FIERCELY FINNISH
WELCOME! TERVETULOA!

We appreciate your interest in Finlandia Foundation National, Inc., the most important private source of support for Finnish culture in the United States.

Finlandia Foundation was founded by nine Finnish-Americans led by Yrjö and Leonora Paloheimo, in Pasadena, California in 1953. Their original vision was to encourage preservation of homeland traditions in the U.S., and “unite all Finland Friends in this country.”

Our non-profit, philanthropic organization supports cultural and educational programs; cultivates closer relations between Finland and the U.S.; and strengthens the bonds of friendship among Finnish-Americans and others interested in Finnish culture and heritage, as well as contemporary Finland. We are proud of our early association with the first Patron of Finlandia Foundation, none other than composer Jean Sibelius (right), and our current Patron, the extraordinary composer and conductor, Esa-Pekka Salonen.

Finlandia Foundation provides grants, scholarships and touring and online programs that enrich the Finnish-American experience. We, and our affiliates, also participate in special programs of interest, such as the 150th anniversary in 2015 of the birth of Jean Sibelius, and in 2017, the centennial of Finland’s declaration of independence.

In 2022, we launched the annual, National Sauna Week to build awareness and appreciation of the traditional Finnish bath.

We are fiercely proud of our roots. Of where we are today. Of our potential.

And we want everyone to appreciate what Finland, a relatively young and small country, has meant to the United States, and to the world.

We invite you to learn more about Finlandia Foundation on these pages and at our website, FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Anne-Mari Paster
President
**ABOUT FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL, INC.**

The Finlandia Foundation National (FFN) Board of Trustees administers its programs. Trustees are volunteers who serve three-year terms. The board meets twice yearly to conduct FFN business. FFN staff consists of an administrative assistant and communications manager.

Membership in Finlandia Foundation is open to all friends of Finland. The FFN network currently has nearly 60 chapters in 24 states and Washington, D.C. Individuals may also join FFN for a small, annual fee.

FFN chapters are the grassroots of Finlandia Foundation. Affiliation with FFN provides the connection to other groups and individuals with goals and objectives similar or complementary to those of FFN.

Membership in FFN is mutually beneficial. Chapter involvement with a mature, well-endowed national organization offers tangible and intangible benefits derived from strength and a common purpose.

FFN benefits from a broad and representative roster of organizations with shared interests and a desire to help to fulfill its mission through participation, communication and financial support of its programs.

**CHAPTERS:**

- are independent, self-governing organizations that are solely responsible for their own affairs and members
- may support the work of the FFN through contributions and organizing and hosting meetings, exhibitions and social functions
- are the only organizations eligible to host the FFN Lecturer of the Year and Performer of the Year (left)
- identify their affiliation with FFN through use of its logo and name, and gain visibility through the FFN website, social media and newsletters
- organize and plan their activities independent of FFN and other chapters
- are encouraged, but not required, to incorporate as an independent organization under the name “Finlandia Foundation, (name of local community) Chapter.”
- are non-profit organizations and should have articles and bylaws consistent with FFN bylaws
- are active sources for new FFN trustees, program development, ideas, suggestions, and talents to help FFN meet its objectives
- are requested to make an annual membership payment based on the size of the chapter

Find chapter and individual membership application information at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

**SUPPORT FOR FFN**

Finlandia Foundation National, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) organization, and contributions to FFN are tax deductible. Gifts may be made as unrestricted donations or directed to specific programs.

FFN receives no public monies. Its success depends on the generosity of donors.

FFN administrative expenses are generously supported by the Paloheimo Foundation, which matches gifts to Finlandia Foundation dollar-for-dollar (up to $100,000 annually).

