



**Finlandia Foundation®
Columbia-Pacific Chapter**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Celebrating 100 Years of Finland's Independence

**All-Sibelius Concert in Portland by Two Finnish Performers October 17;
Cellist Jussi Makkonen and Pianist Nazig Azezian**

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Finland's independence, two Finnish musicians, cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azezian, will perform an all-Sibelius concert, *Sibelius Inspiration*, from 7:30-9:30pm on Tuesday, October 17 at Nordia House, 8800 SW Oleson Road, Portland, Oregon.

Tickets are available online at www.nordicnorthwest.com or at the door. Ticket price for members of the sponsoring organizations is \$17, for non-members \$22. The concert is sponsored by Finlandia Foundation National, as well as the foundation's local Columbia-Pacific Chapter, Nordic Northwest and the Finland Society.

Multi-media presentation recreates what inspired Sibelius

The *Sibelius Inspiration* live concert will also include narration and videos of the musicians performing in costumes and scenes based on the life of Sibelius and also from the Finnish national epic poem, the *Kalevala*. The videos were filmed in Karelia, in Eastern Finland, where much of the oral tradition of the Kalevala was discovered in the 19th century.

"Sibelius drew inspiration from the heroic tales of the Kalevala and from Finland's beautiful landscapes – especially the forests and lakes of Karelia," explained Azezian. "Our aim is for the music, the videos and the Kalevala stories to transport the audience to a far-away world of beauty, myth and romance."

Music Program

The concert features: Karelia Suite, op. 11; Finlandia op. 26/7; Valse triste, op. 44/1; Romance F Major, op. 78/2; Was It a Dream? op. 37/4; To Evening, op. 17/6; The Tempest, op.109/2; Nocturno, op.24/8; and Water Droplets. Several arrangements are by Matti Makkonen, Jussi's brother. The Tempest is an unpublished arrangement by Sibelius' son-in-law, Jussi Jalas.

Performers

Jussi Makkonen has been playing the cello since he was seven. He was Finland's candidate for the Eurovision Young Musicians competition in 1996 and was a member of the EU Youth Orchestra and Gustav Mahler Orchestra before earning a Master's degree in music from the Sibelius Academy in 2005. Makkonen has performed the music of Sibelius to hundreds of thousands of people throughout Finland, the rest of Europe, much of Asia, Canada and the U.S.

Nazig Azezian began playing the piano at age eight and earned her Master's degree in music from the Sibelius Academy, also. Azezian has performed as a soloist, as a lied pianist (accompanist to

one singer) and in chamber ensembles. She and Makkonen have performed together since 2013 at hundreds of concerts in Europe and the U.S.

In addition to Portland, Makkonen and Azejian are taking the Sibelius Inspiration concert/multi-media experience this fall and winter to Seattle, San Diego, Denver, West Newton (MA), New York City and Mexico City.

For more information about the October 17 Sibelius Inspiration concert in Portland, log onto the websites of Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter, www.fccpc.info/ or Nordic Northwest, www.scanheritage.org or call (503) 977-0275.



*Cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azejian will perform an all-Sibelius concert with multi-media presentation on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 in Portland from 7:30-9:30pm at Nordia House, 8800 SW Oleson Rd, Portland, OR 97223. The concert is sponsored by Finlandia Foundation National, Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter, Nordic Northwest and the Finland Society. **Tickets** available at <http://www.scanheritage.org>*

Links:

<http://jussimakkonen.com/en/>

<http://www.nazig.azejian.com/audio>

<https://www.sibeliusinspiration.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKiO8PCajA4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6O1sGPShVfM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1epnzardsw>