

BIOGRAPHY

Composer Markku Klami's work seeks to deal with the phenomenon of time – one's conception of time and the magical power music possess in affecting one's experience of time and surroundings around themselves.

"I am fascinated by music's power to affect the way we perceive time and the world around us", Markku says. "It remains an endless source of inspiration to me".

Markku was born in Turku, the oldest town in Finland. His fondest memories of childhood and teenage years were singing in the boys' choir of the 700-year old Turku Cathedral and later on in even bigger and older cathedrals around Europe on the choir's many tours abroad. It was already then when he got a strong calling for music as not only a future profession but a way of experiencing the world. After his composition studies at Turku Music Academy with Tuomo Teirilä he completed his studies at Sibelius Academy in Helsinki with Tapio Tuomela. He has attended masterclasses in Finland and USA, led by composers Magnus Lindberg, Jukka Tiensuu, Kimmo Hakola, Jouni Kaipainen, Bent Sørensen, Luigi Abbate, Anders Eliasson, David Ludwig and Robert Paterson.



Markku Klami photographed by Laura Karlin.

Markku has composed instrumental works ranging from solos to works for orchestra with soloists. His vocal works include two operas and works for choir and vocal ensembles. The use of electronics is a recurring feature in some of his instrumental works. While being a classically trained composer of contemporary music, Markku has a background in electronic music as well. His experimenting with synthesizers and computer-generated sounds during his teenage years led to doing gigs at different festivals with his own projects and a band in the late 1990's and beginning of 2000's. Since 2016 he has been singing in Audite, the chamber choir of Helsinki Conservatory of Music. Markku's passion and interest toward the human voice has led to expand his high tenor voice further to countertenor register as well as to very low register by the means of Tuvan throat singing.

In March 2018, the first full-length puppet opera produced in the Nordic countries entitled **Croak** was premiered by top-of-the-line Finnish opera singers Joonas Eloranta, Anna-Kristiina Kaappola, Teppo Lampela, Merja Mäkelä and Jouni Kokora with Pori Opera Choir and Pori Sinfonietta, conducted by Nils Schweckendiek. Markku wrote Croak with Maria Kallionpää, and both composers wrote their own separate scenes for the both acts of the opera. The human-sized puppets designed and built by Viktor Antonov and the directing by Anna Ivanova-Brashinskaya brought the Russian puppetry tradition and Mikhail Brashinsky's timeless libretto of one's craving for love and longing to be loved together with contemporary opera work. In the reviews Croak was praised as "one of the most important and breathtaking attractions of our time".

Markku has worked with distinguished musicians including Timo Korhonen, Shin-ichi Fukuda, Thomas Müller-Pering, Patrik Kleemola, Lauri Sallinen, Henrik Sandås, Alice Teyssier, Lucy Abrams, Petrit Çeku, Veli Kujala, Hanna Kinnunen, Markku Laakso, Tuomas Niininen and Bocheng Wang, to name a few. He has also worked with ensembles including International Contemporary Ensemble (New York), Uusinta Ensemble (Helsinki), Studio for New Music Ensemble (Moscow), Nordlyd String Quartet (Oslo), Avanti! Orchestra, Pori Sinfonietta, The Helsinki Strings and the Polytech Choir and conductors including Nils Schweckendiek, Dima Slobodeniouk, David Searle, Atso Almila and Jani Telaranta.

Markku has won first prizes in the national composition competitions in Finland with his orchestral works **Flow** and **sight - energy - vague - ocean** in 2004 and 2006, respectively. In 2009 his clarinet concerto **FUME** was selected to the jury's list of recommended works in the 2nd International Uuno Klami Composition Competition. In 2011 Markku was featured in the program of the European Capital of Culture in Turku with two large-scale works (a one-hour children's opera **Tulevaisuuden retki (A Future Trek)** and a mixed-media work **REPEAT** for flute, electronics and video) commissioned for the event. His music has been heard in cities from Helsinki to Taipei and from Buenos Aires to Rome in festivals including Nordic Music Days, Musica nova Helsinki, Zagreb Music Biennale, Taiwan International Guitar Festival, Atlantic Music Festival, Time of Music Festival, Tampere Biennale, REBUS Festival and Nuovi Spatzi Musicali.

Markku's music has been recorded on commercially released albums by Patrik Kleemola (on his debut album *Perchitarrasola*, released by Pilfink Records in 2012) and the Polytech Choir (on their album *Kuunteletko sinä*, released in 2013). The album *Kuunteletko sinä* was awarded with the Choir Album for the Year Award in 2014, given by the Society of Finnish Choir Conductors and the Sulasol Society. A selection of Markku's music is also available on Spotify, Apple Music & iTunes, YouTube Music, TIDAL, Deezer and Google Play.

Markku has received artist and working grants, among other, from the Arts Promotion Centre Finland, the Finnish Cultural Foundation, the Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation, the Teosto Commission Fund, the Madetoja Foundation and the Sibelius Fund. He is also active in the music organizations and is currently a member of the board at the Society of Finnish Composers, The Finnish Music Council and Music Finland as well as a member of the Composers' Directory Group at the European Composer and Songwriter Alliance (ECSA). Having a passion for composition pedagogy and education projects, Markku is also involved in several projects focusing on the pedagogy of composition.

Residing in Helsinki, Markku continues his work drawing inspiration from both urban areas and nature. The arid sceneries of remote places, the vast seashores and forests serve as an important counterweight for him in the fast-paced lifestyle of our modern culture.

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