

The 41st Annual Kalevala Festival at the Nordic Heritage Museum, March 26, 2017 at 1:30 PM

The Kalevala, the national epic of Finland, is a collection of ancient runes and song-poems compiled by Elias Lönnrot. Lönnrot wrote down the long passages of folk poetry and published them first as the Kalevala in 1835 with a revised publication in 1840.

The Kalevala Festival in Seattle on March 26, 2017, is built on the tale sequences of Kalevala with the Finnish Choral Society singing choral compositions by noted composers Sibelius, Merikanto and others, set to lyrics from the Kalevala or Kanteletar.

Our featured presenter is

Dr. Börje Vähämäki, the Centenary Lecturer of the Finlandia Foundation National, FFN. Dr. Vähämäki is an official representative of their "Lecturer of the Year" program. The Centenary Lecturers were established to celebrate Finland's 100th Anniversary. **The sponsorship by the Finlandia Foundation National of Dr. Vähämäki's transportation to and from Seattle is gratefully acknowledged.**

Dr. Vähämäki is a past professor of Finnish Studies at the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis and of the Finnish Studies Program at the University of Toronto. Dr. Vähämäki's speech on the 41st Kalevala Festival is titled:



"Kalevala and the World View of the Finns".

The lecture will explore what we mean with worldview. Worldview is reflected in the poems dealing with myths and especially prominently in the shamanistic worldview that permeates the Kalevala. The worldview of the Kullervo sequence will be singled out. Part of the issue is also what was Lönnrot's worldview and attitude toward religion and what was the worldview of the Finns at the time of Kalevala's publication, the entire 19th century and during the independence.

Other highlights of the Kalevala Festival include folkdancing by the local Finnish dance groups and instrumental performances by the Kalevala Trio (accordion, clarinet, cello) and kantele playing.

A social 1/2 hour starting at 1:30 PM kicks off the Festival with sahti (a traditional Finnish Brew, made by the Nordic Heritage Museum's brew club) and mini bites, followed with the program.

ENTRANCE - \$15, Students \$7. Tickets by Finnish Choral Society
Singers or at the Door