

Den estniska elangen

24.01.2026 18.00

Kungasalen

Program

The Estonian Sound / Den estniska klangen

The program reflects the diversity of today's Estonian music, presenting contrasting sound worlds and aesthetic approaches. Erik Rauk's music unfolds in a dense, almost maximalist texture, while Arvo Pärt's tintinnabuli style represents the opposite pole: clarity, stillness, and spiritual concentration. Together, they reveal the breadth and vitality of the contemporary Estonian sound.

Ardo Ran Varres (1974) – Concentra (2014/2025)

Erik Rauk (2003) – And the Wind Blows (*världspremiär*)

Erik Rauk – Reflection (*världspremiär*)

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Arvo Pärt (1935) – Symphony No. 4 "Los Angeles" (2008)

Elbe Reiter, violinsoloist

Lisanna Laansalu, dirigent

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Ardo Ran Varres – Concentra

Inspired by the concentric patterns of semi-precious stones such as agate and malachite, Concentra explores how form emerges through slow natural processes. Musical material spreads and gathers around multiple centres, creating waves, layers, and evolving textures over time.

Ardo Ran Varres (1974) is an Estonian actor and composer. He studied clarinet at the Tallinn Music High School and graduated from the Drama School of the Estonian Academy of Music under Kalju Komissarov. In 2011, he completed a Master's degree in composition at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, studying with Helena Tulve.

Varres has worked as an actor at Rakvere Theatre and the Estonian Drama Theatre and later as music director at the Drama Theatre. He has composed music for numerous stage productions, films, and radio works, and his theatre music has been released on several albums.



Erik Rauk – And the Wind Blows (*världspremiär*)

I wanted to create a piece that tells a story using only emotions — to paint through sound rather than through words. While working on the concerto, our friendship became an important source of inspiration, and in a way the music also tells our shared story.

The violin has always been close to me, as I have played it for many years, and writing a concerto for this instrument felt natural. Scoring the work for violin, string orchestra, and piano was both a challenge and a special opportunity, allowing the instruments to blend into a single sound world.

Erik Rauk (2003) is an Estonian composer currently studying at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre under Prof. René Eespere and Tõnu Kõrvits. He previously studied violin at the Tallinn Music High School with Niina Murdvee while developing his compositional work alongside his instrumental studies.

Rauk is a multiple laureate of the Estonian Composers' Union competition *Young Composer* and received its highest distinction in 2022. His music has been performed in major Estonian concert venues, including Estonia Concert Hall and the Arvo Pärt Centre, and he has participated in masterclasses with Frédéric Durieux at the Paris Conservatoire.



Arvo Pärt – Symphony No. 4 “Los Angeles” (2008)

Symphony No. 4 title refers both to the theme of the Guardian Angel and to the city of Los Angeles, whose name translates as “The Angels.”

Although purely instrumental, the symphony closely follows the textual structure of the Orthodox Canon to the Guardian Angel in Church Slavonic. Elements of prayer, praise, and supplication shape the musical form of each movement. The work unfolds in a restrained tintinnabuli texture, with recurring motifs symbolising prayer and spiritual guidance. A descending scale heard throughout the symphony gradually turns upward at the end, suggesting transformation and protection. A violin solo in the final movement, marked *con intimo sentimento*, emerges as a deeply personal prayer to the Guardian Angel.

Symphony No. 4 is based on the Canon to the Holy Guardian Angel from the Orthodox prayer tradition. The original text of the canon is in Church Slavonic / Russian; the text below is presented in English translation.

Canon to the Holy Guardian Angel

I

O Angel of God, my holy Guardian, keep my life in the fear of Christ God,
strengthen my mind in the true way and wound my soul with heavenly love,
so that guided by thee, I may obtain the great mercy of Christ God.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

O holy Lady, Mother of our God,
with my Guardian Angel always pray His kindness
to save my soul, bound by passions,
and grant me remission of sins.

Prayer to the Holy Guardian Angel

II

Holy Angel, my Guardian, pray for me.

Holy Angel of Christ, I fall down and pray to thee,
my holy Guardian, given to me in holy Baptism
for the protection of my sinful body and soul.

Holy Angel, my Guardian, pray for me.

By my laziness and bad habits I have angered thy pure light
and driven thee away by my shameful deeds:
lies, envy, condemnation, pride, anger, greed,
and evil thoughts.

Holy Angel, my Guardian, pray for me.

III

But I fall down and pray, O my holy Guardian:
pity me, thy sinful and unworthy servant.
Be my helper and protector against my wicked enemy,
and by thy holy prayers make me a partaker of the Kingdom of God
with all the Saints, always, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

Arvo Pärt (1935) is one of those composers in the world, whose creative output has significantly changed the way we understand the nature of music. In 1976, he created a unique musical language called *tintinnabuli*, that has reached a vast audience of various listeners and that has defined his work right up to today. There is no compositional school that follows Pärt, nor does he teach, nevertheless, a large part of the contemporary music has been influenced by his *tintinnabuli* compositions (Arvo Pärt Center 2026).

Elbe Reiter (2003) is an Estonian violinist who graduated from the Tallinn Music High School in 2022, studying with Kristina Kriit and Mari Tampere-Bezrodny. She continues her studies at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre with the same teachers and is currently studying at the Lübeck Academy of Music through the Erasmus+ programme.

Reiter has performed as a soloist with the Tallinn Music High School and Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre Symphony Orchestras. She is a laureate of the ESTA

Estonian Young String Players Competition and won third prize at the *Baltic Strings 2022* competition in Vilnius. She has participated in masterclasses with Florian Donderer, Evan Rothstein, Michael Foyle, Elisabeth Kufferath, Nicolas Dautricourt, Alissa Margulis, among others.

Lisanna Laansalu (2003) is an Estonian conductor currently pursuing a Master's degree in Orchestral Conducting at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm (KMH), where she studies with B. Tommy Andersson. She completed her Bachelor's degree in Choral Conducting *cum laude* at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre.

She has worked with a wide range of orchestral and choral ensembles in Estonia and Sweden, including the Põhjakõla Orchestra, which she co-founded with a focus on contemporary Estonian repertoire. Her work includes performances and premieres of orchestral and vocal works, as well as close collaborations with living composers.

Laansalu has participated in masterclasses with Jorma Panula and at the Järvi Academy, where she worked with Paavo Järvi. Her artistic interests lie in Nordic and Estonian symphonic repertoire, contemporary music, and the integration of new works into concert programs.

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I violin: Alena Miracka, Cornelia Vogel, João Martins, Tove Wikström

II violins: Felicia Billerhag Hammarteg, Olivia Westberg, Teresa Innanen

Viola: Noa Ballesteros Sobrino, Julius Jönsson, Valter Lundqvist

Cello: Agnes Wall Ströberg, Disa Smart, Eemil Kautto, Alicia Rehbach Westin, Elis Hakola

Double bass: Andreas Grönberg, Joel Hedtjärn, Lovisa Hedelin

Piano: Mischa Carlberg

Harp: Pauline Burke-Clason

Percussion: Lorenzo Pasanisi, Garance Enj

The programme was curated by Lisanna Laansalu.