DULUTH MINNESOTA

JULY 26 - 30, 2023
FINNFEST 2023
SCHEDULE

NOTES:
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. Registration and tickets for extra events are now available.

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

This image indicates that the event is included with the cost of your full festival registration

Updated 6/27/2023
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time/Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>7:00 AM - 5:00 PM</strong></td>
<td><strong>Registration desk open</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>8:00 AM - 5:00 PM</strong></td>
<td>Tori vendors can start to set up their booths</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOURS</strong></td>
<td><strong>ALL DAY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SAX-ZIM BOG</strong></td>
<td><strong>8:30 AM bus leaves</strong> All-day experience in a pristine bog located in a Finnish immigrant farm area. Travel to the Welcome Center (a building that features Arborwood’s iron-like wood products). Learn about a Northern rainforest bog and tour sites. Two extensive interpretativeguided tours on boardwalks built over the bog will be interspersed with presentations and discussion at the Welcome Center. Tour guides: Sparky Stensaas &amp; Clinton Nienhaus, Naturalists and Eugene Ollila, Friends of the Sax-Zim Board Limited to 25 people Accessibility: Walking on boardwalks and uneven terrain. Trails are wheelchair accessible.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EASTERN IRON RANGE</strong></td>
<td><strong>8:00 AM bus leaves</strong> Visit the Mesabi range and learn more about early 20th century Finnish immigrant urban and rural life. Stops at Eli Wirtanen Homestead, Embarrass (where you’ll see Seitaniemi Housebarn, the only remaining example in the US of a combined house and barn built by Finnish immigrants), and Kaleva Hall - all open air museums. 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 Limited to 45 people Accessibility: Walking outside, some stairs at historic sites</td>
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<td>Location</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FINNS, FORESTS, FARMS, AND FIRES: SOUTH FROM DULUTH</strong></td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN</strong></td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
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<td><strong>NORDIC RIVIERA</strong></td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
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WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

- **R/V Blue Heron tours**
  Free tours open to all
  The ship will be moored at Pier B

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

- **Finnish American Film Festival - Day One**
  **Split Rock Room**
  Finnish American Folklore: An Upper Midwestern Retrospective
  - 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
  - 12:00 Noon *At Laskiainen in Palo, Everyone is a Finn* (1983), 58 minutes, a film by Elli-Kaija Köngäs-Maranda, Marsha Elizabeth Penti, & Thomas Vennum
  - 1:00 PM *Tradition Bearers* (1983), 47 minutes, a film by Michael Loukinen
  - 2:00 PM *Bobby Aro, King of the Great North Woods* (2013), 57 minutes, a film by Ted Pellman and PBS North/WDSE-TV

1:00 - 4:00 PM

- **Pop Up Exhibition - Inspiraatioita: Finnish Inspirations in Minnesota**
  Nordic Center
  This exhibition will feature the work of 8 Minnesota artists who draw inspiration from traditional and contemporary Finnish art and design. These artists will share works that explore diverse themes through textiles, drawing, painting, ceramics, photography, and mixed media. The Nordic Center is a non-profit cultural center established in 2011, with a mission to share Nordic culture with the greater community through social, educational and arts programs.

  Curator-Artists: Alison and Kirsten Aune
  Participating Artists: Justin Anderson, Mary Erickson Tia Keobounpheng, Lenore Lampi, Natalie Salminen, Marlene Wisuri

8:00 PM

- **Film: Laveata Tietä (The Wide Road)**
  Fitger’s Theater
  Finland’s Last Silent Film
  1 hour, 30 minutes
THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

7:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Registration desk open

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tori vendors continue to set up their booths

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Tori open
Pioneer Hall & Edmund Fitzgerald Room

Concerts and Artisan Sessions
Sponsored and organized by the Nordic Folklife/Center for the Study of Upper Midwest Cultures, University of Wisconsin-Madison

1:00–1:45: Himmeli Making featuring artist Alana Maijala with moderator Mirva Johnson
2:00–2:45: Woodcarving featuring artist Pekka Olson with moderator Nathan Gibson
3:00–3:45: Swedish Hair Ornaments featuring artist Karen Keenan with moderator Jason Schroeder
4:00–4:45: Jouhikko (a 2 or 3 stringed lyre) Making and Woodcarving featuring artist Matt Durocher with moderator Marcus Cederström

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Finnish Citizen: Passport Renewal
Harbor Side Convention Center, Room 201
By appointment only
Consulate of Finland, New York City
Application of Finnish Methods in American Classrooms

Enrollment limited to 126 participants

This workshop will explore how Finnish educational theories have been implemented in schools. Classroom teachers (Margaret Hanson, Mavis Mantila, Anne Shadrick, Erika Suo, and Ulla Tervo-Desnick) from Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and Michigan's Upper Peninsula will present methods they have used successfully in classroom settings. A college professor, Dr. Katie Raisanen Bonawitz, will address “Positive Effects of Collaboration between the USA and Finland.” In addition, an administrator, Jim Kurtti, and classroom teacher, Steve Aho, will speak about their experiences working in partnership with Finland.