There are many ways to support the programs and mission of FFN:

- make a one-time gift
- become a monthly donor; have your gift automatically debited
- join the Chairman’s Challenge, a multi-year commitment
- honor your loved ones with a Centennial Family Tree tribute on the FFN website
- Give a gift of stock, make a planned gift or ask about other donor options

Make a gift online at FinlandiaFoundation.org or mail your donation to Finlandia Foundation National 254 N. Lake Ave. #852 Pasadena, CA 91101.
Music has always been important to FFN, and most of its POY have been musicians, from singers to traditional folk, jazz and classical instrumental artists. Entertainers of all types with a connection to Finland or Finnish America are welcome to apply for POY. Deadline is September 1 for the following calendar year. Find information at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

### Performers of the Year

**2022 Eeppi Ursin**, singer, songwriter, musician, New York City


**2018 Juli Wood**, jazz saxophonist, Chicago

**2016-17 Pirjo Polari-Khan**, children’s author, poet and storyteller, San Jose, California

**2015 Sara Pajunen**, violinist and composer, Minnesota

**2014 Olli Hirvonen**, jazz guitarist (pictured), New York City

### Performers of the Year

**2013 Marja Kaisla**, classical pianist, Philadelphia

**2012 Maria Kizirian**, singer and songwriter, Los Angeles

**2011 Wilho Saari**, tradition bearer of the Finnish kantele, Minneapolis, Washington

**2010 Finn Hall**, folk band, Oakdale, Minnesota

**2009 Terhi Miikki-Broersma**, multi-instrumentalist, Lynden, Washington

**2008 Brent Buswell and Bert Stromholm**, accordion duo, Donegal, Pennsylvania and Pompton Plains, New Jersey

**2007 Maria Männistö**, soprano, Seattle

**2006 Kaiku**, female vocal duo, New York City


**2003-04 Maarit Vaga**, soprano, Albion, New York

**2002 Ulla Suokko**, flutist, New York City

**2001 Vicki Gornick**, organist, Chisholm, Minnesota

**2000 Diane Jarvi**, singer, poet and songwriter, Minneapolis

**1999 Craig Randal Johnson**, pianist, string bassist and conductor, Minneapolis

**1998 Bernhard Hillila**, comedic lecturer, Valparaiso, Indiana

**1997 Koivun Kaiku**, kantele ensemble, Minneapolis

**1996 Merja Soria**, kantele artist and vocalist, San Diego

Inaugural POY Merja Soria
LECTURER OF THE YEAR

Encouraged by the success of the Performer of the Year, in 2006 FFN introduced its Lecturer of the Year (LOY) program for the purpose of sharing the history and culture of Finland and Finnish America with audiences across the U.S.

Since its inception, FFN chapters have hosted LOY on topics ranging from the Winter War to Jean Sibelius, the architecture of the Saarinens, and folk music traditions.

In 2017, in honor of the 100th anniversary of Finland’s Declaration of Independence, five Centenary Lecturers spoke about a variety of topics related to Finland’s independence and identity. Presenters of all types with a connection to Finland or Finnish America are welcome to apply for LOY; deadline is October 1 for the following calendar year. Find information at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

LECTURERS OF THE YEAR

2019-2022
“Meet the Finn Cooks,” Soile Anderson and Eleanor Ostman (pictured)

2018
Two diverse options: James Ford Cooper, “Finland and the Cold War”

2017
Centenary Lecturers for Finland’s 100th Anniversary:
Thomas A. DuBois, Sharon Franklin-Rahkonen, Peter MacKeith, Börje Vähämäki and K. Marianne Wargelin

2015-16
“An Evening with Taina Elg: From Finland to Stardom,” with Heli Sirviö

2014
Suzanne Jurva and Erin Smith, filmmakers of the documentary “Yoopera!”

2013
Yvonne Lockwood, “Traditional Material Culture in Modern Finnish America”

2012
Glenda Dawn Goss, “Sibelius: A Composer’s Life and the Awakening of Finland”

2011

2010
Arnold Alanen, “From Finland to North America: Buildings, Landscapes and Cultural Change”

2007-09
Mark Coir and Susan Saarinen, “The Saarinen Architectural Legacy”

2006
Ben Stout, “Fire and Ice: The Winter War of Finland and Russia” documentary film
APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 1
Find details and the application at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

