

## President's Corner.

Dear members and other readers,

We have an exciting opportunity coming up to have fun and contribute to a good cause at the same time. I am of course referring to the May Day party at the University of Washington Faculty Club. FACC-NW feels very strongly about supporting Finnish School of Seattle and that is why we have partnered with them to bring you this extraordinary event.

The Finnish School of Seattle has been in the area for several years but has grown significantly in the last years. The School is organized by a group of hard working volunteers both on the operating and board level. The volunteers are contributing a large amount of hours for this cause to provide us an opportunity to have an access to Finnish language education and friends for our children. Without the Finnish School of Seattle this would not be available for our children. It would be harder to learn basics of Finnish language and keep connections with our heritage and Finnish friends especially for those who are removed from their roots. This is a great opportunity for families stopping in the area for few years and those who have settled here more permanently. Some of the children establish life long friendships even across the water.

To be able to offer these services for families in the Puget Sound region the Finnish School of Seattle needs continuous funding in order to provide facilities, teaching and the materials for the students. The Finnish School of Seattle receives part of the financial support from the Finnish government and another part is covered by the tuition paid by the parents, but this is not enough. The rest of it is covered with donations from individual donors and companies like you in the region. This auction is a critical component in their fundraising and necessary to be able to continue providing high quality education.

I hope that you agree with me on this matter. You can show your support by coming to the May Day event and participating in the auction. There are lots of high quality items in the auction that have been donated by individuals and several local and some far way businesses. You will find a list of auction items at the end of this Newsletter.

Please do not wait anymore – pick up the details of registering to the event from the Events Calendar and send it in NOW. Don't delay anymore.

Thank you for your support in advance and special thanks to those that have already registered.

See you there,

Jarmo Wallenius  
President, FACC-NW

## Upcoming Events

### *Vappuhippa!*

The Finnish School of Seattle and the Finnish American Chamber of Commerce of the Northwest are throwing a May Day party to celebrate the end of winter- coming of spring. Time: Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004 at 6pm, Place: University of Washington, Faculty Club. World famous artists pianist Ralf Gothóni and violinist Elina Vähälä will perform. There will be performances by local choruses and quartets, sing along and dance. There will be a buffet featuring May Day treats. There will be a Spring Auction benefiting the Finnish School of Seattle. Look for a list of auction items at the back page of this Newsletter. For information and ticket reservations: Leena Häkkinen, [hakkanen@verizon.net](mailto:hakkanen@verizon.net), tel. (425) 424 2238 [www.finnsnw.com/suomi\\_koulu.html](http://www.finnsnw.com/suomi_koulu.html)

### *Tanhuajat 30th Anniversary Celebration*

May 8, 2004, at 7 p.m. at the Nordic Heritage Museum. In celebration of Tanhuajat Finnish Folkdancers 30th Anniversary. Join us for an evening of dancing to the music of Sylvia's Fjordsong Band. Refreshments served. No host bar.

*Finlandia Music & Art Festival*

Saturday, August 21, 2004, starting at 10 AM on the beautiful campus of Northwest College of Art, Poulsbo, WA. All the proceeds benefit Finlandia Foundation® National's Scholarship and Grants Program For more information contact: Satu Mikkola: [satum@aol.com](mailto:satum@aol.com) , 360-697-2688 or Rita Koski: [ralport@hotmail.com](mailto:ralport@hotmail.com), 206-363-0225

Tanhuajat - first 30 years accomplished!

