

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Esa Juhani Ylönen (b. Kotka, Finland, 14.9.1970)

### MUSICAL EDUCATION

1995 BMus/Sibelius Academy, performance, majoring in piano, teacher Juhani Lagerspetz.

1997 MMus/Sibelius Academy, performance, majoring in piano.

2000 Church cantor qualification.

2021 → DocMus studies at the Sibelius Academy

Numerous piano masterclasses, with Erik T. Tawaststjerna, Laszlo Baranyai, Bella Davidovich, Hans Pålsson and others.

### COMPETITIONS

Victory in the Turku National Chamber Music Competition as pianist with the EsCaMi Trio (Esa Ylönen, piano, Kati Rantamäki, violin and Mikko Pitkääpaasi, cello) 1989.

Victory in the international Pro Archi string orchestra competition in the Czech Republic as pianist with the Kotka viuluviikarit young violinists.

### WORK WITH UUNO KLAMI, HIS PIANO AND CHAMBER MUSIC

I have performed works by Klami for the piano, for strings and piano, and organ arrangements I have made of piano compositions by him at numerous concerts in Finland and abroad, incl. the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Russia and the United States.

In 2013, Alba Records released my world premiere recording (Uuno Klami Landscape) of works by Klami for the piano and for violin and piano with violinist Sirkku Mantere, made possible with a grant from the Kymenlaakso Fund of the Finnish Cultural Foundation. The disc won critical acclaim both in Finland and abroad.

In 2012, I played works for the piano by Klami and gave a talk about them at the First GTA Symposium, held at the University of Helsinki. While in receipt of a six-month artist's grant from the City of Kotka in 2013, I held a masterclass in, among other things, Finnish piano music at the Žilina Conservatory in Slovakia. The class also made a close study of Klami's piano music.

In 2016, the Kymenlaakso Fund of the Finnish Cultural Foundation awarded me a grant to produce a critical edition of the works for piano by Uuno Klami. This was published by Fennica Gehrman, the leading Finnish music publisher, in autumn 2017.

The following year, Fennica Gehrman published an edition of organ arrangements I had made of works by Jean Sibelius and Uuno Klami. In February 2018, the Finnish Cultural Foundation awarded me a grant to edit the chamber works by Uuno Klami for publication. Fennica Gehrman has been publishing these editions made by me in collaboration with composer Eero Kesti since 2019.

In 2020, Alba Records released a world premiere disc of Klami chamber works made by me with the Uuno Klami Ensemble. The disc has received excellent reviews both in Finland and abroad. Hubert Culot in Musicweb-international also praised my well-informed programme notes.

## THE UUNO KLAMI SOCIETY

I was elected Vice-chairman of the Uuno Klami Society in 2015 and Chairman in 2016. I have been the Society's Vice-Chairman since 2020.

## THE UUNO KLAMI ENSEMBLE

The Uuno Klami Ensemble, of which I am leader, was formed at the beginning of 2016 to record and perform chamber works by Uuno Klami. With me in the 2020 project recording chamber works for strings and piano were Essi Höglund (violin), Eero Kesti (viola) and Sirja Nironen (cello).

## APPEARANCES

I have made numerous appearances as a piano soloist, chamber musician, piano accompanist and organist both in Finland and abroad (Canada, China, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland and the United States).

## COLLABORATION WITH VIOLINIST SATU JALAS-RISITO

I have given numerous illustrated talks with violinist Satu Jalas-Risito (granddaughter of Jean Sibelius) in Finland and abroad.

## RÉPÉTITEUR

I have been répétiteur for the Kymi Sinfonietta, Kotka City Theatre and Kotka Opera productions since 1996. I have also been the theatre pianist and music director of various music-theatre productions and have been the rehearsal pianist for many large-scale works for the church.

## ARRANGER AND COMPOSER

I have composed and arranged music for church events, arranged music for string orchestra and piano, made organ transcriptions and piano compositions, composed and arranged works for voice, and arranged a large volume of music to suit the needs of the Kotka Region Music Institute. A children's hymn composed by me has been published in two Finnish song books. Compositions by me can be heard on many discs.

## DISCOGRAPHY

Between 2000 and 2020 I was the pianist and arranger for, among others, discs released by the Kymi Sinfonietta, the Kotkan viuluviikarit, the Kotkan Nuoret Jouset, Hanne-Irmeli Tentke, Leena Arffman, Emilia Vesalainen-Pellas and Riku Pelo.

## OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

1994–1997 East Helsinki Music Institute: part-time piano teacher.

1995–1996 Kotka Region Music Institute: piano teacher.

1996–1997 Kotka Region Music Institute: part-time teacher of piano, chamber music and accompaniment.

1998–> Kotka Region Music Institute: accompanist.

I was the pianist for the chamber music courses of the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival in 2000 and 2001. I have also been responsible for the music at a number of churches.

## ARGENTINE TANGO

I have been playing Argentine tangos with bandoneonist Mikko Helenius since 1996. In addition to traditional Argentine tango and Tango Nuevo we play our own arrangements of Finnish tangos and have performed in the Czech Republic, Germany and the United States in addition to Finland. Our regular vocalist is Martin Alvarado. I am Artistic Director of the August Tango festival held in and around Kotka.

## OTHER DISTINCTIONS

I was voted 'Kotka's Most Positive' in 2011 and 'Salmon of the Year' by the Kymijoki Music Festival (in Finnish literally 'River Kymi Salmon Music') in 2021.