

# PATH OF SIBELIUS

*Discover the most important places and moments in the life of Jean Sibelius*



*Hämeenlinna / Loviisa / Helsinki / Tuusula and Järvenpää*

## *Path of Sibelius Travel Route*

The year 2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of legendary Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. To celebrate this anniversary, the most important places and moments in the life of Sibelius have been collected together to form a travel route that reflects his path through life. The route also provides an opportunity to catch a glimpse of Finland in the era of Sibelius.

The Path of Sibelius Travel Route presents the places where Sibelius lived, attended school, studied, composed, experienced nature, performed music with his friends, enjoyed family life, conducted premieres of his own compositions, and socialised – places where the memory of the great composer live on to this day.

---

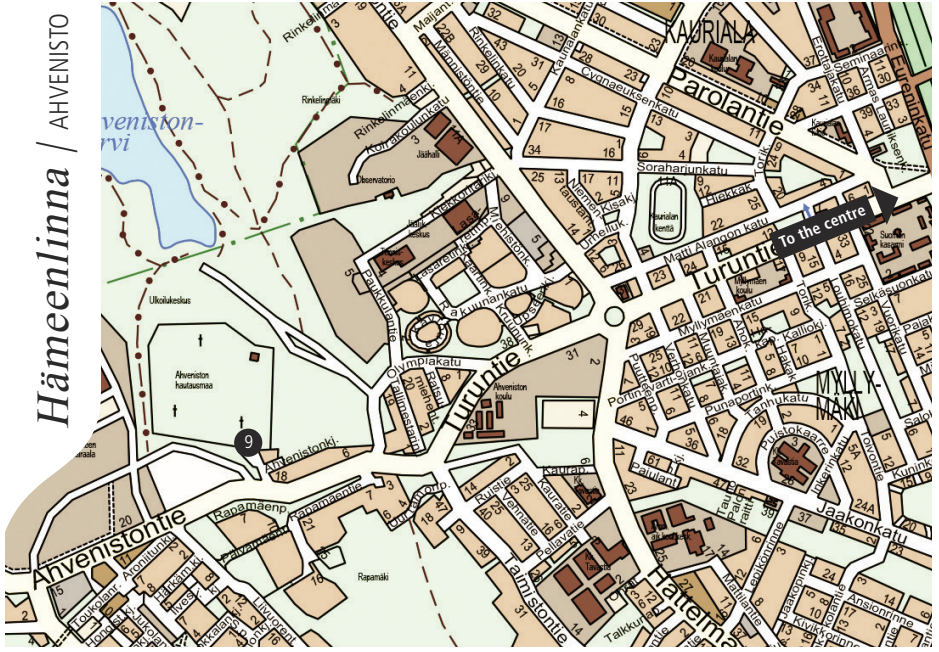


## *Sibelius' Hämeenlinna*

**Jean Sibelius** was born in 1865 in Hämeenlinna, where he grew up, attended school and formed his early outlook on life. It was here that Sibelius became fascinated by music, dedicated himself to his music lessons and made his first compositions. In 1885 Sibelius moved to Helsinki to study. Although only one of Sibelius' original homes in Hämeenlinna remains, many other places in the town evoke the composer's childhood years.



Hämeenlinna / AHVENISTO



Hämeenlinna / AULANKO





Sibelius Birthplace Museum  
Hämeenlinna Historical Museum/Retilika Landén

## Centre

### 1. Birthplace *Hallituskatu 11*

Johan Julius Christian Sibelius was born 8 December 1865. His father was the town doctor. The family rented a modest wooden house built in 1834 on what was then Residenssikatku. The musical yet profligate father died suddenly in 1868. The impoverished young widow Maria Sibelius moved with her two small children Linda and Johan to live with her mother, the parson's widow Katarina Borg. Maria gave birth to her third child Christian in 1869.

The birthplace of Jean Sibelius has served as a museum since 1965. The interior has been restored to its appearance in the 1860s and tells about the composer's childhood. The music of Sibelius is played in the museum from recordings and in chamber music concerts.

### 2. Vanajavesi shoreline

The Sibelius and Borg families, including the parson's widow and her unwed daughters Julia and Thekla, long sought a sufficiently large home. The first home that Jean Sibelius could remember was located on Prykikatu (now Palokunnankatu 5). The property overlooked Lake Vanajavesi, and Janne – as he was known among his family – loved playing by the shore. Although the beautiful natural views over the lake can still be admired, the buildings in Hämeenlinna have changed much since Sibelius' day.

### 3. Sibeliuksenkatu, Sibelius Park and Sibelius Statue

In 1874 the Sibelius and Borg families found a new home on Läntinen Linnankatu (now Sibeliuksenkatu 15) where Janne lived during his school years. His early life was filled with music, playing the piano and violin. Linda, Janne and Christian also played together and with friends. Sibelius' earliest compositions were made here. After moving to Helsinki, Sibelius continued to visit his beloved home frequently until his grandmother passed away in 1892.

On Sibelius' 90th birthday in 1955, the street he used to live on was renamed in his honour. A statue was also planned, which he opposed, but after he passed away the plans were revived. The design competition was won by Kain Tapper with his bronze statue of Sibelius, which was unveiled on 8 December 1964 in the former Tähtipuisto park, renamed Sibelius Park. It is said that local residents used to gather in the park to listen to the music coming from the Sibelius' home. The wooden house at Sibeliuksenkatu 15 was demolished in 1982.

### 4. Former Hämeenlinna Normal Lyceum *Sibeliuksenkatu 19*

In 1876 Sibelius began preparatory school at the Finnish-language Hämeenlinna Normal Lyceum, from where he graduated in 1885. Established in 1873, the school operated out of cramped premises

es in the so-called "stone school" that had been built in 1846. While attending the lyceum, Janne, whose mother tongue was Swedish, learned Finnish well and was introduced the Finnish national epic, the *Kalevala*, which later became an important source of inspiration for his music. Sibelius participated enthusiastically in the school orchestra and quartet, and he performed at the school's functions. His homework suffered, and he had to repeat the fifth grade.

The old school house later served as a post office and office building. A new lyceum at Linnankatu 12-16 was built in 1888. A memorial plaque to Sibelius can be found on the wall, and a portrait of the composer hangs in the main hall.