FFN invites high-quality projects on a competitive basis that relate to the past, present or future of Finland and Finnish America, and are characterized by many of the following:
- receives favorable attention and has a high profile and visibility
- will be experienced by many people
- appeals to all Americans, not only ethnic Finns
- involves worthy activity for children and young adults to promote an interest in Finnish and Finnish-American culture by future generations
- has multiplier or leverage qualities
- can be replicated or become a permanent addition to the cultural life of a community
- is well planned and implemented
- involves service of volunteers
- has a detailed budget, income and expenses
- adds to the body of research about Finnish and Finnish-American culture
- if applicable, includes a marketing plan for sales of items or event tickets

The first scholarship was awarded in 1956 to Einojuhani Rautavaara. The Sibelius Academy student applied his funds toward study at The Juilliard School in New York City. Rautavaara (1928 - 2016) would go on to become one of Finland’s most important composers.

SCHOLARSHIPS
ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION
Shortly after it was founded more nearly 70 years ago, Finlandia Foundation established its scholarship program, named for Jean Sibelius, with awards to music students only. That changed in 1991, when eligibility opened to full-time undergraduate and graduate students in all academic disciplines enrolled in accredited post-secondary schools in the U.S. and Finland. In 2022, FFN awarded $46,000 to 19 students—American, Finnish and dual citizens — with scholarships ranging from $2,000-$3,000 each.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
February 1
Find details and the application at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

P.J.C. LINDFORS LEGAL SCHOLARSHIPS
Pertti Lindfors, a Finnish-American attorney in San Francisco, established the Lindfors Legal Studies Fund to encourage cross-cultural study and understanding by law students in Finland and the U.S.

Eligible candidates:
- are U.S. citizens enrolled in the law faculty of a Finnish university or are citizens of Finland
- have successfully completed the first year in a Finnish law faculty or American law school

APPLICATION DEADLINES:
October 1 and February 1
Find details and the application at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

The grant application deadline is January 17.
Specifics and the application are available at the FFN website.
Brief descriptions of previous grant award projects appear in the spring editions of FFN newsletters, which are found at the FFN website.

FinlandiaFoundation.org
A JOYFUL NOISE!

In English, soiva loosely translates to “sounding forth” (a joyful noise, like the ringing of a bell).

Finland has a strong reputation for, and appreciation of, culture and the arts, including music instruction, composition and performance.

FFN supports that tradition through Soiva International Music Camp, a learning opportunity and cultural exchange for chamber music students in grades six through 12 who play piano, violin, viola, cello, bass, flute, clarinet or saxophone, or are interested in improv or composition.

The goal of Soiva Music Camp has been to connect instrumental music students and instructors from the United States and Finland.

Soiva is sponsored by FFN in cooperation with Concordia College at its campus in Moorhead, Minnesota. Camp Co-Directors, FFN Trustee Emeritus Dennis Anderson and Melodee Bahr, have conducted Soiva Camp for Finlandia Foundation since 2012.

Soiva is an intimate group of fewer than 40 students. Tuition includes classes, lodging in single-gender dormitory rooms and most meals.

Students are at all times under adult supervision by Soiva coordinators, the instructors, or college counselors.

Social activities have included a pizza party, sightseeing trips, swimming, and Midsummer celebrations.

In 2016, Soiva was held in Järvenpää, Finland. The camp was conducted at Kallio-Kuninkala, which is affiliated with The Sibelius Academy Music Centre (pictured). Soiva traveled to Finland again in 2019, and plans to return in future years.

First time Soiva students must submit a short audition piece with their application.