Finnish Language Instruction

I BEGINNING

Enrollment limited to 20 participants

Come and have fun learning the basics of our incredible, fun, and beautiful SUOMI! After this morning, you can greet people, compliment a gorgeous Finnish girl or a handsome guy, complain about the weather and the mosquitos, buy coffee, pulla, karjalanpiirakka, makkara and beer, yell at the ice hockey match - as well as swear properly!

II INTERMEDIATE

Enrollment limited to 20 participants

Let’s talk! We’ll be practicing conversational skills by learning to state facts, fiction, and opinions! We’ll be talking about the weather, the Eurovision song contest, the Parliamentary elections, the non-Finnish speaking waitstaff in Helsinki restaurants, etc. Finn-fun topics.
Arctic Region Genealogy - Looking for Family in the 21st Century

Enrollment limited to 100 participants

- **Keynote: DNA in a 21st Century Context - The example of Tribal Citizenship: The Anishinaabe Experience with Race/Blood Quantum**
  
  Jill Doerfler, Ph.D., Professor & Dept. Chair: American Indian Studies University of Minnesota-Duluth

- **Who left Finland? Why did they leave? Who returned? The Example of Central Ostrobothnia**
  
  Rainer Smedman, Ph.D., Tokoi Seura, Finland

- **Forest Finns and late 19th Century migration to the US**
  
  Wayne Peterson & Sarah Kammlah, Forest Finns Society

- **Oral History as Data for Family & Community: Reaching the narratives of small cultures**
  
  Hilary-Joy Virtanen, Ph.D. Finlandia Foundation National Project

- **Siirtolaisuusintituutti: The Migration Institute**

- **Reimagining a Finland-based Resource for the 21st century North American researcher**

- **Finnish American Migration Patterns in North America**
  
  Introduction: Mary Lukkarila

- **Finding Family in the migration patterns: Two Experience**
  
  Patricia Kennedy

- **A family raised in Detroit explores its roots in South Dakota**
  
  Karl Morris

Sauna Seminar

Enrollment limited to 30 participants

Learn more about the Nordic sauna lifestyle from Justin Juntunen, founder of Cedar & Stone Nordic Sauna. Interested in more information about the workshop? Email Justin@cedarandstonesauna.com for workshop specifics.
THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Split Rock Room

**Finnish American Film Festival - Day Two**
Finnish American Folklife: Five New Films by Michael Loukinen and Hilary-Joy Virtanen
- 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

**Walking tour of a historic Duluth neighborhood: The Finnish community along St. Croix Avenue**
Enjoy a walking tour of St. Croix Avenue, one of Duluth's historic Finnish neighborhoods, one right near the DECC. Conducted by members of the Jarvenpaa Chapter Number 1 of the Minnesota Finnish American Historical Society, the tour begins at the DECC and covers about 10 blocks packed with Finnish history. Wear comfortable walking shoes and be prepared for the day's weather.
Purchase your $10 ticket at the Registration desk on Wednesday but no later than 8:45 A.M. Thursday.
Asahi Workshop: Too much sitting? Stand up for your health!

Get back in balance with a revolutionary mind-body practice from Finland: Asahi, designed by medical sports experts to be fun, safe & effective for everyone: no pain, all gain! Connect with your breathing and deepest muscles for improved balance, posture, coordination, flexibility, circulation, boosted spirits & immunity through very simple flowing movements in a standing (or sitting) position - no need to get down on a mat!

In this two hour workshop you can master the basics of Asahi in a standing and sitting position and create a daily health routine that works for you. Join us, and when you turn 100, you’ll be glad you did! This can be done in street clothes. No special clothing necessary, flat shoes or barefoot.

Folk Dance Workshop

Open to all. Instruction for beginners and advanced. Jenkka and valsi dance instruction will be featured, using music composed by Hiski Salomaa, Finnish America’s Woody Guthrie.

Organizers: Kiikurit Dancers, Thunder Bay, Ontario

Pop Up Exhibition - Inspiraatioita: Finnish Inspirations in Minnesota

This exhibition will feature the work of 8 Minnesota artists who draw inspiration from traditional and contemporary Finnish art and design. These artists will share works that explore diverse themes through textiles, drawing, painting, ceramics, photography, and mixed media. The Nordic Center is a non-profit cultural center established in 2011, with a mission to share Nordic culture with the greater community through social, educational and arts programs.