## 5. Palander House

### *Linnankatu 16*

Sibelius' Hämeenlinna was a small town dominated by single-storey Empire-style wooden buildings. The milieu was quite bourgeois, as many gentry and officials lived in the town, a centre for administration, the military and education. A railway line was inaugurated in 1862, stimulating industry and bringing with it new residents and cultural stimuli from the rest of the world, including many musicians who extended their tours to include Hämeenlinna.

Bourgeois life in 19th-century Hämeenlinna is presented at the museum in the Palander House, around which a section of the old wooden town of Sibelius' youth has been retained. The house is named after the family of Sibelius' teacher Edvard Palander, who lived there from 1884 to 1904. The Palander family hosted small concerts at their home, where Janne too is purported to have performed on violin.

## 6. Hämeenlinna Church

Sibelius' mother and grandmother were very religious, and the family attended church regularly. The round church in Hämeenlinna was modelled on the Roman Pantheon and built between 1792 and 1798. During Janne's childhood the altar was still located in the centre of the circular nave. The church's unique architecture with its antique references made an impression on the boy and stimulated his interest in history. The echo of the hymns sung at church can be heard in the music of Sibelius.

Hämeenlinna Church was expanded to form the shape of a cross in 1892, and the current interior dates to the 1960s.



Linnankatu Street in the early 1900s  
Hämeenlinna Historical Museum



Aulanko  
Kehittämiskeskus Oy Häme/lorma Jämsenniemi

## Elsewhere in Hämeenlinna

### 7. Aulanko

Already in the 1840s local residents would climb the hills at Aulanko to admire the views over the lake. The young Sibelius loved nature, hunted and hiked around Aulanko, which was later made into a woodland park complete with a manor house and a hotel. Many years later Sibelius would reveal that he was thinking of the landscape around Aulanko when he composed *Finlandia*.

### 8. Old Cemetery

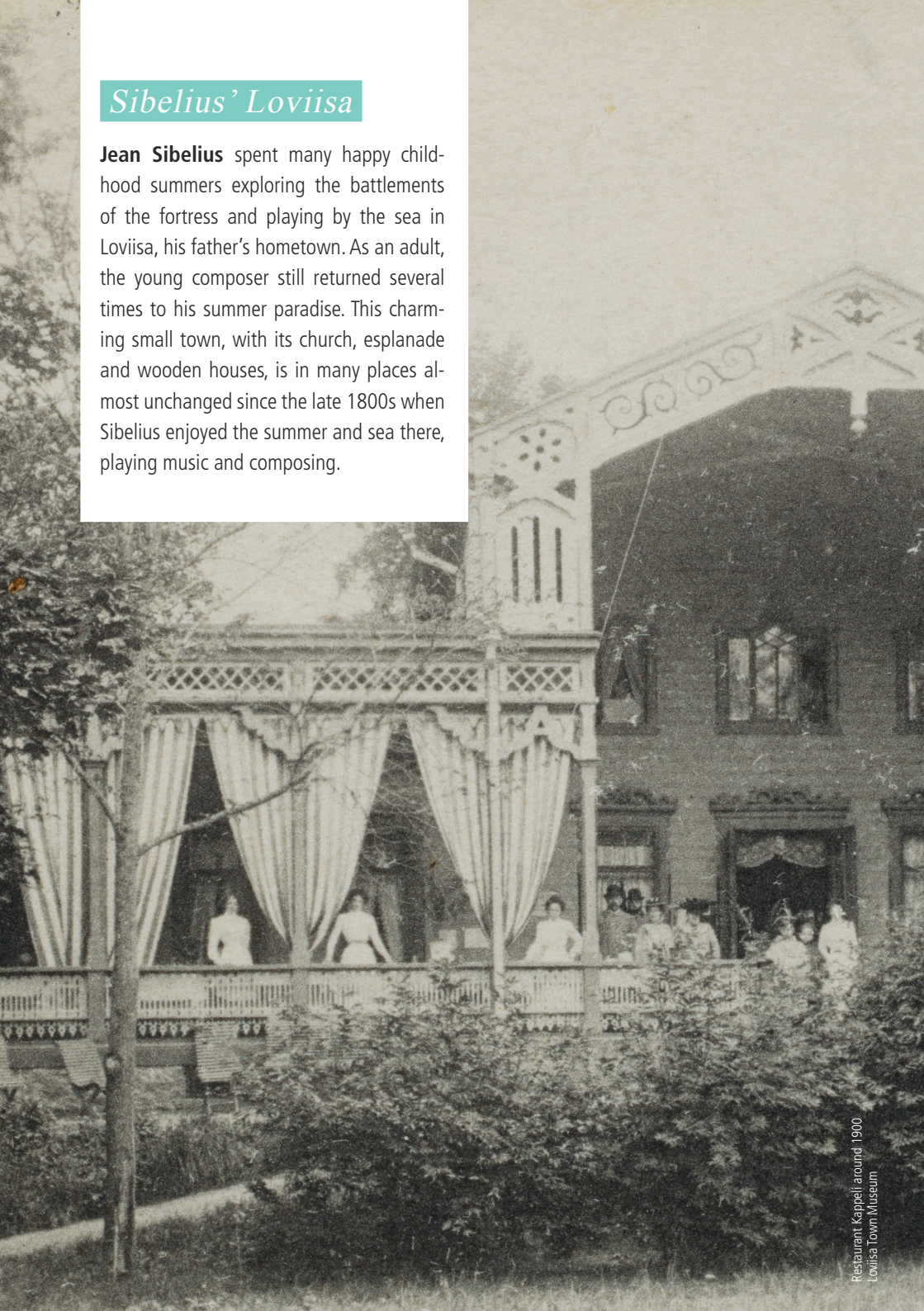
In 1859 the composer's father Christian Sibelius (1821–68) was appointed military and town medical officer in Hämeenlinna, where he wed in 1862. His grave can be found in the Old Cemetery, which was decommissioned in 1873 and is today a park.

### 9. Ahvenisto Cemetery

Most members of the composer's childhood family are buried in the Borg family grave in section 28 of Ahvenisto Cemetery: his grandmother Katarina, mother Maria, sister Linda, uncle Axel and aunts Julia and Thekla. Bandmaster Gustaf Levander, who taught the young Sibelius violin, is also buried in the cemetery.

