



FINNFEST USA 2023 SCHEDULE

Note: This is a draft schedule and all events are subject to change. Many events are included in the price of registration; however, you will need to pre-register for some of them as space is limited. Pre-registration will occur this spring. Events that are listed as “additional fee for both registrants and non-registrants” will require an extra ticket. Registrants will get discounted tickets while those who are not registered will pay full price. Tickets for those additional fee events will be available in the spring.

All events at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC) unless otherwise noted

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023

8:00 AM Registration desk opens
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Tori Vendors can start to set up their booths

Tours:

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Fee for both registrants and non-registrants
Tour buses leave DECC: 9:00 AM

- Saxe-Zim Bog

This nationally renowned natural bog (over 300 sq. miles bog amidst a Finnish immigrant farm area) is a “magic mix” of soggy black spruce and tamarack stands “interspersed with meadows and fields filled with meadow voles.” Two extensive interpretative/guided tours on boardwalks built over the bog will be interspersed with presentations and discussion at the Welcome Center. Travel time will include an opportunity to become acquainted with contemporary Northern MN forestry practices. Tour guides: Sparky Stensaas & Clinton Nienhaus, Naturalists and Eugene Ollila, Friends of the Sax-Zim board.



- Eastern Iron Range

The Mesabi Range, the main iron (largely open pit) mining region of the United States, attracted Finns after 1892, contributing to Minnesota becoming the state with the highest proportion of Finns in the USA. This tour explores examples of both early 20th C. Finnish immigrant urban and rural life:

1. The 40 acre Eli Wirtanen homestead erected in 1904;
2. The open air museum at Embarrass, MN which includes the Seitaniemi Housebarn, the only remaining example in the US of a combined house and barn built by Finnish immigrants;
3. Virginia, Minnesota's 1906 Temperance Hall, now known as Kaleva Hall, a Finnish American building on the National Historic Register.

Local volunteers at each site will interpret. The tour includes coffee at the Wirtanen and Embarrass sites and lunch at the Kaleva Hall.

Tour guide: Charles Ek

- Early Finnish farm culture: South from Duluth

Finns came to the Thompson/Esko region to homestead in the early 1870's. The driving tour through the countryside will stop at Esko's small open air museum. Both buildings and displays bring this early, largely Laestadian, Finnish immigrant community to life. Also involved in this tour will be an opportunity to explore the impact of devastating 1918 forest fires in and around Cloquet and Moose Lake. The impact of 1918 forest fire that devastated the Finnish communities will be part of the tour.

Tour guide: TBD

- Northwestern Wisconsin

Finns created farming communities east of Duluth, starting in the late 1880s. Spend a day visiting the Finnish immigrant vernacular architecture created across the region. Engage with the active preservation work of contemporary Finnish American volunteers. The tour will visit Douglas County historic sites including the Davidson Windmill and the Waino Chapel. The Windmill, a National Historic Registry building, features handmade gears, an engineering marvel, able to grind 300 pounds of grain every hour. In Bayfield County, the tour will introduce the work of the Oulu Cultural & Heritage Center, an open-air museum with 10 historic buildings complete with period artifacts.



The site includes the John and Justina Palo Homestead also on the National Register of Historic Places. Detailed demonstrations of on-going historic preservation tasks will be demonstrated. Lunch featuring Finnish American cooking will be included.

Tour guides: Jim Pellman & Duane Lahti

- Nordic Riviera

An exploration of the North Shore, one of America's major scenic routes. Special attention will be given to the interesting Finns (both Finnish and Swedish speaking), who participated in shaping its physical and social environment. Stopping first at the Gooseberry Falls Visitors Center (designed by David Salmela) and the one-room Larsmont School, a national historic register building, part of the Swedish Finnish community and going up the shoreline to Grand Marais and the Grand Marais Sauna. The Finland, Minnesota stop will include the Heritage Museum and the Cooperative Store, Minnesota's oldest continuing functioning Co-op store.

Tour guide: Arnold Alanen.