Curator-Artists: Alison and Kirsten Aune
Participating Artists: Justin Anderson, Mary Erickson Tia Keobounpheng, Lenore Lampi, Natalie Salminen, Marlene Wisuri
THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

5:00 - 6:30 PM
DECC Symphony Hall

Opening Convocation
Join Jim Paine, Master of Ceremonies and Mayor of Superior, Wisconsin, along with Mayor of Duluth Emily Larson, FinnFest President Marianne Wargelin, dignitaries and special musical groups to kick off the 40th anniversary of FinnFest!

Featuring Festival favorites:
• Ameriikan Poijat, Finnish American brass septet (First FinnFest appearance: 1991)
• FinnFest USA Choir - 2023, directed by Maria Männistö (First FinnFest appearance: 1983)
• Finn Hall (First FinnFest appearance: 1983)

You won’t want to miss this exciting event!

8:00 PM
Holiday Inn Ballroom

Traditional Dancing Party
Teresa Aho/Pohjan Tahtet Sami Tyttot (Northern Star Sámi Girls) performing old time Finnish American dance music

8:00 PM
Pizza Luce

Music in Downtown Duluth:
Laurel Premo (Roots music: violin, guitar, vocal) with guest artist Sara Pajunen (violin)

8:00 PM
Zeitgeist Movie Theater

Finnish Film
TBD

9:00 PM
Zeitgeist Movie Theater

On Foot Across the Solar System
A Song Cycle based on the poetry of Edith Sodergren
Garrett Fisher, composer and pianist, Maria Männistö, vocalist
FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Registration desk open

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Pioneer Hall & Edmund Fitzgerald Room
Tori open

Concerts and Artisan Sessions
Sponsored and organized by the Nordic Folklife/Center for the Study of Upper Midwest Cultures, University of Wisconsin-Madison

9:00–9:45: Rag Rug Weaving featuring artist Lisa Wiitala with moderator Hilary Virtanen
10:00–10:45: Rosemaling featuring artist Tara Austin with moderator Marcus Cederström
10:45-11:00: Kisarit folk dance group
11:00–11:45: The Duluth Færing Project featuring artists Justin Anderson & John Finkle with moderator Tom DuBois
11:45-12:00: Kiikurit folk dance group
12:00–12:45: Diane Jarvi
12:45-1:00: Kisarit folk dance group
1:00–1:45: Nate Gibson & Rami Soini
2:00–2:45: John Westmoreland
3:00–3:45: Breanne Tepler
3:45-4:00: Kiikurit folk dance group
4:00–4:45: Teresa Aho trio

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Harbor Side Convention Center, Room 201
Finnish Citizen: Passport Renewal
By appointment only
Consulate of Finland, New York City
FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

9:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Harbor Side Room 302

- **Finnish American Film Festival - Day Three**
  Director’s Spotlight: Films of Kelly Saxberg and Ron Harpelle/Sheba Films
  - 9:30 *Sirpa Säkijärvi* (2019), 8 minutes
  - 9:45 *Where the Poppies Grow* (2018), 30 minutes
  - 10:20 *Journey to Our Homeland* (2022), 30 minutes
  - 11:00 *Pulp Friction* (2014), 59 minutes
  - 12 Noon, *Under the Red Star* (2011), 79 minutes
  - 1:30 Meet the filmmakers, Kelly Saxberg and Ron Harpelle
  - 2:00 *Letters from Karelia* (2004), 76 minutes
  - 3:30 *Under the Red Star* (2011), 79 minutes

**Panels and Keynotes**
9:00 - 10:00 AM

- **French River Room**
  - **Indigenous Arts (Sámi, Finnishinaabe, Finnish/Ojibwe collaborations)**
    Sámi art by the Seaberg family featuring Eric and Kurt Seaberg with moderator Ellen Marie Jensen

- **Gooseberry Room**
  - **Finnish American Folk Music/All Tradition is Change**
    Singer-Songwriters of the Finnish American Experience
    Diane Jarvi, Eric Peltoniemi, Breanne Tepler with Jim Leary

- **Lake Superior Ballroom**
  - **Nordic America: Creating Bridges to Finland**
    Meet Beatrice Ojakangas: Finnish Foods in America
FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

Horizon 202

- **Nordic Experiences for Children (ages 8-16)**
  William Durbin, award-winning historic fiction author. Durbin will read from his three Finnish American-themed novels and talk about the experience of writing them.