## *Sibelius' Loviisa*

**Jean Sibelius** spent many happy childhood summers exploring the battlements of the fortress and playing by the sea in Loviisa, his father's hometown. As an adult, the young composer still returned several times to his summer paradise. This charming small town, with its church, esplanade and wooden houses, is in many places almost unchanged since the late 1800s when Sibelius enjoyed the summer and sea there, playing music and composing.



# Loviisa



LOVIISA  
LOVIISA



Sibelius House  
City of Loviisa/peak, press

## Centre

### 1. Sibelius House

#### *Sibeliuksenkatu 10*

Sibelius' grandfather, a merchant, purchased a house on Läntinen Tullikatu in 1817. During the composer's childhood this was the home of his grandmother Katarina Sibelius and aunt Evelina Sibelius, to whom the fatherless Janne and his siblings were very close. The children often spent their summers in Loviisa until 1879, when their grandmother passed away.

In summer 1885, just after Janne had graduated from school, he returned to Loviisa and found the French-language calling cards of his uncle and namesake, sea captain Johan Sibelius, from which he took his artist name Jean Sibelius. His aunt Evelina wholeheartedly encouraged the young composer, who composed in Loviisa chamber music and small pieces as gifts. On quartet he composed for his neighbours the Sucksdorffs, with whom he liked to play music. In autumn 1891, in the peace and quiet of Loviisa, Sibelius composed his breakthrough piece *Kullervo*. He also earned money by giving violin lessons.

The house was sold in 1893 upon the death of Evelina Sibelius. The house has since undergone many changes, and today it is used for teaching music by the Loviisa Music Institute. The street on

which the house is located was renamed in honour of the composer in 1945 and remains very similar to how it was in the late 1800s.

### 2. Sibelius Statue and Sibelius Park

Throughout Finland in the early 1960s there were many projects to erect memorials to the great composer. In Loviisa the local song and music association Östra Nylands Sång- och Musikförbund began to raise money for a statue to be erected by the church, where Janne used to play as a child. Matti Haupt was selected to be the sculptor; his grandfather Christian Haupt, who had played the French horn and led the Loviisa brass septet, was a friend of Sibelius and had even debuted some of his compositions for wind instruments. The bust was unveiled in Sibelius Park in 1964.

### 3. Former Seurahuone

#### *Kuningattarenkatu 24*

Completed in 1863, the Seurahuone hotel and restaurant was the centre of social life in Loviisa. All kinds of performances were held on the stage in the banquet hall, and Sibelius himself performed twice there. He also enjoyed frequenting the restaurant.

The current appearance of the building dates back to 1907. In 1998 it was renovated and converted into a library, and the fine banquet hall was restored to its original condition during Sibelius' times.



#### 4. Kappelinpuisto Park and Kappeli *Kuningattarenkatu 19*

In the second half of the 19th century, Loviisa developed into a lively spa town with lots of music and entertainment in summertime. The spa buildings were surrounded by a park where people could promenade to the accompaniment of music performed on an open-air stage. The Sibelius children took an active part in the town's spa life in the late 1880s, meeting friends, dancing and playing music with the younger guests of the spa. The three Sibelius siblings also performed as a trio at the spa, Janne playing violin, Linda piano and Christian cello. Sibelius composed his lively *Loviisa Trio* for them to perform. At the spa's 25th anniversary celebrations in 1891, a brass band performed a prelude composed by Sibelius especially for the occasion.

The spa building was destroyed by fire in 1935, but the park remains. The historic spa atmosphere can be enjoyed at Kappeli, the old spa restaurant that reopened in 2013 having been restored to its original appearance as Sibelius would have recognised it.

#### 5. Loviisa Museum *Puistokatu 2*

The museum is situated in the Commandant's House, which dates back to 1755 and is one of the

most impressive parts of the historic fortress. The museum presents a small exhibition dedicated to Sibelius, displaying artefacts and photographs that belonged to his relatives and friends.

### *Elsewhere in Loviisa*

#### 6. Myllyharju and Kukkukivi

Overlooking Loviisa is a ridge that once had many windmills, hence its name Myllyharju (Mill Ridge). Spa guests, including the Sibelius siblings, would climb to the top of the bare ridge to take in the views from atop a wooden observation pavilion. In the same location now stands a windmill that was moved there in 1926.

Forest began to cover the ridge in the late 1800s, and a new observation tower, Kukkukivi, was built at the southern end of the ridge in 1906. The recently refurbished Art Nouveau tower affords a splendid view over the bay. Sibelius was inspired by nature and liked to walk through the forests and by the sea with his violin, interpreting what he saw into compositions. He even played his violin to the sea from the bow of a boat when sailing off the coast of Loviisa.

#### 7. Old Cemetery

This cemetery was opened in the 1750s. Close to the centre portion of the stone wall along the ridge side of the cemetery is the Sibelius family grave where his grandparents and aunt Evelina are buried. In autumn 1927, after revisiting Loviisa and the cemetery, Sibelius funded a new headstone for the family grave – he could afford to do so having finally paid off his debts. This gesture by him demonstrates his continued affection for Loviisa through the years.

## *Sibelius' Helsinki*

**Jean Sibelius** moved in 1885 to Helsinki from his hometown of Hämeenlinna to study. He achieved his greatest artistic triumphs in the Finnish capital, as well as starting a family and simply enjoying the joys of life – even after he had moved to Ainola in Järvenpää in 1904. One can still sense the spirit of Sibelius' times in Helsinki, even though the city has changed a lot. Only two of the composer's numerous residences in Helsinki still exist, but his memory lives on in many other places.



# Helsinki







## Centre

### 1. Main Building of the University of Helsinki

Sibelius began studying at the University of Helsinki and Helsinki Music Institute in 1885. His law studies soon made way for music, but the Great Hall of the university, which was the city's main concert hall during that time, still became very important to Sibelius. He conducted there the first performances of nearly all his main orchestral compositions. Sibelius also served as the model for the pale-cloaked man in the centre panel of Albert Edelfelt's fresco *The Inauguration of the Royal Academy of Turku* that adorns the wall of the Great Hall. Badly damaged by bombing in 1944, the original architecture from 1832 was altered. The acoustics suffered and the hall lost its position as a leading concert venue.

### 2. National Library

The National Library of Finland houses the biggest collection of Sibelius' musical manuscripts. Work on the complete critical edition *Jean Sibelius Works* began here in 1996. The edition is based on a thorough study of all surviving sources.

