



UKRAINALAISTEN
YHDISTYS
SUOMESSA



Embassy of Ukraine
in the Republic of Finland



OPETUS- JA KULTTUURIMINISTERIÖ
UNDERSVINGS- OCH KULTURMINISTERIET



Christmas songs for Ukraine

Charity concert

13.12.2025 | 19:00
OLARI CHURCH
DURATION: ABOUT 1H30

CONCERT PROGRAM

Trad.: Santa Lucia, Nicole Silén, voice

G. F. Händel: *Messiah*

- “For behold”
- “The people that walked in darkness”

M. Volynskyj: “Spy Iisuse” (*Sleep, Jesus*)

Soloist: Volodymyr Andrushchak, voice

I. Berlin: “White Christmas” (arr. J. Heifetz/S. Silén)

Soloist: Sebastian Silén, violin

V. Barvynskyj: “What a wonder that is” (arr. J. Almark)

Soloist: Johanna Almark, voice

J. L. Pierpont: “Jingle Bells” (arr. V. Kaminsky)

K. Stetsenko:

- “A little peahen walks”
- “All around the world”
- “What a wonder that is”

Perespiv Choir, Volodymyr Andurshchak, conductor

From *Piae Cantiones* (1582): “**Jucundare jugiter**” for choir & strings
(arr. J. Almark)

J. Almark: “O, det var till sist den stora gästen kom”

Text: Eva-Stina Byggmästar (*Näckrosön*, 2004)

Baritone solo: Volodymyr Andrushchak

J. Almark: “Veni lux” for choir & strings

Text: *Veni, Mater Gratiae*

J. Almark: “Lumen verum” for choir, flute & strings

Text: St. Birgitta of Sweden (1303–1373)

Jammarkören, Johanna Almark, conductor

Trad.: “Dobryj vechir” / “Hyvää juhlailla”

M. Leontovych: “Shchedryk” / “Carol of the Bells”

Perespiv & Jammarkören, Volodymyr Andrushchak, conductor

Sing Along!

Trad.: “Staffansvisan” (arr. J. Almark)

K. Collan: “Sylvian joululaulu” (arr. I. Kuusisto)

F. Gruber: “Silent Night” (arr. J. Almark)

A. Charpentier: “Overture” from *Te Deum* (arr. J. Almark)

PERFORMERS

Violins:

Orest Smovzh, Pia Sundroos, Tanja Kortman, Anna-Maria
Huohvanainen, Raffaello Chiodo, Sofia Vinkel, Sebastian Silén

Violas:

Laura Vilagi, Terhi Lehtiniemi, Tamar Gvazava

Cellos:

Leonardo Chiodo, Eliso Babuadze

Double Bass:

Aida Salakka

Piano:

Johanna Almark

Flute, conductor:

Iryna Gorkun-Silén

SOLOISTS

Johanna Almark - voice, conductor, composer

A “Complete Musician” inspired by the Baroque ideal, Johanna Almark is one of Finland’s most versatile artists, active as a composer, conductor, choir leader, singer, and violinist. Named *Chief Climate Conductor* after the Climate Aid Finland concert in 2019, she has since led numerous Finnish orchestras, premiered many of her own works, and performed widely as both conductor and vocal soloist. Her compositions are performed across the country, and her stage works include a children’s water fairy-tale and the one-woman opera *Orlando*. Almark’s upcoming stage works include a music- and dance drama *The Never Withering Rose* for chamber choir and solo cello / chamber orchestra based upon texts and visions of holy women throughout the ages, ranging from Hildegard von Bingen via Jeanne D’Arc and St.Birgitta of Sweden a.o. to Finnish-Swedish poet Eva-Stina Byggmästar (b.1967).

Equally at home in baroque music, jazz, and contemporary classical repertoire, she has released three vocal albums and produced several others. Educated at the Sibelius Academy as both orchestral and choral conductor, she is also a respected pedagogue known for her focus on rhythm, free voice, and improvisation. Almark is the recipient of several cultural awards recognizing her artistic and community-building contributions.

Volodymyr Andrushchak - baritone, choir conductor

Volodymyr Andrushchak is the conductor of the Perespiv Choir. He received his education in Lviv, Wrocław, and Munich, and he has sung with ensembles such as a’capella Leopolis, Camerata Silesia, and Cantores Minores Wratislaviensis, and has worked with the Song of the Goat Theatre. He is active in baroque performance and collaborates with the Wrocław Baroque Ensemble. In 2025 he became a finalist and jury prize recipient at the Toivo Kuula Vocal Competition in Finland. Volodymyr regularly performs across Europe with prominent orchestras and conductors. Most recently, he has appeared as a soloist in a series of concerts with Il Giardino Armonico under the direction of Giovanni Antonini.

Sebastian Silén - violin

Sebastian Silén is a Finnish violinist and artistic researcher who performs regularly as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral player. He earned two master's degrees at the Zürcher Hochschule der Künste in Switzerland as a student of Professor Rudolf Koelman and also studied at the Academy of Music and Drama in Gothenburg. He has won prizes in national and international competitions and performed as soloist with orchestras such as the Musikkollegium Winterthur (Switzerland) and the Kuopio Symphony Orchestra (Finland). As a soloist and chamber musician, he has given concerts and participated in festivals across Europe and the USA.