Horizon 203-204

- **Finnish & Finnish American History**
  Finnish culture in Colonial America: The Delaware Colony
  - Finnish log construction and saunas in Colonial America
    - Frank Eld, Finlandia Foundation National Lecturer of the Year, 2018-19
  - The Forest Finns in the Delaware Colony
    - Sarah Kammlah & Wayne T. Peterson, Forest Finns in America

Paulucci Hall

- **Environment and Sustainability**
  A 21st Century Minnesota Environment & Sustainability project.
  Sparky Stensaas & Clinton Nienhaus, Naturalists at the Sax-Zim Bog, and Eugene Ollila, Friends of the Sax-Zim board

St. Louis River Room

- **Finnish and Finnish American Spirituality**
  Spiritual movements in Finland and their influence on Finnish hymnody
  Samuli Korkalainen, Research Institute, University of the Arts, Helsinki
FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

10:00 - 10:30 AM    Break

Panels and Keynotes
10:30 - 11:30 AM

French River Room

- **Indigenous Arts (Sámi, Finnishinaabe, Finnish/Ojibwe collaborations)**
  Finnish, Sami, Ojibwe Cultural Connections – An Artist’s Journey with Marlene Wisuri.
  Visual artist, author, and curator, Marlene Wisuri, will share her stories of making cultural connections through art, books, and exhibits.

Gooseberry Room

- **Finnish American Folk Music/All Tradition is Change**
  Playing Across Cultures/Creole Sounds
  Sara Pajunen, Laurel Premo, and Oren Tikkanen speak with Jim Leary

Lake Superior Room

- **Nordic America: Creating Bridges to Finland**
  Salmela Architects: An Architecture of the American North
  Thomas Fisher, School of Architecture & Design, University of Minnesota will give a talk on the work of Salmela Architects as an embodiment of the culture of the American North. The talk will provide an overview of the work of the Finnish-American-led firm Salmela Architects as a reflection of a "Northern" sensibility in the forms, spaces, and materials of their buildings.

Horizon 202

- **Nordic Experiences for Children (aged 8-16)**
  Part II: A workshop. William Durbin, award-winning historic fiction author, works with attendees, helping them start their own fiction writing project based on Finnish American themes and characters.
FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

Horizon 203-204  Nordic 21st Century Literature
Writing Finnish and Finnish American historical fiction
Mark Munger, author of Finnish American trilogy; John Simon, author of Strangers in a Strange Land, a fictional novel about Finland’s Jews during WWII.
Moderator/Commentator: Suzanne Matson, Boston College.

St. Louis River Room  Finnish and Finnish American History
Utopian communities
• Towards A Better World: Utopian Communities established by the Finnish Americans
  • Teuvo Peltoniemi, Author of upcoming 2024 book on Finnish Utopian Communities
  • Utopian dreams that Soviet Utopian communities in Karelia
    • Russ Mattson, Author of Karelia Fever

Paulucci Hall  Environment and Sustainability
Sustainable Building Construction in Finland & the State of Minnesota: Current Collaborations and Future goals

Horizon 205  Finnish and Finnish American Spirituality
The Finnish Heritage Hymnbook: A 90 year project with a Contemporary Conclusion
Margaret Vainio, Marianne Wargelin & Samuli Korkalainen talk about the resources

Room TBD  Finnish Language: Beginning Finnish Class
Say it in Finnish! - The Finnish you’ve just got to know - in 60 minutes!
Limited to 20 students
FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  ▶️ Finlandia Foundation National: Saving Finland in America Project
Harborside Ballroom
Finlandia Foundation National (FFN) is excited to host a panel discussion about our newest initiative “Saving Finland in America.” Representatives from the foundation and project will report on the progress and plans for saving the historical and cultural treasures put at risk after the March 2023 announcement of the closure of Finlandia University in Hancock, MI. The project involves the Finnish American Heritage Center, Price of Freedom War Museum, Art Gallery, North Wind Books, The Finnish American Reporter, and the Finnish Folk School.

11:45 AM - 12:45 PM  ▶️ Asahi Exercise Opportunity
Harborside Patio
Use this mid-day break to relax and stretch using Asahi methods. Asahi exercise hour will include an instructor and assistants trained in this revolutionary mind-body practice from Finland. No pain, all gain! Connect with your breathing and deepest muscles. Re-energize yourself for the afternoon.

1:00 - 4:00 PM  ▶️ Nordic Experiences for Children (ages 8-16)
Harborside Patio

- ▶️ SOIVA Workshop: Using your body as a musical instrument
Sibelius Academy of Finland instructors share and teach. Sponsored by Finlandia Foundation National.
Limited to 25 participants, first come, first serve

- ▶️ Happy Himmeli: Explore a Nordic Craft Revival for Children
Learn how to make a mixed-media himmeli using a variety of colorful materials! Alison Aune shares her popular workshop.
Limited to 25 children and their parents
FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

1:00 - 4:00 PM
Nordic Center

Pop Up Exhibition - Inspiraatioita: Finnish Inspirations in Minnesota
This exhibition will feature the work of 8 Minnesota artists who draw inspiration from traditional and contemporary Finnish art and design. These artists will share works that explore diverse themes through textiles, drawing, painting, ceramics, photography, and mixed media. The Nordic Center is a non-profit cultural center established in 2011, with a mission to share Nordic culture with the greater community through social, educational and arts programs.