### 3. Helsinki Cathedral

Sibelius passed away on 20 September 1957. The funeral was held on 30 September in the Helsinki Cathedral. The coffin was brought to the church on the previous day, and that evening 17,000 people came to pay their respects to the great composer. Students



formed the honour guard. Seven candles burned on the altar at the funeral, one for each of Sibelius' symphonies. The laying of wreaths lasted two hours. Musicians carried the coffin out to the car, which then drove towards Järvenpää. People lined the way for the entire 40-kilometre journey. Sibelius was buried in the wooded garden of his home, Ainola.

### 4. Arppeanum *Snellmaninkatu 3*

During his study years Sibelius played violin in the Academic Orchestra. The orchestra played in the university's music hall in this building, which also housed the university's chemistry laboratory.

### 5. House of the Estates

Freemasonry was revived in Finland here on 18 August 1922, when Sibelius too was inducted. He later composed ritual music that is still used by the Freemasons in Finland and the USA.

### 6. City Hall

Originally built in 1833 as the Seurahuone Hotel, this building also housed a restaurant and banquet hall. Around 1900, the Helsinki Philharmonic Society Orchestra held here popular concerts that were often attended by Sibelius. His compositions were also performed; the first version of his *Karelia Suite* was premiered in 1893 at a charity concert in the banquet hall.

In 1913 the City of Helsinki acquired the hotel and converted it into the City Hall. The interior

underwent a brutal modernisation in the late 1960s, but the banquet hall was retained and is still used at times for concerts.

## 7. Doctors' House

### *Fabianinkatu 17*

In 1901 a group of doctors had an impressive Art Nouveau house built on the corner of the Kasarmitori square. Sibelius' doctor from 1908 to 1919 was Dr. Wilhelm Zilliacus, who lived and worked here. Zilliacus was a strong opponent of Russian repression and supporter of the Finnish Jaeger movement – young men who had sought military training in Germany with the aim of liberating Finland. In 1917 he received a copy of the words for the *Jaeger March*, written by one of the Jaegers serving in Liepaja, Latvia, and smuggled into Finland. Zilliacus asked Sibelius to compose the music for the march. In great secrecy, Sibelius soon delivered the composition to Zilliacus, and it became a powerful symbol of independence.

## 8. Swedish Normal Lyceum

### *Unioninkatu 2*

As early as the spring of 1886, Sibelius attracted attention as a violinist in the student concerts of the Music Institute held at this school (built in 1880). Some of his earliest compositions were performed for the first time here, including his highly acclaimed String Quartet in A Minor at the end of his studies in May 1889.

## 9. Esplanade

Around 1900, the Esplanade was the recreational heart of Helsinki where the young Sibelius too would spend his free time. Some of his favourite cafés and restaurants are still there, albeit much changed over the years. The Opera Cellar that opened in 1866 on the park side of the Svenska teatern is today a bar and nightclub, while König, which opened in 1892 at Mikonkatu 4, is now a disco and karaoke bar.

The Esplanade was also lined by many banks that the chronically indebted composer would visit often, such as Wasa Bank (Eteläesplanadi 12) and the old Yhdyspankki (Aleksanterinkatu 36b), as well as the fine Art Nouveau bank halls at Pohjoisesplanadi 15 and 19 that now serve as cafés.

## 10. Kappeli

The café and restaurant Kappeli originally opened in 1867, while the current building dates back to 1891. Kappeli was a popular hangout among artists in Helsinki. Sibelius spent a lot of time there around 1900, either partying with his artist friends, dining out or simply enjoying a glass of sherry and a cigar.

## 11. Kämp

### *Pohjoisesplanadi 29*

Opened in 1887, the luxurious Kämp hotel and restaurant soon became a favourite hangout for Sibelius. Already at the end of the 1880s he spent many happy evenings there among the "Leskovites". This musical group of friends was so called after the dog Lesko, who belonged to Ferruccio Busoni, piano teacher at the Music Institute. Between 1892 and 1894 another group, the Symposion, gathered at the Kämp comprising Sibelius, the painter Akseli Gallén-Kallela and the conductor Robert Kajanus. Their spirited art discussions and merrymaking became legendary. Sibelius would continue to dine and stay at the Kämp into the 1930s.

The hotel eventually fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1967, but a section of the façade was restored for the bank building that was built on the spot in 1969. In 1999 the bank was converted back into a five-star hotel, but the interior does not correspond to the original design.

## 12. Lundqvist's Palace of Commerce

### *Aleksanterinkatu 13*

Radical young cultural intellectuals formed a circle around the Swedish-language literary magazine *Euterpe* in 1902 and convened at the magazine's editorial offices in this building. Sibelius spent many long spirited evenings at these gatherings, ultimately leading him to move to the countryside in Tuusula in 1904.

## 13. Svenska teatern

Completed in 1866, this building became the centre of Swedish-language theatre in Helsinki. Sibelius' first theatre composition *Kristian II* debuted here in 1898. In 1899 Svenska teatern presented a tableau depicting episodes from Finnish history to the accompaniment of music by Sibelius. The piece *Finland Awakens*, meant as a covert protest against Russian oppression, captivated audiences and would



evolve to become the symphonic poem *Finlandia*. The decorative façade of the theatre was simplified in 1935, but the main hall and foyer would still feel familiar to Sibelius.

#### **14. Hotel Klaus K** *Bulevardi 2–Erottaja 4*

In the 1880s there was a wooden building on the corner of the streets, and just up the hill was the brick Paersch building that housed a German school for girls. Founded in 1882, the Helsinki Music Institute originally leased premises in the school, where Sibelius studied from 1885 to 1889. The music institute held exams and concerts in the main hall of the Paersch building, and Sibelius himself often played there and performed his early compositions.

In 1913 an Art Nouveau building was completed on the corner. In 1920 this was joined to the Paersch building to form the Rake hardware store. A hotel opened in the building in 1938, and the hardware store closed in the 1970s. The main hall of the Paersch building was restored in the 1980s and renamed Rake Hall.

#### **15. Old Student House**

The Old Student House was built in 1870 as a centre for student parties, organisations and cultural activities. It included a music hall, where student choirs could rehearse, and a banquet hall, where concerts were held. Sibelius attended these concerts, and in 1889 he performed as the violin soloist for the Aca-

demical Orchestra. His performance was praised, but thereafter Sibelius buried his childhood dreams of becoming a violin virtuoso. Instead, Sibelius' male choir pieces would be sung in the music hall from the 1890s onwards.