Find Soiva details and the application at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

SEE IT, HEAR IT

Enjoy performances by Soiva students in videos found at youtube.com/c/finlandiafoundationnational. In addition, recordings of some of the final camp concerts are available online; find links to those in the Soiva information on the website.
The internet provides a format for a virtual version of the symposium enjoyed by the ancient Greeks: a post-banquet program of music, conversation, dancing and refreshments. Finnposium is a free, virtual symposium offering a variety of programming produced by FFN; collaborative content created with other organizations; and select, relevant presentations from additional sources. “My American Dream” and “In Conversation” are two features that involve talks with entrepreneurs, authors, athletes, musicians and other interesting Finns and Finnish-Americans. Finnposium offers special concerts and short musical features; cooking demonstrations by the “Two Finn Cooks”; National Sauna Week programs; and webinars with business leaders and the Embassy of Finland in the U.S. You’re invited to subscribe to the FFN YouTube channel, and share our programs with family and friends. It’s available free of charge, 24/7, 365 days a year at youtube.com/c/finlandiafoundationnational.

SALOLAMPI FINNISH LANGUAGE VILLAGE
Salolampi Finnish Language Village is a unique experience near Bemidji, Minnesota that immerses campers in a Finnish experience, from the authentic architecture to the food served, daily schedule of activities, the lakeside sauna, and Finnish treats and souvenirs that stock the shelves of the camp store.

Days are filled with language, music and art by instructors from the U.S. and Finland, as well as sports, games, refreshing dips in Turtle River Lake and traditional lakeside sauna. Delicious Finnish food is made from scratch with fresh and local ingredients. FFN awards scholarships for a summertime session, either virtual or residential. In addition, students may be eligible for a travel stipend. Finnish is one of 15 languages in the Concordia summer program for seven-to-18-year-olds, and it is one of the six cultures that have architecturally authentic villages. The youngest children generally enroll for one week, but older youth may stay for one or two weeks. A four-week session awards one year of high school language credit.

“We’ve earned a reputation for providing our villagers with the best opportunity in the United States to learn Finnish, increase cultural awareness, and gain new skills within the context of a fun-filled summer camp setting,” says Salolampi Dean Amy “Iida” Tervola-Hultberg.

FINNPOSIUM
FFN presents a variety of virtual chats, webinars, musical and other programs related to Finland and Finnish culture in the U.S. through the Finlandia Foundation YouTube channel.

Boston Ballet
Artistic Director
Mikko Nissinen
sat with FFN for a Finnposium interview.

Photo by Liza Voll

Finlandia Foundation’s online programming during the last two years has been amazing. Such a wonderful, stimulating combination of arts, education, entertainment, and just plain fun.

Anni Efthimiou

FINNPOSIUM
NATIONAL SAUNA WEEK

FFN has declared the last week of February as National Sauna Week, an opportunity to celebrate the heat-and-steam bathing method that is unique to Finland, where there are 3.3 million saunas for a population of 5.5 million.

In the U.S., sauna is the most widely known Finnish word, and its popularity is growing — although not all are true to the authentic Finnish sauna experience.

National Sauna Week programs and events are designed to spread awareness and appreciation of the history and culture and tradition of sauna, a centuries-old, integral part of life in Finland and Finnish America.

The inaugural National Sauna Week, hosted in February of 2022, presented a full schedule of free, online programs on topics from the history of sauna in America to health benefits of sauna, as well as short, fun videos on the proper pronunciation of sauna and related terms.

Several FFN chapters hosted events in their communities with mobile saunas, food, activities and displays about sauna.

Find Sauna Week material and links to the videos at FinlandiaFoundation.org.


YOUNG LEADERS BOARD

In early 2021, FFN launched an initiative to encourage involvement by active and involved individuals so that the nearly 70-year-old organization will not only survive but thrive for the benefit of future generations. The Young Leaders Board (YLB) is a volunteer effort that complements the work of FFN to accomplish its goals and mission.

The YLB is comprised of a talented panel of eight professionals from different fields who are interested in their Finnish and Finnish-American roots and contemporary Finland. YLB offers a means for them to pursue and advance those interests under the umbrella of FFN.

Members are millennials from across the U.S. with a range of expertise, from finance to marketing. They take their commitment seriously, and meet virtually on a regular basis. They have established a YLB presence on LinkedIn and Spotify, and individual members serve alongside trustees on FFN committees, offering fresh perspectives and suggestions.

In August of 2021, YLB accepted an invitation from the Embassy of Finland to meet with Ambassador Mikko Hautala and staff in Washington, D.C.