Curator-Artists: Alison and Kirsten Aune
Participating Artists: Justin Anderson, Mary Erickson Tia Keobounpheng, Lenore Lampi, Natalie Salminen, Marlene Wisuri

Panels and Keynotes
1:30 - 2:30 PM

French River Room

Indigenous Arts (Sámi, Finnishinaabe, Finnish/Ojibwe collaborations)
Ojibwe and Sámi Handwork featuring artists Laurel Sanders, Wendy Savage, and Pam Capin with moderator Tom DuBois

Gooseberry Room

Finnish American Folk Music/All Tradition is Change
Old-Time Songs and Tunes with Teresa Aho, Rich Koski, Ralph and Jaana Tuttila with Carl Rahkonen, moderator
Nordic America: Creating Bridges to Finland

The Iconic and the Everyday: Creative Finland in America

This presentation will describe the contemporary presence and influence of Finnish design, industry and identity in the United States. It aims to produce a composite understanding of the presence and strength of Finnish architecture, design and industry in the lives of everyday Americans – and to benefit both nations’ mutual appreciation and understanding.

Peter MacKeith, Professor & Dean, Fay Jones School of Architecture & Design, University of Arkansas

Contemporary Nordic Europe

Finland and NATO: Finland’s Ambassador to the United States Mikko Hautala discusses recent events.

Part I: Finland’s New Alignment: What does NATO membership mean in 2023?

Finnish and Finnish American History

DNA as a research tool: Two sides of the data base

- A small cultural group, the Forest Finns: Discovering their 19th and 20th C. American migration history with the assistance of DNA research
  - Sarah Kammlah & Wayne Peterson, Forest Finns of America
- Who do we think we are? Finnish identity - language, folklore, nation and race.
FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

St. Louis River Room

Nordic 21st Century Literature
Suomalaisen kirjailijan kokemua Pohjois-Amerikasta. (A Finnish author’s experiences of North America.)
Poetry & Prose related to travels and observations in North America, including his father’s experiences in Canada and the U.S. in the 1920’s.
Hannu Niklander, Finnish poet, fiction and non-fiction writer
Readings and comments in Finnish with English translations

Paulucci Hall

Environment & Sustainability
Bicycles: A 19th century transportation mode; an active transportation alternative in 21st century Finland
Tony Desnick, Executive Director, Finnish Bicycling Embassy

2:30 - 3:00 PM
Break

Panels and Keynotes

3:00 - 4:00 PM
Indigenous Arts (Sámi, Finnishinaabe, Finnish/Ojibwe collaborations)
Stewards of All Creation (wild ricing film) with filmmaker Kristin Ojaniemi and Aurora Conley of the Bad River Ojibwe

French River Room

Finnish American Folk Music/All Tradition is Change
Country Music in Finland and Finnish America
Eric Koskinen and Rami Soni with Nate Gibson, moderator

Gooseberry Room

Contemporary Nordic Europe
Finland and NATO: Ambassador Mikko Hautala discusses recent events.
Part II: Finland: Brining its strong military presence to NATO.
The session continues, now with representatives of Finland Defense Department officials.

Lake Superior Ballroom
FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

Horizon 205
- Finnish and Finnish American History
  Finding your family's history in official records: The Migration Institute of Turku Collections explained with tips on how to use the Institute.

Horion 203-204
- Nordic 21st Century Literature
  Hanna Pylväinen reads from and talks about her 2023 novel “The End of Drum Time”

Paulucci Hall
- Environment and Sustainability
  “Sustainable Metals: Finland and Minnesota”
  John Kearney and Aaron Klemz, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

7:00-9:00 PM
Nordic Center
- Reception for Pop Up Exhibition - Inspiraatioita: Finnish Inspirations in Minnesota
  This exhibition will feature the work of 8 Minnesota artists who draw inspiration from traditional and contemporary Finnish art and design. These artists will share works that explore diverse themes through textiles, drawing, painting, ceramics, photography, and mixed media.

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FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

7:30 PM
DECC Symphony Hall

Symphony Orchestra Concert
Craig Randal Johnson leads the FinnFest Symphony Orchestra on the 40th anniversary of FinnFest USA. Our concert features the US premiere of the late Jaakko Kuusisto's recently composed Piano Concerto, played by the Helsinki based American pianist Mackenzie Melemed, a 2022 Avery Fisher Career Grant Award winner. The concert then moves to dramatic selections from Leevi Madetoja's opera 'The Ostrobothnians', the first Finnish-composed opera to command international attention and performances. The concert opens and closes with music by Finland's national composer Jean Sibelius.
Join the FinnFest orchestra, soloist and the FinnFest Chorus at the DECC for an inspiring wonderful evening of Finnish classical music.
Link: Tickets available via TicketMaster