The banquet hall was damaged by fire in 1978 but fully restored. Choir singing was discontinued in 2013, as the Student Union felt it disrupted the building's restaurant activities.

#### **16. Fennia** *Mikonkatu 17*

Sibelius stayed often at the Hotel Fennia (opened in 1898) when visiting Helsinki – sometimes for weeks at a time when he sought peace and quiet in which to compose. On Sibelius' 70th anniversary 8 December 1935, a banquet was held here. The guests heard his second symphony broadcast live from New York.

#### **17. Finnish National Theatre**

Regular theatre productions in Finnish began in Helsinki in 1872, and the long-awaited national theatre building was completed in 1902. The theatre's inauguration was a national celebration for which Sibelius composed the piece *The Origin of Fire (Tulen synty)*. The most famous of his compositions that was premiered here, however, is *Valse triste*, which was originally composed in 1903 for the play *Death (Kuolema)* written by his brother-in-law Arvid Järnefelt.

## 18. Kaisaniemenkatu 1

In the early 1930s Sibelius tried to focus on composing his eighth symphony, and he spent long periods living in the hotel Karelia in this building. However, the composer grew increasingly self-critical and the symphony was never completed.

## 19. Kalevankatu 45

Armas Järnefelt, future conductor and Sibelius' friend, introduced him in 1888 to his sister Aino Järnefelt (1871–1969), and the two fell in love at first sight. Sibelius became a frequent guest at the Järnefelt's home, befriending Aino's brothers and adopting the family's powerful patriotic sentiments.

Jean and Aino Sibelius married on 10 June 1892. The newlyweds rented an apartment at this address. The couple's first child Eva was born here, and the first version of *En Saga* and the choral piece *The Boat Journey (Venematka)*. The family moved out in spring 1893.

## 20. Sibelius Academy

*Pohjoinen Rautatiekatu 9*

In 1924 the Helsinki Music Institute, where Sibelius had studied, became the Helsinki Conservatory. The school finally got its own building in 1931 and was renamed Sibelius Academy with the composer's consent in 1938.

Sibelius conducted for the last time on 1 January 1939 in the academy's concert hall. The Radio Orchestra performed *Andante festivo* in a live broadcast for the World's Fair in New York. The rehearsal for this concert is the only existing recording of music conducted by Sibelius.

## 21. Helsinki Music Centre

The Helsinki Music Centre opened in 2011 and houses the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra and the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra. The HPO was founded in 1882 and performed the premieres of many of Sibelius' main works under his leadership. The Helsinki Music Centre is also home to the Sibelius Academy.

## Töölö

## 22. Sibelius memorial oak

In 1941 the Helsinki Society and Helsinki's male choirs planted an oak tree by the City Garden in honour of Sibelius, who had just moved back to the city.

## 23. Töölö Sports Hall

In the 1930s Sibelius was at the height of his fame in Scandinavia, the UK and the USA. His 70th birthday was an international media event, and the old composer was inundated by tributes. On his birthday, 8 December 1935, a concert was held in the new Exhibition Hall (now the southern end of Töölö Sports Hall). Sibelius enjoyed the acclaim but afterwards no longer wished to appear in public due to his shaking hands.

## 24. Sibeliusenkatu 11

In 1939 the Sibelius family rented a large apartment at Kammionkatu 11 A where they planned to stay during the winters. Their first stay was cut short by the Winter War, but from autumn 1940 to summer 1941 they lived in Töölö. Aino enjoyed living in the city, Jean less so. With the outbreak of the Contin-





Sibelius Monument  
Visit - Helsinki Material Bank/Paul Williams

ation War in 1941, they decided to remain in Ainola in the countryside, and they gave up their city apartment in 1942.

## 25. Sibelius Park and Sibeliuksenkatu

Sibelius' acclaim in Finland was approaching hero worship, and as he grew older his birthdays were celebrated with ever more grandeur. In 1945, when Sibelius turned 80, the City of Helsinki named this park Sibelius Park. In 1965, to mark the 100th anniversary of Sibelius' birth, Kammionkatu, the street where the composer lived for a short period, was renamed Sibeliuksenkatu.

## 26. Sibelius-monumentti

### *Sibeliuksen puisto*

The Sibelius Society organised a design competition for a memorial to the composer. It was won in 1962 by Eila Hiltunen's entry *Passio Musicae*. The abstract design initially provoked a lot of controversy, but the issue was resolved by adding Sibelius' bust to Hiltunen's work. The Sibelius Monument was inaugurated in 1967 and soon became one of the most popular tourist attractions in Helsinki.

## *Elsewhere in Helsinki*

### 27. Kaivopuisto Park

Between 1885 and 1895, Sibelius lived as a tenant on several occasions in the villas overlooking Kaivopuisto Park. The most unusual of these apartments was housed in the spa at the end of

the Iso Puistotie alley, where Sibelius worked on his breakthrough composition *Kullervo* in spring 1892. Although the buildings in which Sibelius lived no longer exist, the park and its splendid sea views remain, as do some of the original wooden villas along Itäinen Puistotie and Kallioliinantie.

### 28. Kallio Cathedral

The most played Sibelius' work, *Kellokoraali* (bell choral) for seven bells, has rung out for over hundred years daily at 12noon and 6pm from the tower of the Art Nouveau Kallio Cathedral (completed in 1912).

### 29. Lapinlahti Hospital

During the Civil War in winter 1918, friends brought the Sibelius family to safety in Helsinki from Ainola. The family stayed in the accommodations of the composer's brother Christian, senior physician at Lapinlahti Hospital, until the spring. The cantata *My Own Land (Oma maa)* was composed there. The park of the former psychiatric hospital (built in 1841) is open to the public.