A small group of people met for the first practice night of Finnish folk dancing first week of September 1974. This group soon became known as Tanhuajat, Seattle Finnish Folk Dancers. After a few years of ups and downs and lots of Finnish Sisu the group had grown to at all times have at least 6 couples – at its best 13 couples. Tanhuajat have always tried to portray “Finnishness” in their programs, with some Northwest influence maybe. Though the main purpose has always been folk dancing, the group early on took upon themselves also to study and promote the beautiful Finnish folk costumes and their background, and how and where to wear and make them. Several dedicated members have over the years participated in teaching the group. We have been to many workshops taught by some of the best instructors from Finland, and hosted several Finnish visiting groups – and always had the cameras out filming “the real thing” to later study their performances and learn from them. Several wonderful musicians that have played for us over the years have become enticed by Finnish folk music. The best testimony to this is Northwest Pelimannit. Some of the members first danced with us, and then moved on to playing the music. Tanhuajat have performed at many local Finnish and Scandinavian events. Dancing has taken us all over Washington State and Oregon. We have danced in Vancouver BC, Edmonton, and Thunderbay, Canada. Highlights no doubt have been Finnfests, twice in Seattle, twice in Minneapolis and once in Portland. In 1995 we were brave enough to fly over to Finland to participate in two folk festivals, in Savonlinna and Lappeenranta. The members have come from many different ethnic backgrounds adding cultural diversity to our lives. Once again, Tanhuajat wish to

thank especially the Finnish community, organizations and individuals who have supported us over the years. Without this support many wonderful things would not have been possible. As we celebrate our thirtieth year we hope to see the next generation folk dancers and musicians join us and carry on these great Finnish traditions.

Ralf Gothoni

Ralf Gothóni, born in Rauma in 1946, began his studies on the violin at age three and on piano at age five. At 15, he debuted as an orchestra soloist and in 1967, he appeared at the Jyväskylä Summer Festival as the “debutant of the year.” In the 36 years since, he has enjoyed a multifaceted career as solo pianist, chamber musician and conductor all over the world. He is well known for his unconventional way of music making, not only as a pianist, but a musician with unusual thinking about music and the wholeness of musicianship.

His performances include appearances at prestigious music festivals in Salzburg, Berlin, Prague, Aldeburgh, Edinburgh, La Roque de Antheron, Ravinia, Tanglewood and many more. Mr. Gothóni has also performed with Berlin Philharmonic, the Bavarian Radio Symphony, the Japan Philharmonic, the English Chamber Orchestra, the Chicago, Detroit and Toronto Symphony Orchestras, among others. He appears annually in numerous concerts as a soloist and conductor, often conducting from the keyboard. He is also regularly heard as a guest artist at the major chamber music festivals.

Mr. Gothóni has recorded some 80 albums for several labels, including BIS, Decca, DGG, EMI and Ondine, with whom he has produced more than 20 CD's in recent years. One of them is the critically acclaimed recording on the Ondine label of Benjamin Britten's Piano Concerto, which includes the composer's original third movement. His latest recording (also on Ondine) is a one-hour piano concerto (Choros XI) by Villa-Lobos together with Sakari Oramo and the Finnish Radio Orchestra. Ralf Gothóni has held many artistic posts: chief conductor of

the Finlandia Sinfonietta (1989-1994), Principal Guest Conductor of the Turku Philharmonic (since 1995), Artistic Director of the famous Savonlinna Opera Festival (1984-1987) and since 1996 he has been artistic director of the "Forbidden City Music Festival" in Beijing. In September 2000 Mr. Gothóni was appointed as the Principal Conductor of the English Chamber Orchestra. In February 2001 Mr. Gothóni was appointed Principal Conductor and Music Director of Seattle's Northwest Chamber Orchestra.

Very close to his heart is the contact with young musicians: he is Artistic Director of "Aino Ackte" Program at the Institute for Chamber Music in Savonlinna, he holds a position as Professor at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki (1992-), at the "Hochschule für Musik" in Hamburg (1985-96), at the "Hanns Eisler Hochschule" in Berlin (1996-2000) and since May 2000, he is the appointed Visiting Professor at the Royal College of Music in London. The list of his compositions includes three chamber operas, chamber cantata "The Ox and its Shepherd" (recorded by Ondine) and a Concerto Grosso version of it for violin, piano and strings. This concerto got its premier in 1999 with the composer as piano soloist and conductor and his wife, Elina Vähälä as the violin soloist.

Ralf Gothóni is also an essayist; his first book "The Creative Moment" was published with great success in September 1998. In addition, Mr. Gothóni has been honored with several awards, including the prestigious Gilmore Artist Award in 1994, the Schubert Medal of the Austrian Ministry of Culture, the Order of Pro Finlandia and the Prize of Honor of the Finnish Cultural Foundation.

