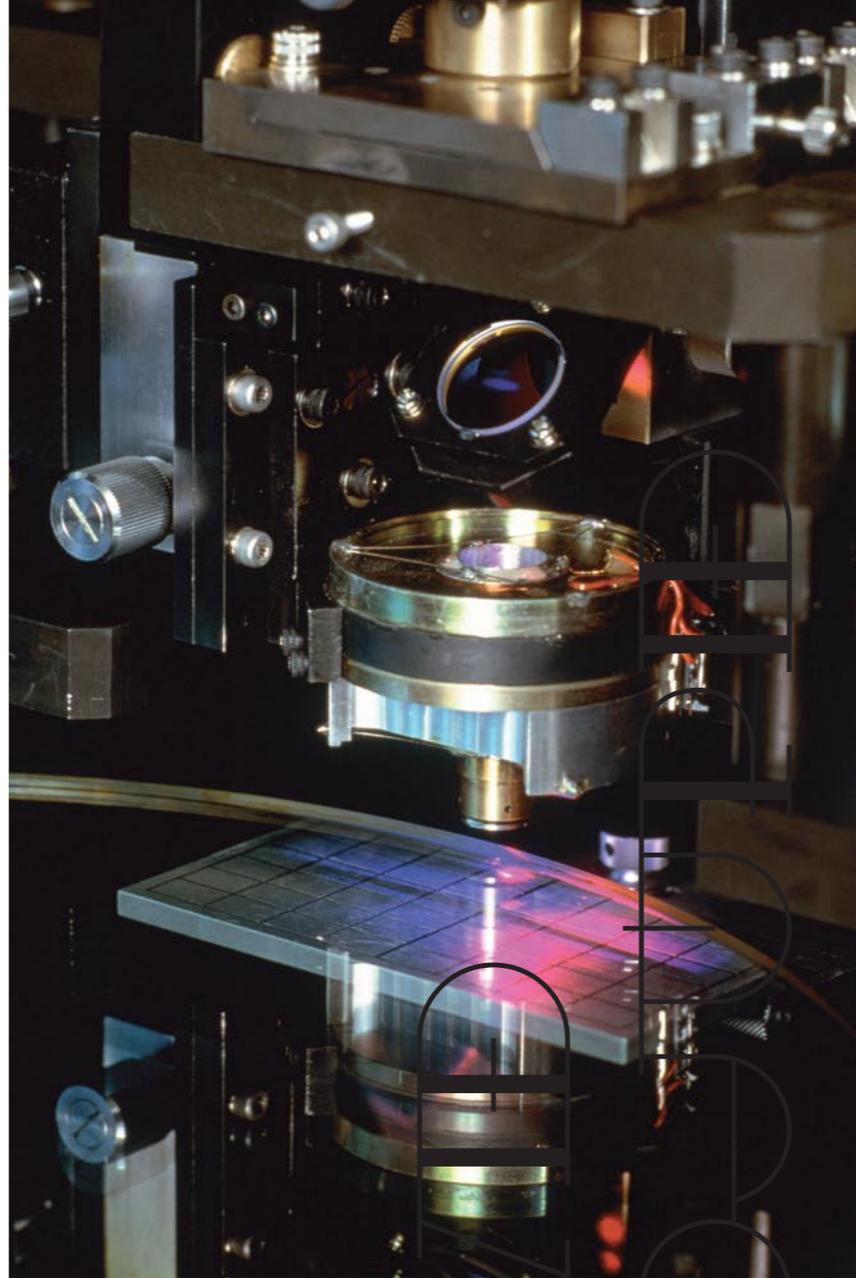


VIRDIR

17-23 June, 2008 in Ísafjörður
MUSIC FESTIVAL
SUMMER COURSES



Hákon Austbø, Piano
MASTERCLASS
CONCERT

VIRDIR



Pekka Kuusisto, Violin
MASTERCLASS
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VIRDIR

The music festival and summer courses Við Djúpið will be held for the 6th time this summer, offering series of concerts and master classes around summer solstice as usually. The lively atmosphere and beautiful surroundings help to create a fun and close-knit community during the festival period in the town of Ísafjörður, where day and night melt together during mid summer.

