

Seitakuoro
Rovaniemi, Finland



BIOGRAPHY

Seitakuoro is a chamber choir from Rovaniemi by the Arctic Circle in Lapland, Finland. Seitakuoro was established in 1961, and since the 1970's the choir's activity has concentrated in Rovaniemi, the capital of the province of Lapland. Currently the choir has over 30 members.

The objective of Seitakuoro is to perform high-class and demanding choral music in Northern Finland. The choir's basic repertoire is made up of classic pieces for chamber choir, but the number of challenging contemporary pieces and early music pieces performed is ever-increasing. The choir strives to compile its concert programmes thematically, and then train itself to interpret that particular style of music in the most proper way. In 2013, for example, Seitakuoro had several vocal coaches to train its singers for negro spirituals.

The second objective is to make Lappish choral music known by new audiences in Finland and abroad. According to that objective, Seitakuoro has premiered works by many composers from Lapland. Also numerous works with Lappish theme – and actually often composed for Seitakuoro – has been premiered, the latest being Jan Hellberg's five-part *Feelings of the Fell Traveller* composed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the choir in 2011. The Lappish and Lapland-thematic works have been recorded on two of the latest recordings of Seitakuoro (5 in all): *Arctic Scenes* in 2011 and *Visions of the North* in 2013. Both these records were published by Alba Records. Seitakuoro also often gives concert tours in Lapland.

The third main objective of Seitakuoro is to cooperate with professional musicians living in the North of Finland. The choir has cooperated regularly with Lapland Chamber Orchestra, and the two have performed together several grand works such as *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré, *Oratorio de Noël* by Camille Saint-Saëns, *Te Deum* by Arvo Pärt and *Kreegi Vihik* by Tõnu Kõrvits (Finnish premiere 2008). Lately, the closest partner has been the City Orchestra of Kemi, and common productions include works such as *Missa* by Pēteris Vasks (2013) and *Requiem* by Giuseppe Verdi (2008 and 2015). In addition to large-scale orchestral works Seitakuoro has performed many smaller pieces with single professional musicians.

Seitakuoro chamber choir has participated in several choir festivals and competitions with success: in addition to gold and silver medals in Finnish choir events, Seitakuoro was awarded a gold medal and was the second best choir in the International Folk Song Competition in Pärnu, Estonia in 2006. In 2009, Seitakuoro took part in competitions within two categories in Festival of Songs in Olomouc, Czech Republic, and won both of them with golden awards. Seitakuoro was also selected to be one of the five choirs competing for the absolute winner title of the entire festival. In 2011, Seitakuoro was awarded Distinction (fourth place) in the category of mixed choirs at the Krakow International Choir Festival in Poland.

CONDUCTOR

Since 1999 Seitakuoro has been conducted by Ms. **Kadri Joamets** who has graduated from the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre in Tallinn with a Master's Degree in choral conducting (1998). Joamets also conducts several other choirs in Rovaniemi. In 2008, she was granted a "Helmi" (Pearl) award for her excellent contribution for cultural activities in Lapland. In 2009, the city of Rovaniemi granted her an award for a Remarkable Cultural Act (i.e. Seitakuoro's success), and also the Arts Council of Lapland granted her a Cultural Award for her persistent work for the cultural life in Lapland.

www.seitakuoro.fi

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