

The Hanko Music Festival is offering Enchantment of Sound in July

The Hanko Music Festival which this year celebrates its third year gathers music lovers to the southernmost town of Finland July 17th to 22nd. This year we have chosen Enchantment of Sound as the theme for the festival.

- We want to give the public magical moments with fantastic musicians and interesting works. One great purpose of art is to give a sensation of leaving your daily worries behind you, and where better to do this than in the summery seaside town, says festival leader Milla Rantala.

At the music festival international top quality musicians and young rising stars will perform. During the concert series in the city hall and in the church performers such as **Petteri Iivonen** who just received second prize in the Sibelius violin competition and **Hagai Shaham**, violin artist from Israel, with his pianist **Arnon Erez** will perform. Other performers at the festival have also been successful in competitions, for instance clarinetist **Olli Leppäniemi**, pianist **Kiril Kozlovsky** and cellist **Tomas Nunez-Garcés**.

The music festival also offers enjoyment in the form of HMF fringe. The idea behind this is to bring the music to the summer town's restaurants and galleries so that it can be freely enjoyed by everyone. Enchantment of Sound is also offered in the form of jazz and folk music, besides classical music and Tango Nuevo.

- The purpose of HMF fringe is to lower the threshold between classical music and the public and to find new and inspiring milieus for the music. Within the fringe program we have also succeeded in bringing together different art forms. As an example Leif Segerstam and the Focus Ensemble visited modern art gallery South that had been opened in the old brick warehouse. Under guidance of the maestro the public got to enjoy a sneak peak of that evening's first performance at the same time as one could look at the photo exhibition and nibble on delicious Sapas from restaurant Origo. To all of these fringe events the admission is free and at the same time one gets to know Hanko, says Rantala.

For more information:

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The program for the festival can be found on our website www.hankomusicfestival.fi

The festival works together with the city of Hanko, the congregations of Hanko and with the Raasepori music institute. The festival is supported by Suomen Kulttuurirahasto and by Svenska kulturfonden. From every ticket 20 cents goes to WWF Operation Mermaid in order to save the Baltic sea. The festival is organized by Hangon Musiikkijuhlat ry, Hangö Musikdagar rf.