Tours all return to DECC by 5:00 PM

Finnish American Film Festival - Day One

Finnish American Folklife: An Upper Midwestern Retrospective

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Tickets: Free for registrants; additional fee for non-registrants

- 9:00 AM - *Alan Lomax Goes North* (1938 & 2015), 28 minutes, a film by James P. Leary and Guha Shankar
- 10:00 AM - *Finnish American Lives* (1982), 47 minutes, a film by Michael Loukinen and Tom Davenport
- 1:00 PM - *Tradition Bearers* (1983), 47 minutes, a film by Michael Loukinen
- 2:00 PM - *At Laskiainen in Palo, Everyone is a Finn* (1983), 58 minutes, a film by Elli-Kaija Köngäs-Maranda, Marsha Elizabeth Penti, & Thomas Vennum



Wednesday evening:

Singing Strings perform in concert

Chamber orchestra comprised of students aged 9-15 who perform a program of Nordic music, both classical and folk. Theatrical program created and led by twin sisters, Helina Leino Pakola (USA) and Hilpi Leino Kantola (Finland), both Sibelius Institute trained musicians.

- 7:00-8:30
- Venue: DECC
- Tickets: Additional fee for both registrants and non-registrants

Finnish Film: The last silent films made in Finland

- "Laveata tietä" / "The Wide Road", 1931
- Director: Valentin Vaala; Lead actors: Teuvo Tulio, Eeva Virtanen, Alli Riks
- Soundtrack created by Kent Washburn and performed live.
- Venue: Zeitgeist Movie theater
- Tickets: Free for registrants; additional fee for non-registrants

Kansanperinneitä Kehollisesti: Finnish Burlesque Troupe

- Venue: Zeitgeist stage theater
- Tickets: Free for registrants, additional fee for non-registrants

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Tori vendors continue to set up their booths.

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Registration desk open.

12:00 PM to 4:30 PM Tori open

Finnish American Film Festival - Day Two

Finnish American Folklife: Five New Films by Michael Loukinen and Hilary-Joy Virtanen

Tickets: Free for registrants; additional fee for non-registrants

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

- 9:00 *Melvin Kangas: Kantele Man*, 27 minutes
- 10:00 *Matikka (Burbot): American Finlander Lobster*, 38 minutes
- 11:00 *Finnish American Chip Woodcarvers*, 56 minutes



- 1:00 *Finnish American Rag Rug Weavers*, 53 minutes
- 2:00 *Yooper Creoles: Finnish Music in Michigan's Copper Country*, 65 minutes
- 3:15 Meet the filmmakers and featured artists for a panel discussion, questions and answers

Workshops and Seminars

9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Coffee breaks and lunch will be included

Tickets: Additional fee for both registrants and non-registrants

- Class: Finnish language instruction
- Seminar: Genealogy
- Seminar: Sauna
- Workshop: Application of Finnish methods in American classrooms
- Workshop: Folk dancers
- Tour: David Salmela architecture

Thursday Evening:

Opening Convocation

- 5:00 PM
- Venue: DECC
- Tickets: Free for registrants; additional fee for non-registrants

Traditional dancing party

- 8:00 PM
- Venue: Holiday Inn
- Teresa Aho band performing for dancing
- Tickets: Free for registrants; additional fee for non-registrants

Downtown Duluth events

- 8:00 PM
- Tickets: Free for registrants; additional fee for non-registrants
- Venue: Pizza Luce
 - Finnish American and Nordic music from Laurel Premo, with special guest Sara Pajunen
- Venue: Zeitgeist performance space and theaters
 - Finnish film: recent release
 - Kansanperinneitä Kehollisesti: Burlesque Troupe



- Venue: TBD
“On Foot Across the Solar Systems”: A Song Cycle based on the poetry of Edith Sodergren, one of Finland’s greatest 20th century poets; Composer: Garrett Fisher. World Premiere performance. Maria Männistö, soprano & Garrett Fisher, piano.
(In honor of the 150th anniversary of Sodergren’s birth)

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

8:00-4:00 Registration Open

9:00-5:00 Tori Open

Tori Exhibits, Concerts, and Folk Arts Demonstrations

Panels and Keynotes - Registrants only

9:00-11:30

Finnish American Folk Music/All Tradition is Change – Day One

Morning and afternoon presentations/panels/performances

Featuring: Teresa Aho, Nate Gibson, Diane Jarvi, Rich Koski, Erik Koskinen, Pekka Laine, Jim Leary, Michael Ludgate, Katrina Mackey, Sara Pajunen, Eric Peltoniemi, Laurel Premo, Carl Rahkonen, Rami Soini, Breanne Tepler, Oren Tikkanen, Ralph Tuttila with Lauulu Aika

