



Piia Kleemola

Fiddle, octave fiddle, voice

Fiddler Piia Kleemola is known as an exceptional performer, who is at home in both traditional and more experimental music worlds. Kleemola has specialized on Ostrobothnian fiddle polska, which was the subject of her dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Music, completed in 2011 at the Sibelius Academy. Kleemola is an experienced musician and educator, who has had a leading role in numerous productions performing traditional, improvised and composed music, including dance and theater. Besides the fiddle, her instruments include kantele, jouhikko (Finnish bowed lyre) and vocals.

In addition to her solo performances, Piia Kleemola works as a musician with several bands, such as Finnish folk music bands Päre, Hyperborea and Laitakaupungin orkesteri. Kleemola has released three solo recordings (The Polska of the Devil and the Priest/2014, Fiddle Feast/2012 & RindaNickola/2009) and she performs on 30 records, three of which have been nominated for the Etno-Emma award distributed by the IFPI Finland. As well as several European countries, Kleemola has performed in the USA, China and Vietnam. Piia Kleemola has been awarded one-year artist's grants by the National Council for Music (2008) and the Finnish Cultural Foundation, South Ostrobothnia Regional fund (2007 & 2014).

Press quotes:

Kleemola manages to create the energy of a whole folk band just with her solo fiddle. Very impressive.

Simon Broughton, Songlines 105# 2015.

A specialist in folk music from Finland, Piia Kleemola, a truly remarkable musician, was on hand to play the original versions of the dances and songs, as they have been gathered by more scholarly researchers than Grieg or Sibelius. It was fascinating to hear the folk music played in traditional tunings, arrangements, and rhythms, especially with Ms. Kleemola's sensitivity and precision. Michael Miller, New York Arts web site. 2011.

Speciellt lyfter man ändå på hatten för Piia Kleemola, som hanterar sin violin med oerhörd bravur. Låtar som Rinta-Nikkolan mahtipolskat skulle passa bra som virtuosnummer för vilken "klassisk" violinist som helst.

Tove Djupsjöbacka, Hufvudstadsbladet 16.9.2009.

Releases (sample):

2015 Tapani Varis Collective: Märisevä rauta
2014 Piia Kleemola: Pirun ja papin polska (SEITACD017)
2012 Piia Kleemola & co: FiddleFeast (SACD-1008)
2009 Henriksson-Kleemola-Prauda: RindaNickola (SibKaCD085)
2009 Ruumen: Silo (Lempi)
2006 Hyperborea: Semmosta (KICD95)
2005 Jouko Kyhälä: Saalas (AICD007)
2004 Hyperborea: Perinnearkku (LEMPI001)
2004 Kyläpelimannit-trio: Tapeetilla (SibKaCd047)
2003 Hiien Hivuksista, Jouhikko Music From Finland (KICD 82)
2001 European Youth Folk Orchestra: Enfants Terribles (ES5323)
1998 Tapani Varis: Munniharppuuna (KICD-46)