And how does a celebrated artist who brings so much pleasure to his audiences prefer to spend his scarce leisure time? Over a gourmet supper accompanied by good red wine in the company of close friends, indulging in deep philosophical conversation; Or boating on his beloved Lake Saimaa; Or enjoying gipsy guitar music from his Malaga apartment balcony. Keep bureaucracy, formality, pop music and half measures fare away from me pleads Ralf.

For a schedule of 2004 concerts in Seattle, see the Northwest Chamber Orchestra's website at <http://www.nwco.org/concerts.html>

## Homeland News

Compiled from Tekniikka & Talous Magazine, March issues (translated by Gunnar Damstrom).

*Finland to test automatic traffic accident reporting.* Finland commences testing a system featuring automatic position reporting of automobiles that have been in a serious collision. The position information is reported to the nearest alarm center. The program is part of the EU effort to cut in half the number of traffic related deaths by the year 2010. Currently 40,000 people die in traffic related accidents in the EU every year. It is believed that the automatic position reporting will reduce the deaths by about 6000.

*Foreign ownership improves job safety.* According to Jorma Saari, Department Head at the Finnish Institute for Occupational Health the workplace safety improves when foreign corporations acquire Finnish companies. "Indeed there seems to be such a phenomenon; not consistently, however quite often. In particular foreign ownership has brought improvement in the oil and chemical industries". According to Saari the statistics would indicate new American ownership almost always reduces the number of job related accidents.

*Corporate R&D investments in decline.* According to Jukka Lukkari seven out of the ten Finnish corporations that are the top R&D investors reduced their R&D expenses in 2003. The concern that the extended downturn gradually will force a reduction of R&D funds has turned out to be well founded. The published corporate financial reports indicate R&D funds were cut in almost every sector. As a counterweight to the gloomy atmosphere there indeed are some companies that increased their R&D spending. Leading the pack is Nokia that increased R&D spending by 8%.

*EU abandoning the Kyoto Agreement?* At the EU Parliament Environmental Committee there have been talks about collapse of the Kyoto Agreement. In Finland there is simultaneously a heated discussion about how it happened that we committed to such a lousy agreement. According to Eija-Riitta Korhola, MP of the EU Parliament and a member of the Environmental Committee the thrust of the EU policy on global warming will move toward promoting renewable energy sources at the Bonn June conference. The news leaking from Strasbourg has been well received in the Finnish industry. According to the industry it is advisable to expect better means of cooperation than the Kyoto agreement.

*Atmospheric changes the biggest energy risk?* Professor Martti Tiuri responding to a letter to the editor defends Finland's decision to build a fifth nuclear power plant: "There is no risk free [form of] energy. The biggest risk is with fossil energy sources changing the atmospheric conditions. Nuclear power does not produce carbon dioxide. The fifth nuclear power plant will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 10 million tons [annually]. The wind power project (500 MW topping power plant 2010) will reduce carbon dioxide emissions 1 million tons"....."the biggest health risks from energy production derive from particulate emissions caused by incineration of fossil fuels and biomass. These [particles] are sized less than 2.5 microns and are made up from soot; sulfate and nitrate particles, which penetrate into the lung tissue causing cancer and heart disease"...." In Europe 6-7% of deaths (hundreds of thousand annually) are caused by burning fossil fuels for power generation".

Biometric passports. Denmark is the first country to introduce biometric passports as recommended by the international civil aviation organization ICAO. The biometric passports fill US requirements. The Danish passports will be manufactured by Finnish firm Setec Oy. The agreement, signed in February, is for delivery of close to three million passports. Deliveries commence at the end of this year. "Non of our competitors has been able to combine ultra safe visual passports and smart card technology. At

Setec this combination of a polycarbonate information page and a processor chip is already available", said Setec's director Tommi Nordberg.

