
Pre-concert talk with Esa-Pekka Salonen. Free.
www.southbankcentre.co.uk



THE KALEVALA AUDIOBOOK

A compelling insight into the myths and folklore of Finland, *The Kalevala* is often compared to such epic poems as Homer's *Odyssey*. Drawing from oral storytelling traditions, Elias Lönnrot made this collection in the 19th century, and it helped to cement Finnish identity in the turmoil of the 20th century.

The Kalevala, translated and read by Keith Bosley, is now available as a digital download from Naxos AudioBooks at £27.00 and as a collection of 12 CDs from Amazon.co.uk for RRP \$42.00