As a researcher, he has published peer-reviewed articles, presented his work at conferences, served as editor for music publications, and is expected to defend his artistic doctoral thesis at the University of the Arts, Sibelius Academy, Helsinki in 2026. In 2015, he portrayed Jean Sibelius in the documentary *The Forgotten Music of Sibelius*, produced in cooperation with Yle (Finland), SVT (Sweden), and DR (Denmark). He performs on a violin crafted by Stefan-Peter Greiner.

CHOIRS

Perespiv Choir

The choir of the Association of Ukrainians in Finland is dedicated to sharing Ukrainian musical heritage through folk, sacred, and contemporary repertoire. The choir was founded together with Ukrainian activist Uliana Burdina and is now led by Volodymyr Andrushchak.

Jammarkören

Founded and led by Johanna Almark, known for its warm sound, rhythmic clarity, and expressive artistry. The choir embraces classical tradition as well as new music, improvisation, and cross-genre collaborations. A vibrant community of singers united by creativity and joy.

SING-ALONG TEXTS

Staffansvisan

1. Staffan var en stalledräng,
vi tackom nu så gärna.
Han vattnade sina fålar fem,
allt för den ljusa stjärna.
Ingen dager synes än,
stjärnorna på himmelen de blänka.

2. Två de voro röda,
vi tackom nu så gärna.
de tjänte väl sin föda,
allt för den ljusa stjärna.
Ingen dager . . .

3. Två de voro vita,
vi tackom nu så gärna.
de va varandra lika,
allt för den ljusa stjärna.
Ingen dager . . .

4. Den femte den var apelgrå,
vi tackom nu så gärna.
den rider Staffan själv uppå,
allt för den ljusa stjärna.
Ingen dager . . .

5. Innan hanen galigt har,
vi tackom nu så gärna.
Staffan uti stallet var,
allt för den ljusa stjärna.
Ingen dager . . .

6. Innan solen månd' uppgå,
vi tackom nu så gärna.
betsel och gullsadel på,
allt för den ljusa stjärna.
Ingen dager . . .

7. Nu är eld i varje spis,
vi tackom nu så gärna.
julegröt och julegris,
allt för den ljusa stjärna.
Ingen dager . . .

8. Nu är jul i varje hus,
vi tackom nu så gärna.
julegran och juleljus,
allt för den ljusa stjärna.
Ingen dager . .

Sylvian joululaulu

1. Ja niin joulu joutui jo taas Pohjolaan,
Joulu joutui jo rintoihinkin.

Ja kuuset ne kirkkaasti luo loistoaan
Jo pirtteihin pienoisiin.

Mutt' ylhäällä orressa vielä on vain
Se häkki mi' sulkee mun sirkuttajain,
Ja vaiennut vaikerrus on vankilan-
Oi murheita muistaa ken vois laulajan!

2. Miss' sypressit tuoksuu nyt talvellakin
Istun oksalla uljaimman puun.

Miss' siintääpi veet, viini on vaahtovin
Ja sää aina kuin toukokuun.
Ja Etnanpa kaukaa mä kauniina nään-

Ah, tää kaikki hurmaa ja huumaapi pään,
Ja laulelmat lempeesti lehdoissa soi,
Sen runsaammat riemut ken kertoilla
voi.

3. Sä tähdistä kirkkain, nyt loisteesi suo
Sinne Suomeeni kaukaisehen.

Ja sitten kun sammuu sun tuikkeesä tuo,
Sa siunaa se maa muistojen.

Sen vertaista toista en mistään ma saa-
On armain ja kallein mull' ain
Suomenmaa.

Ja kiitosta sen laulu soi Sylvian,
Ja soi aina lauluista sointuisimman.

Silent Night

1. German:

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige
Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen
Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

2. Finnish:

Jouluyö! Juhlayö!
Päättynyt kaikk' on työ,
Kaks vain valveill' on puolisoa
lapsen herttaisen nukkuessa,
seimikätkyessään,
seimikätkyessään.

3. Swedish:

Stilla natt, heliga natt!
Allt är frid. Stor och blid
Betlehemsstjärnan på fästet står.
Kärlek vakar och andakt rår:
född är Frälsaren Krist,
född är Frälsaren Krist.

4. Ukrainian:

Тихая ніч, свята ніч,
Ясність б'є, від зірниць.
Дитинонька присвята,
Така ясна мов зоря,
Спочиває
В тихому, тихому сні.

Tyha nich, svyata nich,
Yasni Yasnist' bje vid zirnyts'.
Dytynonka presvyata,
Taka yasna nov zorya,
SpochyvayeV tyhomu, tyhomu sni.
V tyhomu, tyhomu sni.

TOGETHER FOR UKRAINE

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE, THE EMBASSY OF UKRAINE, AND KULTURFONDEN FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND COOPERATION.

THE PROCEEDS FROM THE CONCERT WILL BE DIRECTED TO SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN MUSIC SCHOOLS AND DELIVERING HUMANITARIAN AID.

WARM THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO MADE THIS CONCERT POSSIBLE - THE MUSICIANS, THE AUDIENCE, AND OUR PARTNERS.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE UKRAINIAN ASSOCIATION IN FINLAND AND WAYS TO SUPPORT UKRAINE: [UKRAINIANS.FI](http://ukrainians.fi)

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