



Press release
Kotka / Kouvola, Finland
November 11, 2014

FINALISTS ALREADY IN FINLAND!

The finalists in the III International Uno Klami Composition Competition – German **Alexander Muno**, Finnish-Romanian **Teodor Nicolau**, German **Axel Ruoff**, Italian **Luca Vago** and Finnish **Sauli Zinovjev** – have all arrived in Finland for the competition's grand finale. Together with the audience, they will be tensely awaiting the results of the fantastic finals concerts of one of the world's most attractive composition competitions, as the **Kymi Sinfonietta** conducted by **Yasuo Shinozaki** gives their works their world premiere performance. The finals concerts will be held at the **Kuusankoski Hall in Kouvola at 7 pm on Thursday November 13** and the **Kotka Concert Hall at 7 pm on Friday November 14**.

In addition to attending the two exciting concerts, the finalists will be present at the orchestral rehearsals of their works in Kotka and Kouvola. They will thus have a chance to hone details of their works with the orchestra and soloists. The soloists are singers who have created an impressive international career and worked with numerous top orchestras and contemporary composers: coloratura soprano **Piia Komsu** and charming baritone **Gabriel Suovanen**, winner of many prestigious singing competitions, such as the Timo Mustakallio.

Also present at the rehearsals will be the competition jury: **Kalevi Aho**, **Magnus Lindberg**, **Erkki-Sven Tüür** and **Yasuo Shinozaki**. The thing that makes this competition unique is that the members of the jury hear the finals works at two concerts and their rehearsals before selecting the winner. The jury's final decision is therefore also based on the impression made by the live performances, and this is extremely rare in composition competitions. The jury has already been hard at work before the finals, since this competition, open to composers from all over Europe, received no fewer than **265 entries from 37 countries**.

The works chosen for the finals differ greatly in style, ensuring very varied and unforgettable concerts. Alexander Muno's *Martialis Epigrammata* for baritone and orchestra resurrects ancient Roman texts in an interesting way. Teodor Nicolau's tone poem *Mioritic Roots* is a musically expressive tribute to its composer's Romanian roots. The *Sinfonietta* by Axel Ruoff is a fresh combination of musical elements old and new, while Luca Vago has set to music eight poems by the Spanish poet Federico García Lorca in his *Suite de los espejos* for soprano and orchestra. Sauli Zinovjev expresses his views on the power of music in a work called *Gryf*.

Audiences will have a chance to meet the finalists before the finals concerts: in the Hirvelä upstairs room at the Kuusankoski Hall from 5.30 pm on Thursday November 13 and in the Kokous Seiska room at the Kotka Concert Hall (Kotkankatu 7) from 5.30 pm on Friday November 14. Interviewing the finalists on both occasions and presenting both the finals concerts will be **Jussi-Pekka Rantanen**, news presenter and reporter at the Finnish Broadcasting Company (Yle).

Further info:

The International Uno Klami Composition Competition Patrons' Association
Executive Director Reetaliina Marin, tel. +358 50 324 0058, fax +358 5 234 4708

reetaliina.malin@kymisinfonietta.fi

www.klamicompetition.fi