### 30. Sibelius Upper Secondary School

#### *Liisankatu 13*

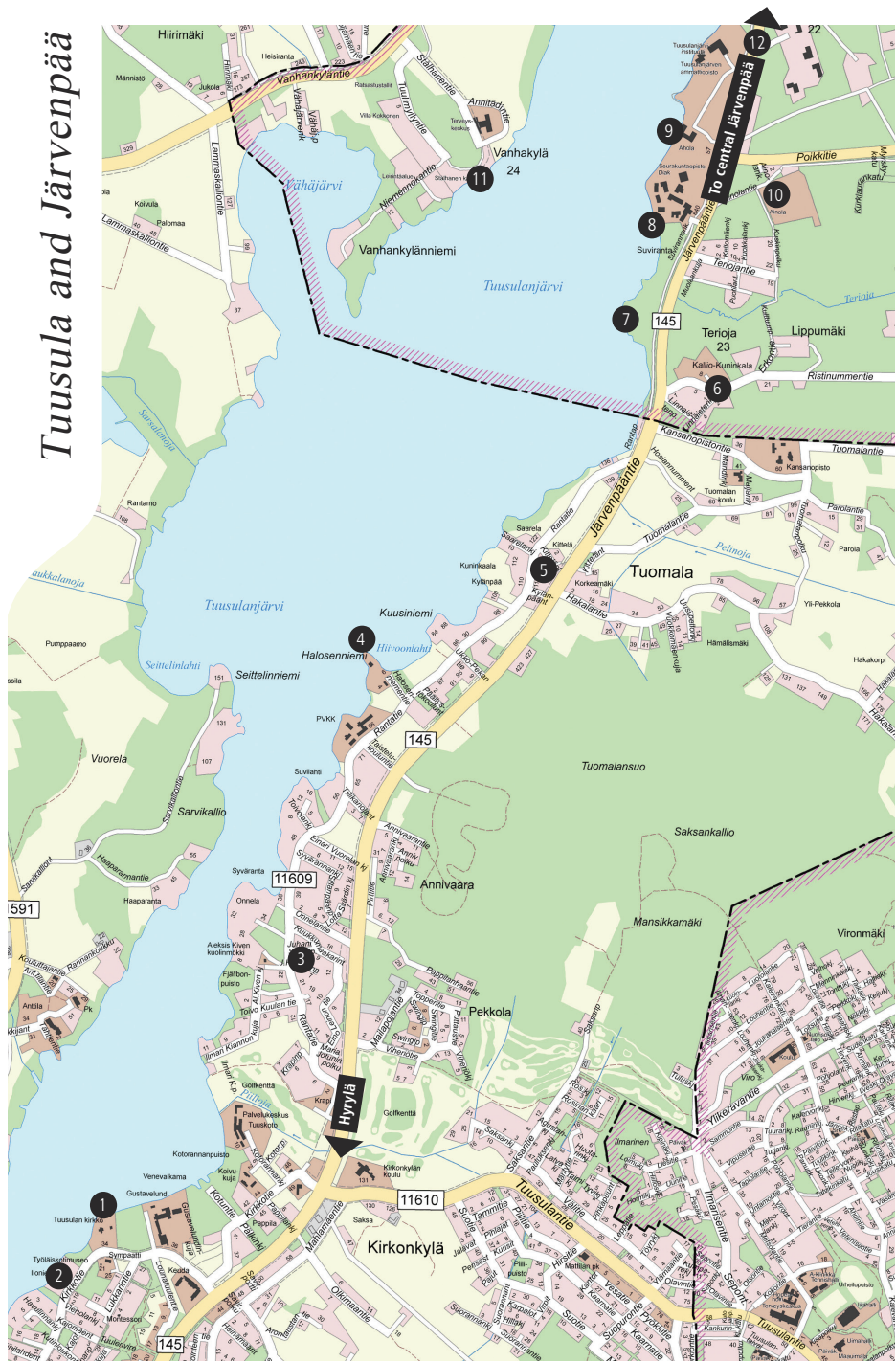
The first musical upper secondary school in Finland was renamed in 1982 in honour of Sibelius with the consent of the composer's family. The distinguished school specialises in music and dance.

## *Sibelius' Tuusula and Järvenpää*

By the end of the 1890s, Jean Sibelius began to yearn for the peace and quiet of the countryside away from the temptations of Helsinki. An artist community was beginning to form at the time in Tuusula, which was in the countryside yet within easy reach of Helsinki by train. Sibelius first lived in the village of Kerava from 1899 to 1902. In 1903 he purchased land in the village of Järvenpää and had a house built there in 1904. Ainola would remain his home for the rest of his life and is one of several artist residences in Tuusula where the era of Sibelius lives on to this day.



# Tuusula and Järvenpää



## 1. Tuusula Church

The church in Tuusula was originally built in 1734, but its current appearance dates back to 1903. The nave too would have been very familiar to Sibelius, although he attended church services here quite seldom over the decades. In 1914 the Sibelius family travelled by horse-drawn sleigh to the Christmas service, the atmosphere of which made a great impression on the composer.

Aleksis Kivi, the national author of Finland, and the painter Pekka Halonen are among those buried in the cemetery. Sibelius too is said to have chosen a burial spot there, but eventually he and his wife were laid to rest in the garden of their home at Ainola in accordance with their last wishes.

## 2. Iloniemi

Sakari Soinne (1861–1942) was cantor of Tuusula for 55 years. He earned extra income repairing organs and tuning pianos, through which he became acquainted with Sibelius already when he lived in Kerava. With his absolute ear, Soinne was trusted with tuning the pianos at Ainola and the other artist residences in Tuusula. Kanttorila, the official residence of Soinne, was located opposite the church and behind the old school. In 1918, the Soinne family bought Villa Iloniemi nearby, still a private home.

## 3. Erkkola

stirred up by the national awakening in Finland in sensitive naturalistic poems, some of which remain popular as songs. In the 1890s Sibelius composed music for a couple of Erkkö's poems, although a planned opera based on a libretto by Erkkö was not realised. Having sought the happiness of marriage and peace of home all his life, Erkkö built his own house in Tuusula in 1902. He lived there alone for his remaining years. Erkkola was opened to the public in 2007.

## 4. Halosenniemi

In 1902 the painter Pekka Halonen (1865–1933) had a house built in Tuusula with the most beautiful view over the lake. The artist community would gather in the large atelier at Halosenniemi to socialise and enjoy music. Pekka Halonen himself played the kannel and enjoyed listening to music while painting. His wife Maija was a gifted pianist who taught piano to the daughters of Jean and Aino Sibelius.

Maija and Aino together played piano for four hands. They also shared a passion for gardening.

Halosenniemi has served as a museum since 1949, and the surrounding nature is a conservation area. The museum presents life in the artist family and temporary art exhibitions.

## 5. Kylänpää House and Tuomala Village

In order to oversee construction work at Ainola in 1904, Sibelius and his family spent that summer in the fine blue Kylänpää House at the southern end of Tuomala Village.