The outcome of that session was the establishment of the Young Finnish Americans Club and a live, virtual event featuring representatives of Finnish companies addressing “Visions on Sustainability.”

Additional programs are planned.

YLB LinkedIn: linkedin.com/groups/13959445/
Spotify: FFN YLB Finnish Favs

YLB spent an August day with Ambassador Mikko Hautala (center) and Embassy staff in Washington, D.C.
AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

ALASKA
- Anchorage Suomi Finland Club

ARIZONA
- The Finnish American Club of Tucson
- Finns & Friends of Phoenix

CALIFORNIA
- Finlandia Club of Sacramento Valley
- Finlandia Foundation Berkeley
- Los Angeles Finlandia Foundation
- Finlandia Foundation San Francisco Bay Area
- Finnish-American Home Association, Sonoma
- House of Finland, San Diego

COLORADO
- Finlandia Foundation Colorado, Denver

CONNECTICUT
- Finnish American Heritage Society, Canterbury

DELAWARE
- Delaware Valley Finnish Americans, Newark
- New Sweden Alliance, Yorklyn

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
- Finlandia Foundation National Capital

FLORIDA
- Finlandia Foundation Florida, Lantana
- FinnsConnect South Florida

GEORGIA
- Atlanta Finland Society, Inc.

ILLINOIS
- Finnish-American Society of the Midwest, Chicago

MAINE
- Finnish American Heritage Society of Maine, West Paris
- Finnish Farmers Club, Monson
- Finnish Heritage House, South Thomaston

MARYLAND
- Finlandia Foundation Baltimore Area

MASSACHUSETTS
- Cape Ann Finns
- Finlandia Foundation Boston
- Finnish-American Society of Cape Cod
- The Finnish Center at Saima Park, Inc., Fitchburg
- The Finnish Heritage Society/Sovittaja, Rutland

MICHIGAN
- Finlandia Foundation of Michigan, Royal Oak
- Finlandia Foundation National, Lake Superior, Marquette
- Finnish American Society of West Central Michigan, Coopersville
- Finnish Center Association, Farmington Hills
- Finnish Theme Committee of Hancock, Finlandia Foundation Copper Country

MINNESOTA
- Finlandia Foundation Twin Cities
- Finnish Americans and Friends, Hibbing
- Kaleva Building Corporation, Virginia
- Northland Chapter of Finlandia Foundation, Duluth
- Red River Finns, Moorhead

MONTANA
- Finlandia Foundation of Montana, Missoula
- Finn Club of Helena
- Red Lodge Knights and Ladies of Kaleva, Roberts

MICHIGAN
- Finlandia Foundation of Michigan, Royal Oak
- Finlandia Foundation National, Lake Superior, Marquette
- Finnish American Society of West Central Michigan, Coopersville
- Finnish Center Association, Farmington Hills
- Finnish Theme Committee of Hancock, Finlandia Foundation Copper Country

MONTANA
- Sons and Daughters of Suomi, Black Hills

NEW YORK
- Finger Lakes Finns, Spencer
- Finlandia Foundation New York Metropolitan

OHIO
- Finnish-American Heritage Association of Ashtabula County
- Finnish Heritage Museum of Fairport Harbor

OREGON
- Finlandia Foundation Astoria
- Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific, Portland

PENNSYLVANIA
- Finlandia Foundation Pittsburgh
- Finnish American Society of the Delaware Valley, Philadelphia

SOUTH DAKOTA
- Sons and Daughters of Suomi, Black Hills

TEXAS
- Finnish-American Society of Dallas/Fort Worth
- Finnish Language School of North Texas, Dallas

UTAH
- Finlandia Foundation Utah, Provo

VIRGINIA
- Finlandia Foundation Tidewater Virginia

WASHINGTON
- Finlandia Foundation Inland Northwest, Spokane
- Finlandia Foundation Seattle
- Finlandia Foundation Suomi, Bellingham
- Finnish-American Folk Festival of Naselle
- Swedish Finn Historical Society, Seattle