- 9:00-10:00 Singer Songwriters and the Finnish American Experience
- 10:30-11:30 Playing Across Cultures/Creole Sounds
- 1:30-2:30 Old-Time Songs and Tunes
- 3:00-4:00 Country Music in Finland and Finnish America

Finnish American Film Festival - Day Two

Director’s Spotlight: Films of Kelly Saxberg

Tickets: Free for registrants; additional fee for non-registrants

10:00 AM to 4:30 PM

- 10:00 *Seeking Bimaadiziiwin* (2007), 31 minutes
- 11:00 *Pulp Friction* (2014), 59 minutes
- 1:00 Meet the filmmaker, Kelly Saxberg
- 1:30 *Letters from Karelia* (2004), 76 minutes
- 3:00 *Under the Red Star* (2011), 79 minutes



12:00-1:00 Private Luncheons

Panels and Keynotes - Registrants only

1:30-4:00

Finnish & Finnish American Writing – Day One

- 10:30 Suzanne Matson, Finlandia Foundation Lecturer of the Year, reads from her work and talks about her writing.
- 1:30 Contemporary Finnish authors read in Finnish from their work. Authors TBD.
- 3:00 Contemporary Finnish American authors read in English from their work. Authors TBD

Finnish and Finnish American Cooking Seminar

9:00-11:30 (with break halfway through)

Beatrice Ojakangas, renowned cookbook author, and Soile Anderson, renowned Finnish caterer will be interviewed by Eleanor Aune Ostman, St. Paul Pioneer Dispatch Food editor, retired. The three will discuss Finnish American and Finnish foods, food preparations, and their careers built around foods. Videos featuring their cooking will be included in this interactive discussion between the three cooks and the audience.

Finnish & Finnish American History – Day One

Finnish American family home movies: Why we should be looking at them

Finnish hymnody: their use in Finland

Environment & Sustainability: Finland & the USA – Day One

Finland and the USA working together for environment and sustainability. Rolf Weberg, Natural Resources Research, University of Minnesota-Duluth and John Kettle, Natural Resources Institute Finland create a series of sessions that show how Finland and Minnesota are sharing research and best practices. Two examples that will be presented are the Sax-Zim bog natural reserve and Arborwood, the Duluth company working with Finnish research to strengthen wood products.



Finnish and Finnish American Art and Design – Day One

Lectures and Panels on 20th Century Finnish architects and their influences on Modern Architecture. Introduction to 21st Century Finnish architects and significant buildings that now dot the urban landscape. David Salmela, Duluth architect featured in panels and tours. Presenters: Peter MacKeith, Professor

and Dean of the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design; Thomas Fisher, Professor and Director of the University of Minnesota Design Center; Alison Aune, Professor of Art Education, University of Minnesota-Duluth; Tuomi Forrest, Executive Director, Historic Germantown.

Children’s Programming – *In development for Friday and Saturday*

- Look for a variety of workshops developed specifically for children and young adults. Gaming workshop, Creating videos, Learning Finnish, Creating art, Singing and writing opportunities. Sports opportunities.

Introduction to the music that will be performed at the Symphony Orchestra Concert on Friday evening:

- **Venue:** Harborside Ballroom
- 12:00-1:00 P.M.
Reserve a seat; purchased lunch optional.

Finland and NATO

- 2:00 PM
- Reserved admission required
- Free for registrants; additional fee for non-registrants

Friday evening:

Private Reception

- For FinnFest USA members and honored guests
- 5:00 PM
- Invitation only

Symphony Orchestra Concert

- Venue: DECC Symphony Hall
- 8:00 PM
- Tickets: Additional fee for both registrants and non-registrants



Downtown Duluth Events

- 8:00 PM
 - Venue: Pizza Luce
 - Finnish American Alt-Country music with Erik Koskinen & band
 - Venue: Zeitgeist
 - Finnish film: recent release
 - Kansanperinneitä Kehollisesti: Burlesque Troupe
 - Tickets: Free for registrants; additional fee for non-registrants
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SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

9:00-12:00 Registration Open
9:00-5:00 Tori Open
 Tori Exhibits, Concerts, and Folk Arts Demonstrations

Panels and Keynotes - Registrants Only

9:00-11:30

Finnish and Finnish American Seminar on Faith Issues

Time: 9:00-11:30 (with break halfway through)

Topic: The Rapidly Declining Lutheran Church in Finland and the US. Crisis of Faith or the Church, or Both?

