



Finlandia Foundation® National

Inspiring, celebrating and connecting the Finnish-American community since 1953



Ruusamari Teppo

The Music of Sibelius with a Personal Connection

Ruusamari Teppo



Finlandia Foundation National (FFN), the premier network of Finnish-American organizations in the United States, is proud to present performances by pianist Ruusamari Teppo.

Teppo has both a direct family connection and a connection through her doctoral work to Finland's beloved composer, Jean Sibelius. While listening to her play the music of her great-great-grandfather, listeners can sense her deep and personal connection with his music.

Although she never had the opportunity to meet the great composer, her mother, who was 16 years old when Sibelius died, has shared memories of him with her daughter.

Ruusamari Teppo began playing piano in Finland at the age of five. After graduating from Sibelius High School, she studied in Paris with a world-renowned pedagogue, professor Konstantin Bogino. She earned artist certificates from music schools in Prague and Budapest, funded by scholarships from the Finnish government.

She continued her studies at the University of North Texas with Vladimir Viardo, a Van Cliburn International Piano Competition first prize winner. In 2020 Teppo will complete her doctoral degree in collaborative piano researching the

compositional style for piano by Jean Sibelius.

In recent years she has performed as a soloist, chamber musician and collaborative pianist, in the United States, throughout Europe and in South Africa. She is a prize-winner in the Bradshaw and Buono International Piano Competition and the Petrof Piano Competition, and has participated in music festivals around the globe.

Throughout 2019 and 2020, Teppo is traveling to FFN chapters to perform a choice of two programs.

continued

“Sibelius at the Piano”

A concert of his most well-known music accompanied by personal stories and information to help listeners understand the development of the composer’s musical style.

Teppo also has access to the series of letters Jean and Aino Sibelius wrote to each other, some of which have been translated into English and may be included in her program.

“Sibelius’ Music with Children”

Teppo enjoys presenting concerts designed for children, developed with her four-year-old daughter. With children sitting around her, Teppo plays music and talks about Sibelius, including the music he wrote for his own children.

She also presents music workshops, telling stories and coaching children who bring their own instruments and play easy music together.

Finlandia Foundation National, the most important source of support for Finnish culture in the U.S., was founded in Pasadena, California in 1953. FFN administers scholarships,



grants and programs supporting and celebrating Finnish heritage and Finnish-American culture and traditions, and contemporary Finland and Finnish America.

FFN is a 501(c)(3) organization. For more information: FinlandiaFoundation.org

Finlandia Foundation National P.O. Box 92046 Pasadena, CA 91109-2046

Please contact the FFN office for more information:
Phone: 626.795.2081 Email: office@finlandiafoundation.org