8:00 PM
Pizza Luce

Music in Downtown Duluth
Finnish American Alt-Country Music
Erik Koskinen & Band

8:00 PM
Zeitgeist Movie Theater

Finnish Film
TBD
SITUATION, JULY 29, 2023

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Registration desk open

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tori open

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Concerts and Artisan Sessions
Pioneer Hall & Edmund Fitzgerald Room
Sponsored and organized by the Nordic Folklife/Center for the Study of Upper Midwest Cultures, University of Wisconsin-Madison

9:00–9:45: Kantele Making featuring artist LynnAnne Vesper with moderator Mirva Johnson
10:00–10:45: Metku Trio
10:45–11:00: Kiikurit folk dance group
11:00–11:45: Lautala Pojat
12:00–12:45: Lyz Jaakola
12:45–1:00: Kisarit
1:00–1:45: Eric Peltoniemi
2:00–2:45: Steve Solkela
3:00–3:45: John Westmoreland
3:45–4:00: Kisarit
4:00–4:45: Lauluaika

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Finnish Citizen: Passport Renewal
Harbor Side Convention Center, Room 201
By appointment only
Consulate of Finland, New York City
9:00 - 11:30 AM  Nordic Experiences for Children (ages 8-16)
Ballroom 301-302  Finnish Language and Culture Morning
Tiina Watts & Susan Harstad, Salolampi Language Village

9:00 - 11:30 AM  Finnish and Finnish American Spirituality
St. Louis River Room  Faith Issues in Lutheranism:
The Rapidly Declining Lutheran Church in Finland & the USA: Crisis of Faith? Or the Church? Or Both?
Jarmo Tarki. Ph.D., D.Min. & Veli-Matti Kärkäinen, Ph.D

Panels and Keynotes

9:00 - 10:00 AM  Indigenous Arts (Sámi, Finnishinaabe, Finnish/Ojibwe collaborations)
French River Room  History, Religion/Beliefs, Language, Society and Politics: An Introduction with Ellen Marie Jensen, with moderator Kent Randell

Gooseberry Room  Finnish American Folk Music/All Tradition is Change
Finnish American Labor Songs: The T-Bone Slim Project
Kirsti Salmi-Niklander, Saijaleena Rantanen, Saku Pinta, Lotta Leiwo, John Westmoreland

Paulucci Hall  Environment and Sustainability
Leading Together at the Cutting Edge: Why Minnesota and Finland have so much to gain from commercial and innovation cooperation
Steve Riedel & Global Minnesota
SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

Horizon Room 203-204

- **Finnish and Finnish American Literature**
  Suzanne Matson, Finlandia Foundation Lecturer of the Year, reads from her novel *Ultraviolet* and talks about her writing life.

Lake Superior Ballroom

- **Happiness in the 21st Century: It’s a Finnish Thing**

Horizon 205

- **Finnish American History**
  Forest Finns: Officially recognized ethnic minority in Sweden and Finland. A best kept secret from Nordic Americans in the Upper Midwest?
  Sarah Kammlaah and Wayne T. Peterson, Forest Finns of America

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Split Rock Room

- **Finnish American Film Festival – Day Four**
  Director’s Spotlight: Kristin Ojaniemi Films
  - 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 a Barn*, excerpts from a series-in-progress
SÁMÍ CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS, RIGHTS, AND REPRESENTATIONS: AN INTRODUCTION WITH ELLENN MARIE JENSEN

ACCORDIONIST COMEDIAN: STEVE SOKOLO

LET’S CHAT SUOMEKSI! DEVELOP SPOKEN FLUENCY - IN 60 MINUTES!
LIMITED TO 20 STUDENTS

ALTO IN AMERICA

Aalto in America

This presentation will highlight the “American” dimension to the Aaltos’ life and work, through case studies in particular describing exhibitions of Artek furnishings at the Museum of Modern Art, the 1939 Finland Pavilion at the New York World’s Fair, the Baker House Residence Hall at MIT, and the Mt. Angel Library in Oregon, as well as projects in Finland possessing an American dimension. This presentation seeks to identify more generally the role that architecture can play in building identity and mutual understanding between nations.

Peter MacKeith, Professor and Dean, Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design, University of Arkansas
SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

**Horizon 203-204**

- **Finnish and Finnish American History**
  Oskari Tokoi: Finnish American Immigrant, Finland’s First Prime Minister, and Finnish American in Fitchburg, MA
  Rainer Smedman, Oskari Tokoi Society

**Horizon 205**

- **Finnish and Finnish American Literature**
  Diane Jarvi and Greg Watson read from their poetry

**Lake Superior Ballroom**

- **Environment and Sustainability**
  Finland and Minnesota: Exchanging ideas through trade missions
  Speakers from Global Minnesota, Finnish Embassy, and the Minnesota Trade Office

**11:45 AM - 12:45 PM  Harborside Patio**

- **Asahi Exercise Opportunity**
  Get back in balance with a revolutionary mind-body practice from Finland: Asahi, designed by medical sports experts to be fun, safe & effective for everyone: no pain, all gain! Connect with your breathing and deepest muscles for improved balance, posture, coordination, flexibility, circulation, boosted spirits & immunity through very simple flowing movements in a standing (or sitting) position - no need to get down on a mat!