*Voice recognition a new tool for doctors.* The city of Espoo (Esbo) reduces the paper work of doctors by migrating to use of voice recognition by preparation of patient reports. The pilot project initially will involve 15 doctors. The system recognizes natural voice and learns from experience each doctor's personal way of expression; names of new medication, and corresponding things. This saves the doctor's time, which can then be dedicated more to patient interaction. Another advantage is that the patient reports are kept up to date in real time. This prevents the disadvantage when a taped report has to wait for days before being typed. The system Efficaprogram is a product of Tietoenator. The Efficaprogram is compatible with Philip's voice recognition system.

Donated Items for May 1 Auction.

*Food & Restaurant*

Today, dinner for 2, gift voucher – fabulous Japanese food in Redmond Town Center

Thai Chef, 2 dinner vouchers – exotic Thai tastes in Overlake area in Bellevue

Box of chocolates – Finnish, of course!

Darigold ice cream vouchers for 13 gallons

Two Starbucks Coffee baskets

Finnish Vappu Munkki basket

Italian Dinner Night basket

Kaspar's Restaurant & Catering, dinner for four (new item)

Heavenly Home Made American Cheese Cake (new item)

Home Made Real American Cookies (new item)

The Really Delicious Home Made Banana Bread (new item)

Bambi's Special Home Made Zucchini Bread (new item)

No Frills Beer Basket (new item)

*Culture & Entertainment*

Nordic Heritage Museum, annual family membership

Nordic Heritage Museum 6 individual admissions

Northwest Chamber Orchestra, 2 concert tickets for the fabulous season opening concert with pianist Ralf Gothóni and cellist Arto Noras from Finland plus a gala reception afterwards! September 18<sup>th</sup> 2004

Body & Mind – Makeover Options  
Mary Kay, Spa set "Embrace Happiness" with a complimentary facial/makeover and a gift certificate

Dermavita, European Facial – the gentlest and the most hygienic care in the Eastside

Big Agenda Coaching, Taste of Coaching Sessions – time to live up to your full potential!

Clinic at Canyon Park / Sunny Tan - 1 hour of relaxing hot stone massage and acupuncture treatment and consultation!

Lillie Rubin - \$100 gift certificate towards clothes and private style consultation at Bellevue Square (new item)

*Kid's Stuff*

Astrid Lindgren books basket

Kid's Crafts Supplies basket

Finnish Crafts basket

Finnish Games

Muumi (Moomin) basket

*Really Finnish Things*

Finlandia Sauna, Sauna heart/humidifier (for sauna stove)

Finlandia Sauna, birch scented soaps in beautiful pine box (new item)

Finnish glass, 2 pieces

Bottle of Lakka liqueur

Finnish postcard basket

Small Decorator basket

Siskojen Kauppa gift voucher

Relaxing Sauna Evening at Uusnäkki's

Finland-themed clothes

Smoked Salmon by Larry

Sauna Evening at Honorary Consul Matti Suokko's

Finnish Immigrant's Basic Survival Kit (new item)

Home Sweet Home - The Taste of Finland  
(new item)

*Travel*

Windstar Cruise, 7 days for 2 in Tahiti  
Holland America Line Cruise, 7 days for 2 in  
Alaska or Caribbean – you choose!

SAS Radisson, 2 nights for 2, anywhere in  
Finland, breakfast or taxes included

Vintage Plaza Hotel – one night in Seattle,  
September 18<sup>th</sup> 2004

TravelTime travel bag

Elliot Grand Hyatt Seattle, one hotel night in  
a deluxe guestroom

Hyatt Los Angeles 2 hotel nights for two  
persons

Hyatt Vancouver 2 hotel nights for two  
persons in a deluxe guestroom

*Books, Videos, Music, Art*

Mothering books basket

A Boy and The Wildcat (Poika & Ilves), VHS  
video, in English

Finnish music: several CD's

An oil painting

Art basket

Art cards with envelopes basket

The Man Without a Past, Finnish movie by  
Aki Kaurismäki on DVD (in Finnish with  
English subtitles) (new item)

The Scent of Russia (new item)

*Sports & gear*

Nikwax waterproofing kit  
Suunto Observer Wristop Computer

Yoga basket

Express Yourself Studios, gift certificate for  
dance lessons: 2 people to attend 5  
ballroom/swing dance lessons (new item)

*Home*

Amazing Spaces, custom made storage  
shelves, including assembly