## 6. Kallio-Kuninkala Farm

The Kallio-Kuninkala farm was owned from 1899 by the industrialist K. A. Paloheimo, whose family was very influential in Finland's economic and cultural life. The Paloheimos socialised a lot with the artists in Tuusula, and their sons wed the daughters of the Sibelius, Järnefelt and Halonen families.

The current main building at Kallio-Kuninkala dates to the 1920s. Nearer the lake, Ala-Kuninkala was the summer cottage of Eva Sibelius and her husband Arvi Paloheimo. These days courses are held by the Sibelius Academy at Kallio-Kuninkala, and the old barn has been converted into a concert hall and studio.

## 7. Puotinnokka

The artist community's young people enjoyed spending time together. One of their favourite places was Puotinnokka, a headland on the Kallio-Kuninkala farm. Many unforgettable Midsummer Eve celebrations were held there in the 1910s and 1920s.

## 8. Suviranta

The atelier home of Aino Sibelius' brother, the painter Eero Järnefelt (1863–1937), was built in 1901 beside the lake. This had a direct influence on Jean and Aino's decision to move to Tuusula, as Aino wanted to be near to her brother during Jean's long absences abroad. The two families were very close, and the cousins grew up together. Jean and Aino's daughters did their piano practice at Suviranta in order not to disturb their father at Ainola. Suviranta is still a private home.

## 9. Ahola

In 1897 the author Juhani Aho (1861–1921) and his wife, the painter Venny Soldan-Brofeldt (1863–



1945), rented a villa that came to be known as Ahola. The celebrity couple attracted others to the area, and the Tuusula artist community was born. The unconventional lifestyle of the Aho family may have shocked some contemporaries, but the other artist families loved their company. Jean Sibelius too got along with Juhani Aho, even though Aho had years before tried to court Aino. Aho and his family moved away from Tuusula already in 1911, and in 1997 Ahola was opened to the public as a museum.

## 10. Ainola

Sibelius found a place for his new home on a wooded slope with an open view to the fields and, farther off, Lake Tuusula. Designed by architect Lars Sonck, Ainola was completed in 1904. The house gained its current appearance in 1911, when the outer walls were boarded and additional rooms built upstairs. Other buildings were also constructed, including a sauna, stable and shed. A garden was skilfully and lovingly tended to by Aino. The interior was uniquely decorated with items that had been inherited, received as gifts and purchased by Jean and Aino. An impressive collection of Finnish Golden Age art was also amassed courtesy of the composer's artist friends.

Ainola gave Sibelius peace and quiet in which to work and a permanent home for his family, which included his wife Aino and five daughters: Eva, Ruth, Katarina, Margareta and Heidi. The majority of his compositions were created here. Sibelius once said that even the silence speaks in



Ainola, and he referred to his beloved home as a great symphony of wood.

Jean Sibelius passed away in 1957 at the age of 91. Aino Sibelius continued to live at Ainola until her death in 1969. Their daughters sold the property to the Finnish State in 1972, and Ainola was opened to the public as a museum in 1974. Ainola continues to attract around 30,000 visitors a year.

## Elsewhere in Järvenpää

### 11. Vanhakylä Manor

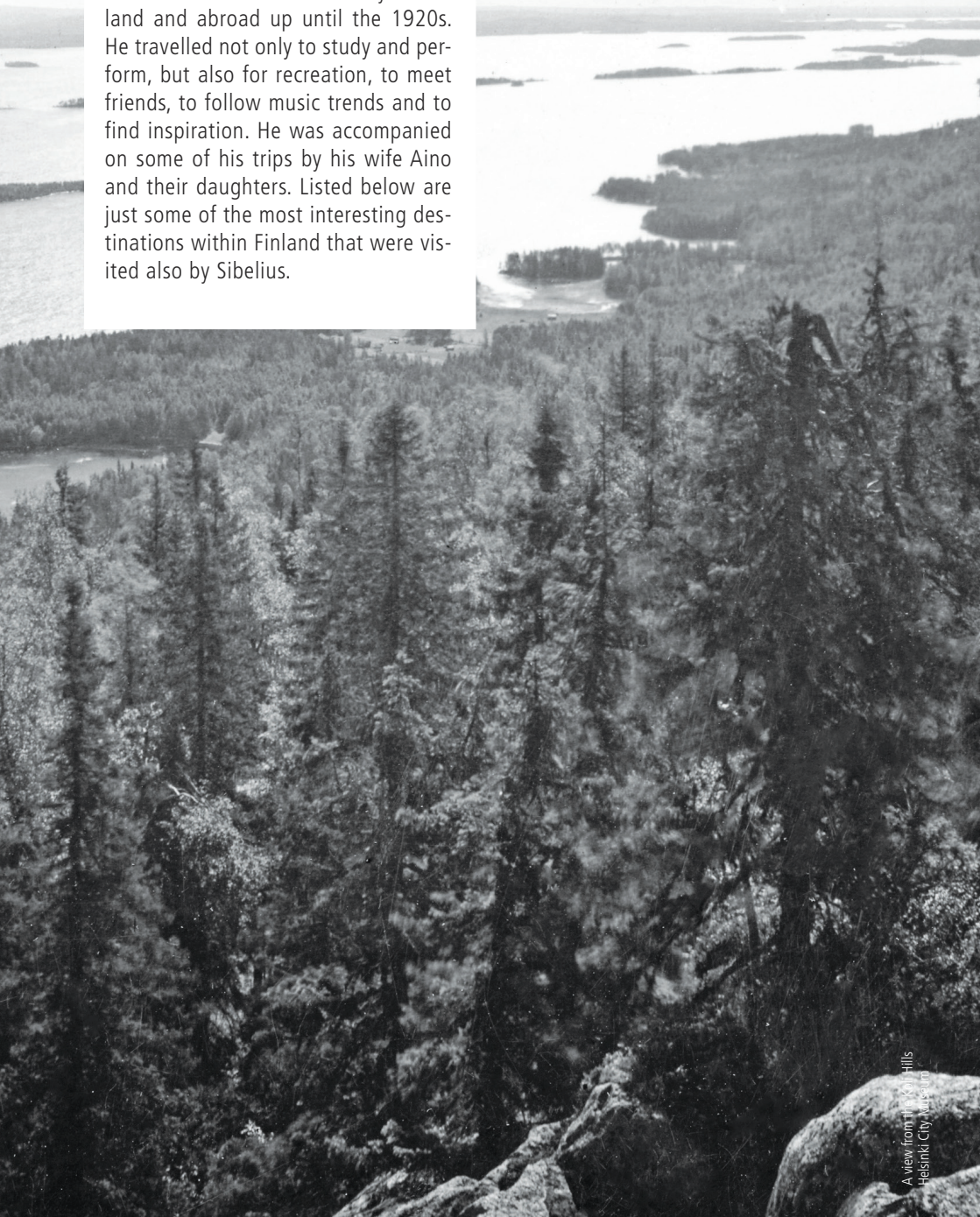
In 1898, Sibelius visited Aho and Halonen in Järvenpää and wanted to settle there as well. According to a story, he asked for a rental villa at the Vanhakylä Manor, but the stern landlady refused, as Sibelius had been portrayed drunk in the painting *Symposium* by Gallén-Kallela. Today, the manor serves as a café.