**1:00 - 4:00 PM  Nordic Center**

- **Pop Up Exhibition - Inspiraatioita: Finnish Inspirations in Minnesota**
  This exhibition will feature the work of 8 Minnesota artists who draw inspiration from traditional and contemporary Finnish art and design. These artists will share works that explore diverse themes through textiles, drawing, painting, ceramics, photography, and mixed media. The Nordic Center is a non-profit cultural center established in 2011, with a mission to share Nordic culture with the greater community through social, educational and arts programs.

  Curator-Artists: Alison and Kirsten Aune
  Participating Artists: Justin Anderson, Mary Erickson Tia Keobounpheng, Lenore Lampi, Natalie Salminen, Marlene Wisuri
SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

1:00 - 2:00 PM
Kirsten Aune showroom
12 N 21st Ave West
Duluth, MN

- **Reflections and Inspirations from Finland: Kirsten Aune Textiles**
  A talk with Kirsten Aune, a local Duluth artist with a global reach.

1:30 - 4:30 PM
Harborside Patio

- **Nordic Experiences for Children (ages 8-16)**
  SOIVA Workshop: Using your body as a musical instrument. Sibelius Academy of Finland instructors share and teach. Sponsored by Finlandia Foundation National.
  Limited to 25 participants, first come, first serve.

**Panels and Keynotes**
1:30 - 2:30 PM

- **Indigenous Arts (Sámi, Finnishinaabe, Finnish/Ojibwe collaborations)**
  Decolonize Your Bucket List! Why Your Next Visit to Finland Should Include Inari, and What To Do Once You Get There
  Tom DuBois, Professor of Scandinavian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison

- **Finnish American Folk Music/All Tradition is Change**
  History of Finnish American Dance Bands
  Carl Rahkonen, Professor Emeritus, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

- **Finnish and Finnish American History**
  Finnish American Socialism in the Upper Midwest
  • 1918 Draft dodgers in the Keweenaw - Hilary Joy Virtanen
  • Socialism on the Iron Range - Aaron Brown
Women and Leadership
Lake Superior Room
15 Years Later: Revisiting a FinnFest 2008 Topic
- Ida Rukavina, Commissioner of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation, State of Minnesota
- Emily Larson, Mayor of Duluth, Minnesota
- Amy Hietopelto, Interim Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Minnesota-Duluth
- Anne-Mari Paster, Managing Director, Omega Funds, and President of Finlandia Foundation National
- Other special guests!

Environment and Sustainability
Location TBD
Impacts of Sustainability on the Finnish Grid: Lessons from Minnesota Utilities
A discussion with Minnesota electric utility experts: Evergreen Energy and Minnesota Power

Nordic America: Creating Bridges through Crafts
Horizon 205
Himmeli Crafts
Join artists Mary Erickson and Alison Aune for a look into the traditional origins of himmeli and current practices and innovations into this ancient art form.
Alison Aune, Professor, Art Department at the University of Minnesota - Duluth

Contemporary Finland & Finnish America
Location TBD
Finnish film and television
SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

Location TBD

2:30 - 3:00 PM
Panels and Keynotes
3:00 - 4:00 PM

**Finnish and Finnish American History**
Finding your family’s and your community’s history in your home movies
Dwight Swanson, independent scholar

**BREAKE**

**Indigenous Arts (Sámi, Finnishinaabe, Finnish/Ojibwe collaborations)**
Finnishinaabe Music and Song
Lyz Jaakola, American Indian Studies & Music Instructor, Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College

**Finnish American Folk Music/All Tradition is Change**
The Legacy of Viola Turpeinen
Päivi Takala speaks regarding her film-in-progress, *The Lady and the Accordion*, focused on the life and music of Viola Turpeinen, with accordionist Riita Kossi (formerly of Värttinä) and moderator Jim Leary

**Finnish & Finnish American Writing**
Sheila Packa and Jim Johnson read from their works of poetry

**Contemporary Finland and Finnish America**
The journey at the crossroads of elite athletes, language and heritage: Finnish-American athlete Kayleigh Karinen's journey to become a four-time world champion with the Finnish National Team
Kayleigh Karinen, University of Helsinki
SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

Paulucci Hall

- Nordic America: Creating Bridges to Finland through Music Commissions
  Ameriikan Poijat and its commission from contemporary Finnish composers, performance and discussion

Location TBD

- Environment and Sustainability
  Minnesota electric vehicle owners circle experiences

