

## Music as a Homeland. Fredrik Pacius 200 years

*Music as a Homeland, Fredrik Pacius 200 years*

Jubilee year exhibition in the National Library's Gallery 18.3.–3.10.2009

Exhibition's experts: Professor Eero Tarasti, Researchers Seija Lappalainen, Petri Tuovinen, Jani Kyllönen, Mikko Nisula



J. E. Lind: Fredrik Pacius.

At first, some might have thought that the National Digital Library Project combined separate projects under one name to appear more impressive, but this notion was quickly dispelled. There are so many linkages – from digitization to dissemination, from dissemination to preservation and back – that the overall vision was at times unclear; a special effort had to be made to really grasp the entire system.

Consequently a convenient tool, *The Enterprise Architecture Method for Finnish Government*, was utilized in the project. It offers tools for government organizations to design functions and information, information systems, and technology solutions. This was actually the first time the method was implemented at this scale. There is no denying that, at the first sight, the model seemed rather intimidating. However, with the help of knowledgeable people it was tamed and proved to be extremely helpful in understanding and explaining the project's complex interdependencies.

As part of the architectural work, a *standards portfolio* currently being assembled will contain guidelines governing metadata formats, search protocols, document identification, user authentication, and other similar functions. The main exhibition *Music as a Homeland* commemorating the 200th anniversary of Fredrik Pacius's birth explains how the German immigrant, composer and violinist Fredrik Pacius (1809-1891) became "the Father of Finnish Music" – not only as the creator of the Finnish national anthem *Maamme (Our Land)*, but as a versatile composer and significant organizer and driving force in Finland's musical culture. Most of the exhibition materials are from the National Library of Finland; also included are objects, original drawings and photographs from private collections and the Helsinki University Museum Arppeanum. Displayed for the first time are unique letters, diaries and other biographical materials donated to the National Library of Finland's Pacius archive.

The exhibition depicts Pacius's violin and composition studies in Kassel and his stint as a violinist in the Stockholm Royal Court Orchestra with letters, photographs, drawings and early compositions. Pacius served as a music teacher at the University of Helsinki beginning in 1835 and he undertook such seemingly reckless projects as operas and large-scale oratorios performed with casts that included society matrons, amateur choirs and semi-professional musicians.

At the same time Pacius created a substantial compositional output that included operas and musicals, a violin concerto, a symphony (1st movement), cantatas, as well as songs for choirs and soloists. Musical manuscripts as well as music publications are displayed. Professor Eero Tarasti assesses Pacius as a composer, beginning with his roots in German music, his teachers Louis Spohr and Moritz Hauptmann, as well as Pan-European influences. Pacius's operas, *The Hunt of King Charles* and *Die Loreley*, as well as the musical *The Princess of Cyprus*, receive particularly close attention. Although Pacius's homeland was music – no longer Germany, nor even Finland, where he never applied for citizenship – he would have also deserved wider recognition as a composer in Germany, the land of his birth.



Magnus von Wright's painting depicting the final act from Pacius's opera *The Hunt of King Charles*.

The exhibition concludes with Finland's national anthem *Maamme (Our Land)*; Researcher Petri Tuovinen presents its birth history and significance as a national musical symbol. Naturally its importance at sporting events is also noted, exemplified by the memorable moments experienced when spectators join to sing *Our Land*.

The exhibition is also associated with a jubilee publication implemented jointly with the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland, as well as a national and international travelling exhibition featuring two different language versions (Finnish-Swedish and German-Finnish). The German-Finnish version has been mounted at the Hamburg Town Hall.

Queries concerning the travelling exhibition: Finnland-Institut in Deutschland. [www.finnland-institut.de](http://www.finnland-institut.de)

Exhibition experts: Professor Eero Tarasti and Researchers Seija Lappalainen, Petri Tuovinen, Jani Kyllönen and Mikko Nisula.

Inkeri Pitkäranta

Further information:

Exhibition Coordinator Inkeri Pitkäranta,  
Tel. +358 (0)9 191 22738, GSM +358 (0)50 3027 238  
[inkeri.pitkaranta\(at\)helsinki.fi](mailto:inkeri.pitkaranta@helsinki.fi)

Tel. +358(0)9 191 22722  
[esko.rahikainen\(at\)helsinki.fi](mailto:esko.rahikainen@helsinki.fi)

Exhibition group tours and guide reservations:

Sisko Vuorikari, Tel. +358 (0)50 3006 620  
[sisko.vuorikari\(at\)helsinki.fi](mailto:sisko.vuorikari@helsinki.fi)

[Print this article \(PDF\)](#)   [Print entire issue \(PDF\)](#)

[Home](#) | [Top](#)

NettiAsema4