Distinguished artists from all over perform at the festival each day, offering the best of master classes and concerts in the evenings with a wide range of compositions, classical, contemporary, jazz and pop/rock. The students also give concerts and appearances at the end of the festival.

The festival 2008 takes place during the period of 17th–23rd of June.

In the classical department, the artists who we proudly present are: Pekka Kuusisto, violinist and Håkon Austbø, pianist. The program offers other musical activities

as well. There will be an opera workshop, led by Hanna Dóra Sturludóttir, soprano and conductor/pianist Kurt Kopecky. Violinist Una Sveinbjarnardóttir teaches a chamber music course and pianist Tinna Þorsteinsdóttir will teach contemporary piano playing. The jazz sector features the young and inventive Icelandic jazz pianist Davíð Þór Jónsson who will teach piano improvisation.

The festival is held in close cooperation with the Iceland Academy of the Arts and the summer courses are accredited by it's Department of Music.

Information on registration, fees, flights and accommodation are to be found on the festival website.

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THE FESTIVAL WEBSITE
www.viddjupid.is

Finnish violinist Pekka Kuusisto is one of the most versatile musicians today. His international career took off when he became the first Finn to win the Sibelius Violin Competition in 1995, at the age of 19.

Pekka has played widely around the globe and appeared with many of the world's leading orchestras today under the direction of leading conductors, such as the Symphonies of Chicago, Alabama and Detroit and the Philharmonics of Cleveland and Philadelphia. He has also performed with the orchestras in Stockholm, in the Netherlands, Berlin and Birmingham. He has worked with conductors such as Valery Gergiev, Yuri Termirkanov, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Osmo Vänskä, Paavo Berglund, Thomas Dausgaard and Leif Segerstam.

A keen performer of chamber music, Pekka has worked with many musicians

PEKKA
KUUSISTO

Una Sveinbjarnardóttir studied at Musikhochschule Köln with Prof. Gorjan Kosuta after her B.A. degree in Reykjavík 1995, where her teacher was Mark Reedman. In Cologne she also studied Chamber Music with the renowned Alban Berg String Quartet. In 2005 she completed her Konzertexamen degree at Universitaet der Kunste Berlin with Prof. Thomas Brandis.

Una has performed widely in Europe, USA and Asia and played in chamber music recordings for DeutschlandRadio, RAI and Radio France. Una is a member of Reykjavik Chamber Orchestra since 1995 and has played with Ensemble Modern Frankfurt, Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, Deutsche Oper, Klangverwaltung Munich, was concertmeister of Klassische

UNA
SVEINBJARNARDÓTTIR

around the world, with pianists Raija Kerppo, Olli Mustonen and Simon Crawford-Phillips and cellist Steven Isserlis.

Pekka has shown a great interest and ability to play different styles of music. Folk, jazz, improvisation, electronic and modern music are equally important to him as the classical violin. He has concentrated on the fiddle music of Finland from the 16th and 17th centuries and performs regularly with the jazz group Trio Tolkveat.

Pekka records for the Finnish label Ondine and his release of Vivaldi's Four Seasons received outstanding critical reviews. Other new recordings include two highly-acclaimed discs of works by Sibelius, the complete Bach violin concertos and Mozart violin concertos, as well as recordings with Finnish rock- and pop bands.

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Philharmonie Bonn, Trondheim Sinfoniorkester and The Icelandic Opera.

Una's solo album Fyrramáal was released in 2007 on Bad Taste Ltd., other recordings include albums of Björk, Rammstein, Till Brönner, Bonnie Prince Billy, Ane Brun, Jóhann Jóhannsson, Valgeir Sigurðsson, Mugison and many more. She received first prize in Brahms Chamber Music Competition in Cologne and the Jean-Pierre Jacquillat scholarship for young musicians in 1999.

Currently Una teaches at Reykjavik College of Music, Nýi Tónlistarskólinn and Tónlistarskóli Reykjanessbæjar in Iceland.

