



Birgitta Festival
Pirita convent

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Birgitta Festival

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BIRGITTA FESTIVAL

What connects characters like Eino Leino's **Lalli**, Lorenzo da Ponte's **Don Giovanni**, and William Shakespeare's **Prospero**? They will all be brought to the stage through the operas of Veljo Tormis, Rasmus Puur, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Jean Sibelius at the 2022 Birgitta Festival.

The **Tallinn Philharmonic Society** will open their festival with **Rasmus Puur's** finished version of the opera **Lalli**, unfinished by **Veljo Tormis**. The premiere is like a building being constructed on unfinished walls. The first ten minutes of the opera are Tormis' creation, the rest is Puur's. Following the same libretto. This year's festival will also be brought to a conclusion by a concert based on primal music. This is **Uniko Kimmo Pohjonen, Juuso Hannukainen and the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra**.

Mozart's opera **Don Giovanni**, brought to the stage of Vanemuine by **Elmo Nüganen**, has received many praises. The piece will be performed on two nights in Pirita.

Jean Sibelius' play **The Tempest** has not been staged or performed in Estonia. The Shakespeare play has, of course, been interpreted on the world's drama stages, yet Sibelius' play is not frequently brought to the stage. **Kristjan Järvi** interprets it with the Baltic Sea Philharmonic and a play on video and light.

The **Birgitta Festival** has not taken place for two years. I am glad that this year, the Tallinn Philharmonic Society will be able to continue with the tradition of hosting the festival created by Eri Klas. This time, the festival will be building a bridge between Finnish and Estonian musicians. Enjoy!

Tõnu Kaljuste

