



# Finlandia Foundation – Boston

## April 2022 Newsletter

Website: <https://finlandiafoundationboston.com>

April 2022

### Message from Our President Tuija Vainio

Dear members,

The war in Ukraine rages on and millions have fled the country. The need for help is enormous. Finlandia Foundation National (FFN) put together a concert in March to show support. Pianist Ruusamari Teppo, soprano Maria Mannisto, violinist Jiwon Kim, the Finnish Choral Society of Seattle and young Annabel Teppo shared a selection of compositions by Kyiv-born Reinhold Gliere (1875-1956). The program included Ukrainian folk songs along with other music and poetry to offer comfort and inspire hope. You can find this program on FFN's YouTube Channel. While FFN is not able to process donations for Ukraine, you can help by making donations through International organizations or your local churches. Thank You!

At our March meeting, we had the great pleasure of hosting FFN's Performer of the Year, Eeppi Ursin. The virtual program included pre-recorded songs by Eeppi followed by a lively Q&A session involving the attendees. Eeppi is a versatile performer so I should not have been surprised to hear "Säkkijärven polkka" included along with pop songs from her new album "Speechless". She was delightful - both when singing and later when answering our questions. We learned that she has always wanted to be a musician and her first instrument was oboe, which later on was replaced by the piano. She has a degree from Helsinki Pop & Jazz Conservatory but she also loves Finnish regional songs such as "Nälkämaan Laulu". In her spare time, Eeppi loves to cook and to take walks in Central Park. In case you missed this program, you'll have chance to see her perform at an in-person FFB concert scheduled for October 2, 2022 at the Scandinavian Cultural Center in Newton. Please save the date for a very special event!

Easter is celebrated this week in many parts of the world. I have to confess my Easter usually revolves around eating, chocolate especially. At our home in Finland we used to decorate eggs for Easter and I have been pleased to see that this is very much a custom here in Massachusetts too. A photo of a beautiful Easter decoration created by Suomi-koulu students is included below.

Vappu is celebrated on May 1 and marks the end of winter. In Helsinki it was my favorite festival of the year. On Vappu Eve, April 30, I would join tens of thousands of others at Market Square to see the Havis Amanda statue receive her white student cap at 6 p.m.. You would then raise your own cap and make a champagne toast to Spring. The celebration continued until the next day when people gathered for a picnic at Ullanlinnamäki. The Vappu celebrations are held regardless of the weather and I remember a couple of hailstorms! This year I will unwrap my white cap again and go to Suomi-koulu picnic, where there will be 'sima' and "munkki" to enjoy. After the picnic, it's a short drive to the Scandinavian Cultural Center in Newton, where there will be a concert by violin duo Miolina.

Have a Happy Easter and a Wonderful Spring!

-Tuija Vainio, FFB President

Beautiful  
Easter  
decoration  
created by  
the  
students at  
Suomi-  
koulu of  
New  
England



### Concert by Violin Duo Miolina at the Scandinavian Cultural Center at 1 p.m. on April 30

Please join us for an in-person concert by violin duo Miolina, Mioi Takeda & Lynn Bechtold, at the Scandinavian Cultural Center in Newton at 1 p.m. on Saturday April 30 as they make their debut in Boston. The program, entitled MAPLE & SPRUCE, BIRCH & PINE, will feature new works written for Miolina by Finnish composer Tomi Räisänen, Swedish composer and sound artist Ann Rosén, and by Ms. Bechtold. Other featured works, all being performed for the first time in the US by Miolina, are by Norwegian composer Ketil Hvoslef, and Swedish composers Cecilia Franke, Mauro Godoy Villalobos, and Katarina Leyman.

Miolina specializes in violin music that employs the natural beauty and sound of the instruments, with or without electronics and video. Being called "talented and dedicated" by Arts Birmingham, and described as displaying "aggressive and virtuosic prowess" with "brilliance of sound, technical mastery, and stunning expressivity" by I CARE IF YOU LISTEN, Miolina has attracted large audiences since they started to perform a decade ago. **For tickets, go to** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/miolina-tickets-86347972109> Members of Finland Foundation – Boston (FFB) will receive free tickets by entering the promo code FinlandiaBoston (case sensitive) when they register.