Håkon Austbø is professor of piano at the Department of music and Dance, University of Stavanger, Norway since 2007 after being based in the Netherlands for more than 30 years, enjoying an extensive solo career throughout Europe, America and Asia.

Austbø has won many prestigious awards. In 1970 he was the first non-French to win the 'Concours National de la Guilde Française des Artistes Solistes' in Paris, and in 1971 he gained international attention when a unanimous jury awarded him the first prize of the Olivier Messiaen Competition for Contemporary Music in Royan, France. He was also prize winner of the Ravel Competition in Paris in 1975. Austbø received the prize of the Norwegian music critics in 1989 and was chosen 'Performer of the Year' in Norway in 1992.

HÅKON
AUSTBØ

The Icelandic soprano Hanna Dóra Sturludóttir studied in the Reykjavik Academy of Singing, and at the Hochschule der Künste in Berlin. She also took classes with teachers like composer Prof. Aribert Reimann and Prof. Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau. Her current teachers are Roberta Cunningham and Neil Semer.

Hanna Dóra has worked in theatres all over Germany; Komische Oper, Berliner Staatsoper, Bonn, Weimar, Kassel and at the Hamburg Staatsoper and her opera repertoire includes roles like Fiordiligi, Agathe, Desdemona, Madame Butterfly and Marie in Berg's 'Wozzeck'. She also has a great experience in singing modern music.

The soprano regularly sings concerts and operas in her homeland Iceland, in

HANNA DÓRA
STURLUDÓTTIR

In 2003 he received the prestigious Grieg prize.

His recordings for various labels have received international acclaim, such as the recording of the 10 Skryabin sonatas on SIMAX, acclaimed as a reference recording by Gramophone Magazine and received the Norwegian Grammy award in 1990. In 1995 Austbø received the same award for Messiaen's Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus. This recording, part of a NAXOS project including the complete Messiaen piano music, was chosen by Classic CD as the best available version of the work. The next item in this project, the complete Catalogue d'Oiseaux coupled with Petites Esquisses d'Oiseaux, was awarded the Edison prize 1998 for the best solo recording.

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Germany, Poland, Austria, Switzerland and her concert activities have even led her to Qatar and Egypt.

CD recordings with Hanna Dóra include Icelandic songs and German Lieder, two recordings produced by Orpheo in Berlin (song-cycles by Ernst Krenek and Paul Dessau-Lieder), the Operetta 'Der Sterngucker' by Lehár and besides that, live-recordings of 'Faust' (Margarete) and 'Otello' (Desdemona) by Verdi.

In September 2007 Hanna Dóra Sturludóttir sang her debut as 'Ariadne' at the Icelandic Opera in Reykjavik.

Ísafjörður is a small fishing town in the West Fjords (north west) of Iceland and is one of the northern-most towns in the country with around 3000 inhabitants.

The first few things that would come to the mind of an Icelander, if you ask him what Ísafjörður is all about, are fish, rich music life, skiing, and mountainous landscape. These four elements have shaped Ísafjörður and its habitants for centuries. The music tradition has been a strong factor in the town since the foundation of the first music school in the country in 1911 and the Ísafjörður Music School has been at the center of it. The school is very active and there is hardly a family in the town, which hasn't had kids in the school at one time or another. The school's goal is to provide general music education and open the wonderful world of music to everybody. Several Icelandic professional musicians have started their education there.

The mountains are the dominant natural factor that frame in Ísafjörður on three sides where the only escape is the beautiful and vast Atlantic Ocean in the north. During the winter the latitude of Ísafjörður (66°N) and the mountain circle make the days short and nights with darkness quite long. When the sun starts shining again on the town around January 25th, people celebrate by baking pancakes served with whipped cream. For the same reason the summer day is long in Ísafjörður and in fact during summer solstice it never ends.

Facilities are splendid in Ísafjörður for courses, private lessons and concerts. Ísafjörður Music School, where most of the courses and concerts take place is located in the heart of Ísafjörður, as well as the newly renovated Edinborg House Cultural Center, all within walking distance.

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