### 12. Järvenpää Station and Sibelius Statue

A fast, 90-minute railway connection to Helsinki was important to the artists of Tuusula, and also Sibelius was a familiar sight at the Järvenpää Station, built in 1858 and one of the oldest in Finland. On the other side of the rail, the Sibelius Statue (1964) by sculptor Erkki Eronen is gazing out towards Ainola.

## *Sibelius' Finland*

**Jean Sibelius** travelled widely in Finland and abroad up until the 1920s. He travelled not only to study and perform, but also for recreation, to meet friends, to follow music trends and to find inspiration. He was accompanied on some of his trips by his wife Aino and their daughters. Listed below are just some of the most interesting destinations within Finland that were visited also by Sibelius.



## Imatra

The impressive Imatrankoski rapids attracted tourists already in the 19th century. Sibelius visited the rapids in 1910 together with his English friend Rosa Newmarch. In 1928 Sibelius was commissioned to compose an "Imatra Symphony" for the inauguration of the new power plant there. He spent three days at the Valtionhotelli hotel by the rapids, but the project never came to fruition.

## Korpoo

Sibelius was a keen fisherman and loved to spend summers by the water. The most musically productive of his seaside holiday destinations was Korpoo, where the young student and composer spent summers together with his family in 1886 and 1887. There he composed chamber music for the trio he formed with his brother and sister and for the family at Korpoo Manor, with whom Sibelius liked to play music.

## Lahti

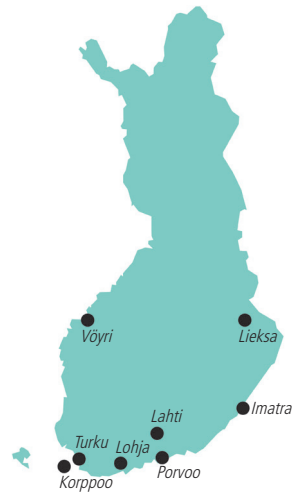
The Sibelius family spent the summers of 1895 and 1896 in Vaania, Hollola, fishing on the Vesijärvi lake. By the shores of the same lake in nearby Lahti can be found Sibelius Hall (Sibeliustalo), a concert and congress centre that opened in 2000. It is home to the Lahti Symphony Orchestra, which specialises in interpreting the music of Jean Sibelius.

## Lieksa

In the 1890s, the rune villages and impressive landscapes of Karelia attracted young artists in search of the origins of the Finnish identity. Jean and Aino Sibelius themselves travelled on their honeymoon in 1892 to Lieksa on the shores of Lake Pielinen. Sibelius returned to Lieksa, to the hills of Koli, in autumn 1909 together with his brother-in-law, the painter Eero Järnefelt. Koli was a major source of inspiration for Sibelius.

## Lohja

In 1896 Sibelius' mother-in-law Elisabeth Järnefelt and brother-in-law, the author Arvid Järnefelt, moved to Virkkala on the shores of Lake Lohja to dedicate themselves to farming and charity in the spirit of Tolstoy. The Sibelius family spent many summers with them between 1897 and 1903. Jean Sibelius composed in a cottage by the lake and helped out with the work, such as building a stone wall with Arvid at



Rantala farm. Today Rantala is a private home, but nearby a memorial to Arvid Järnefelt can be found.

## Porvoo

In the early 1890s, the Ingrian rune singer Larin Paraske attracted a lot of attention among the cultural elite in Finland when she lived as the guest of Adolf Neovius, Pastor of Porvoo Cathedral. In late 1891 Sibelius visited the home of Neovius at Välikatu 11 to listen to Paraske singing, providing him with vital inspiration for *Kullervo* and his Kalevala-inspired choir pieces. The building, Holm House (Holmin talo), is now a museum presenting the home of an 18th-century merchant.

## Turku

When the composer was growing up, Turku was the home of his uncle, the seed merchant Pehr Sibelius, who encouraged Janne to pursue music. Jean Sibelius would later conduct concerts in Turku. From the 1920s onwards, the music history collections of Åbo Akademi began to accumulate a Sibelius archive. In 1949, with the composer's consent, the Sibelius Museum was founded. Today, it presents an exhibition of instruments and a small Sibelius exhibition.

## Vöyri

When Jean and Aino met, her father Aleksander Järnefelt was governor of Vaasa region and spent his summers near Vaasa at Tottesund Manor, where Jean Sibelius and Aino Järnefelt were married on 10 June 1892. The manor house is now used by the municipality as offices and is open to the public in summertime.



**Further information about Jean Sibelius**  
[www.sibelius.fi](http://www.sibelius.fi)

**Sources**

*Hämeenlinna Historical Museum  
Loviisa Town Museum  
Helsinki City Museum  
Järvenpää Art Museum  
Tuusula Museums  
Ainola*

**Editor**

*Jere Jäppinen, Helsinki City Museum*

**Cover illustration**

*Lasse Rantanen*

**Layout**

*Mari Villanen, Pisama Art*

**Translation**

*Crockford Communications*

**S15belius**  
2015

[www.sibelius150.fi](http://www.sibelius150.fi)

[www.visithelsinki.fi](http://www.visithelsinki.fi) | [www.visithameenlinna.fi](http://www.visithameenlinna.fi) | [www.visitloviisa.fi](http://www.visitloviisa.fi)  
[www.ainola.fi](http://www.ainola.fi) | [www.tuusulanrantatie.fi](http://www.tuusulanrantatie.fi)