Since 2000, the membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland has declined by almost 20%. During the same time period the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America membership has declined by almost 40%.

In this seminar, the presenters will outline what has happened and discuss its implications for both countries now and in the future. Presentations and discussion.

Presenters: Rev. Jarmo Tarkki, Ph.D., D.Min
 Rev. Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, Ph.D.



Finnish & Finnish American Writing – Day Two

- 10:30 Contemporary Finnish American authors read in English from their work. Authors: TBD
- 1:30 Contemporary Finnish authors read in Finnish from their work. Authors TBD.
- 3:00 Contemporary Finnish American authors read in English from their work. Authors TBD

Finnish American Film Festival - Day Three

Director's Spotlight: Kristin Ojaniemi Films

Tickets: Free for registrants; additional fee for non-registrants

10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

- 10:00 *Co-operatively Yours* (2017), 57 minutes
- 11:00 *Sirkka: Past and Present* (2019), 57 minutes
- 1:00 Meet the filmmaker, Kristin Ojaniemi
- 1:30 *Roy Helander* (2019), 20 minutes
- 2:00 *Born in Barn*, excerpts from a series-in-progress

Finnish American Folk Music/All Tradition is Change – Day Two

Morning and afternoon presentations/panels/performances

Featuring: Jim Leary, Lotta Leiwo, Kip Peltoniemi, Saku Pinta, Carl Rahkonen, Saijaleena Rantanen, Kirsti Salmi-Niklander, Steve Solkela, Päivi Takala, Hilary Virtanen, John Westmoreland

- 9:00-10:00 Accordion Humorists
- 10:30-11:30 T-Bone Slim and Finnish American Labor Songs
- 1:30-2:30 History of Finnish American Dance Bands
- 3:00-4:00 The Legacy of Viola Turpeinen

Finnish & Finnish American History – Day Two

- A series of sessions commemorate the 150th birth of Oskari Tokoi, Finnish immigrant laborer, later first Prime Minister of Finland, and finally, Editor of Raivaaja newspaper and Saima Society leader.
- American Migration to Karelia and 1930's Finnish Americans
- Deportation of Finnish immigrants: the Mongolian question



Environment & Sustainability: Finland & the USA – Day Two

Finnish and Finnish American Art and Design – Day Two

21st Century architecture featuring wood. Himmeli crafts, Interdisciplinary crosswords in the arts.

Children’s Programming – In development for Friday and Saturday

- Look for a variety of workshops developed specifically for children and young adults. Gaming workshop, Creating videos, Learning Finnish, Creating art, Singing and writing opportunities. Sports opportunities. One of the films coming from Finland will be a 2023 release, the latest film in the Ricky Rapper series. (The film will be available with English.)

12:00-1:00

Private Luncheons

1:30-4:00

Panels and Keynotes: *Still finalizing*

Saturday Evening

Samuli Edelmann Concert

- 8:00 PM
- Venue: DECC Symphony Hall
- Tickets: Additional fee for both registrants and non-registrants

Downtown Duluth Events

- 8:00 PM
- Zeitgeist
 - Finnish film: recent release
 - Kansanperinneitä Kehollisesti: Burlesque Troupe
- Holiday Inn
 - Finnish American dance music: x
- Tickets: Free for registrants; additional fee for non-registrants



SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023

9:00-12:00	Tori Open Vendor booths final sales Exhibits, Concerts, and Folk Arts Demonstrations
12:00-5:00	Tori vendor breakdown of booths

Festival Worship Service

- 10:00 AM
- Venue: Symphony Hall, DECC
 - FinnFest USA Choir, Maria Männistö, director
 - Finnish Heritage Hymnal (Finnish hymns in English translations)

 - Ameriikan Poijat brass ensemble
 - Jarmo Tarkki, Lead Pastor
 - Samuli Edelman, featured soloist

Family Dance and Musicians' Jam session

- 2:00 to 4:00 PM
- Venue: Harborside Ballroom (overlooking Lake Superior)
- Finn Hall band and other musicians jamming and playing for dancing
- Tickets: Free for registrants; additional fee for non-registrants

Volunteer Thank-You Party

- 6:00 PM
- All volunteers are invited to stay and celebrate their accomplishments