### Come celebrate Vappu at Suomi-koulu of New England on Saturday April 30

Before heading to the Scandinavian Cultural center for the Miolina violin concert on Saturday April 30, please join us for a picnic to celebrate Vappu at Suomi-koulu of New England, now located at the Weston Methodist Church, 377 North Avenue, in Weston. Please feel free to arrive any time after 10:30 a.m. The official welcoming speech declaring the Vappu-celebrations started will take place at 11 a.m., or 6 p.m. Finnish time. There will be games, traditional treats such as sima and munkki along with other food, and balloons to celebrate this joyous occasion. You are all welcome to join!

### Easter Week in Finland – What’s in the Names?

The Easter week in Finland has traditionally had names for each day. Do you still remember them? These names originated from biblical background or the tasks the folk of olden days used to conduct on that specific day. Palm Sunday (palmusunnuntai), Holy Thursday (kiirastorstai) and Good Friday (pitkäperjantai) are still in use today, but the others not as much. On Palm Sunday it is believed Jesus rode the road covered in palm leaves, Holy Thursday is the day of the Last Supper and Good Friday was the day of the crucifixion. Based on folklore, the bad (kiira) was chased away on Thursday. The Finnish name 'Long Friday' may stem from the tradition that one was not supposed to leave home, which may have made the day seem long.

But what about the others; Malkamaanantai (Wood beam Monday), tikkutiistai (Splinter Tuesday), kellokeskiviikko (Bell Wednesday), lankalauantai (Yarn Saturday) and sukkasunnuntai (Sock Sunday)? Wood beams were traditionally collected on Monday, but another origin for the name could have been that blame was cast on others without seeing the beam (malka) in one's own eye. On Tuesday splinter kindlings (tikku) were carved for good luck for the remainder of the year. On Wednesday the cattle was let out after winter with bells on their necks. Yarn that had been spun over the winter was washed and dyed on Saturday. The origin of Sock for Sunday is not clear, but could be due to people spending all Sunday quietly at home wearing their socks.

Hope you enjoy all days of the Easter week and the beginning of Spring.

**Newsletter Co-Editors: Greta Ljung, Teresia Moller, and Karoliina Muukari**  
**Website: <https://finlandiafoundationboston.com/>**  
**Email: [finlandiaboston@gmail.com](mailto:finlandiaboston@gmail.com)**



FINLANDIA FOUNDATION - BOSTON  
P. O. BOX 308  
ARLINGTON, MA 02474-0007

### Scholarship Opportunities

Finlandia Foundation – Boston is pleased to make the following scholarship available for the 2022-23 academic year:

1. Savele Syrjala Journalism Scholarship  
For a student of Finnish-American heritage studying in the field of Journalism or Communications.
2. Aina Swan Cutler Music Scholarship  
For a student of Finnish-American heritage studying music (excluding hard rock and electronic music).

For an application form or for further information, please contact: Edith Syrjala Eash, 80 Potter Pond, Lexington, MA 02421; [syrjalaeash@gmail.com](mailto:syrjalaeash@gmail.com). The application form is also available online at the Finlandia Foundation – Boston website.

The application deadline is May 31, 2022.

### Membership: Please Renew or Join Us Now!

It is now time to renew your membership or to become a new member of Finlandia Foundation – Boston for 2022. The annual membership fee, which runs from January through December, is \$20 for individuals, \$30 for families, and \$10 for seniors. You can pay the fee or make a donation using **PayPal** by going to our website at <https://finlandiafoundationboston.com/membership/>. If you prefer, you can also send a check to:

**FINLANDIA FOUNDATION – BOSTON**  
**P.O. BOX 308**  
**Arlington, MA 02474-0007**

### Photo of Vappu Celebration in Helsinki Happy Spring!