Horizon Room 203-204

- Finnish and Finnish American History
  Finnish log buildings including smoke saunas: Past and present
  Frank Eld, Finlandia Foundation National Lecturer of the Year, 2018-2019

8:00 PM
DECC Symphony Hall

- Samuli Edelmann Concert
  Samuli Edelmann, a Finnish actor and singer with more than half a million albums sold during his career - three platinum and three gold albums - make him one of Finland's best-selling male artists. His wide-ranging repertoire, from art records to pop music, will invariably find its way into the hearts of visitors at Finn Fest.
  Link: Tickets available via Ticketmaster

8:00 PM
Zeitgeist Movie Theater

- Finnish Film
  TBD

8:00 PM
Holiday Inn

- Finnish American Music & Dancing
  • Oren Tikkanen’s Yooper Creole/Backroom Boys
  • Metku Trio
SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Pioneer Hall & Edmund Fitzgerald Room

- Tori open

10:00 - 11:30 AM
Symphony Hall

- Ecumenical Worship Service
  Featuring:
  - FinnFest USA Choir, Maria Männistö, director
  - Finnish Heritage Hymnal (Finnish hymns in English translations)
  - Ameriikan Poijat brass ensemble
  - Jarmo Tarkki, Lead Pastor
  - Samuli Edelmann, featured soloist

1:00 - 4:00 PM
Rooftop patio

- Using Your Body as a Musical Instrument
  A workshop for music and theater teachers led by Sibelius Academy personnel

1:00 - 4:00 PM
Nordic Center

- Pop Up Exhibition - Inspiraatioita: Finnish Inspirations in Minnesota
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2:00 - 4:00 PM
Harborside Ballroom

- Family Style Dance
  Finn Hall band and Lauluaita playing songs for dancing
From the Nease Gallery: We look forward to this summer’s solo exhibition of Sara Pajunen’s recent sound and film work about our region. Sara Pajunen is a composer-improvisor and an audiovisual artist based in what is now called Minnesota (USA). Trained as a violinist and employing locally-responsive media ranging from field recordings to drone imagery, her work is motivated by interactions between her ancestral roots, American cultural histories, and connection to our environments through sound.

Specific to this exhibition from the artist: "Sara Pajunen will present audiovisual work, sound art, and photographs from her projects “Mine Songs: Sounding an Altered Landscape” and “The Places We Know.” The connected projects use field recording, violin, aerial image, and archival material to focus on themes of long-rhythm and broken connections with
Inspiraatioita: Finnish Art and Design in Minnesota

Nordic Center
23 N Lake Avenue
Duluth, Minnesota

Open: July 26-30, 1:00 - 4:00 PM
Reception: July 28, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

This exhibition will feature the work of 8 Minnesota artists who draw inspiration from traditional and contemporary Finnish art and design. These artists will share works that explore diverse themes through textiles, drawing, painting, ceramics, photography, and mixed media. The Nordic Center is a non-profit cultural center established in 2011, with a mission to share Nordic culture with the greater community through social, educational and arts programs.

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Alison and Kirsten Aune

Participating Artists:
Justin Anderson
Mary Erickson
Tia Keobounpheng
Lenore Lampi
Natalie Salminen
Marlene Wisuri
Downtown Duluth Exhibits

Reflections and Inspirations from Finland: Kirsten Aune Textiles

Kirsten Aune Showroom and Gallery
12 N 21st Ave West
Duluth, MN

July 29, 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Kirsten Aune has had exhibitions in Minnesota, Illinois, Massachusetts, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Estonia. She has received several awards including the Jerome Foundation Travel, Arrowhead Regional Arts Council Fellowship, and Finlandia Foundation Grant. Her work is in the permanent collection at The Tweed Museum of Art, the Municipal Arts Collective in Växjö, Sweden, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Duluth, The Duluth Children’s Museum, and in numerous private collections in Washington D.C, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York City, North Carolina, Austria, Paris, Finland, and Japan.

Kirsten creates original geometric and floral designs using stencils that she cuts by hand and then arranges in dynamic visual compositions using bright blocks of color and bold designs. She also works with silkscreen printing to create textile yardage of repeat patterns on a variety of cloth objects including wall hangings, garments, toys, table linens, handbags, lampshades, coasters, shower curtains, holiday stockings, ornaments, bracelets, hats, quilts, dolls, puppets, aprons, pillows, potholders, wallets, purses, facemasks, and more. Her artistic style has been called “Modern Scandinavian.” She has traveled to Scandinavia to research designs and to exhibit her work. Her connection to Danish, Swedish, and Finnish design is rooted in her childhood, growing up in a home of Mid-Century Modern Scandinavian furniture, and Marimekko wall hangings, that her parents collected when her mother worked in the first Danish furniture store in Minneapolis in the 1950s. Her love of color and simple lines are present in Scandinavian design and is reflected in some of her work.