

AIKALISÄ / TIME OUT
opera by 14 teenagers
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Finnish National Opera and Ballet



Hear, I compose! collaboration

University of the Arts Helsinki Sibelius Academy (SA)
Helsinki Radio Symphony Orchestra
Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra
Helsinki Music Center
Finnish National Opera and Ballet

Based on original composition method *Very Young Composers* by New York Philharmonic Orchestra / Jon Deak

In every project 10-14 children or teenagers with no need for prior knowledge of composing create music for *Kuule Ensemble*: 9 professional musicians from three orchestras and students from Sibelius Academy.

SA students, as part of their studies, act as *teaching artists* and also notate the music. 2-3 professional composers oversee the process together with lecturer from SA.

Two composition projects / year since 2011, always with a new starting point for inspiration:

Graphic Scores / Lyrics / Film animations / Photography / Choreography / Sounds of the Nature / Global warming ... leading into a full scale opera



<https://youtu.be/uC-pHAi562g>



The creative team

- 14 composers, 13-18 yrs. 10 from Finland, 4 from NY/ USA.
- 6 teaching artists from the Sibelius Academy
- 2 professional composers to oversee the process/ act as tutor and 2 from NY
- 1 dramaturg and 1 theater writer to oversee the libretto writing process
- 2 students from Aalto university to design the costumes and set. Their proces was overseen by a professional set and costume designer
- Youth choir (30 members) from Tapiola High School
- Opera director
- Lighting designer
- 9 musicians from the orchestras
- Conductor from SA
- Repetiteur
- 3 singers from SA (soprano / tenor / barytone)
- Lecturer of Music Pedagogy (SA)
- Creative producer (FNOB)



Timeline of the opera process

November 2011: original idea

Spring 2014: book the venue

Spring 2015: create master plan and time table
divide responsibilities between partners
contract artistic team and performers
sign up young composers

Autumn 2015: sign up teaching artists and set and costume designer students
kick off days end of August
orchestra musicians and singers introduce their instruments
starting the libretto and composing sessions
libretto completed October/ score 1st draft december
December Set & Costume plans

Spring 2016: music completed January
Scores out by February
Choir/ soloist music reherasals Feb-March
Set & costumes completed in March
Stage rehearsals Aprill
World premier and 5 perfomances April 2016 at FNOB
May de-brief



Some aims and objectives

- Support the strategy of each institution
- Share knowledge, resources and responsibilities. Alone each one of us is good but together we are even better.
- It's all about trust, openness and ability to communicate between partners
- Challenge ourselves into new ways of working and trust the voice of the community
- Invite new groups to be part of our activities
- Mix in-house artists with students and children / teenagers
- Trust children's imagination and ability to create sound artistic material
- Offer future artists/associates experiences and ideas how to work with art institutions
- In *Aikalisä* one aim was also to recycle and use existing pieces of set and costume as much as possible in new innovative ways



Thank you!

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