

MOTOR MUSIC FESTIVAL August 16-17, 2008, in Räämsö, Finland
Featuring "Stationary Engine Symphony" by Kimmo Pohjonen and "Konela" by Samuli Kosminen & Jukka Perko

A unique music event featuring two commissioned works from some of Europe's most inventive and critically acclaimed artists, in collaboration with ancient stationary engines, agricultural machinery and metal-workshop tools, performed in the splendid setting of an outdoor summer theatre and in a machine workshop in the idyllic Finnish village of Räämsö.

"Nothing can quite prepare you for Finnish accordionist Kimmo Pohjonen" *The Wire*

"The saxophonist Jukka Perko is a brilliant performer; as an instrumentalist he is sensitive to his collaborators and able to unfold an immense repertoire with the improviser's superb understanding, feeling and ability to adapt." *Aftenposten*

"By putting a finger on a computer key, Mr. Kosminen, elsewhere a deft percussionist, could rattle the Harvey Theater with sound." *New York Times*

- "The tremendously inspiring rhythms and soundscape from the machines gets a hefty extra kick from the fact that, during the performances, the machines are operated by true professionals who know the extended capabilities of these machines. This is a truly mouth-watering setting for an improviser!" *Jukka Perko*

- "The milieu in Räämsö fine-tuned by the presence of the local people and the stationary engines is without doubt one of the most wonderful performance settings in Finland, if not the world. Even my most humble self gets a bit boisterous when the old lady turns the mangle and the stationary engines sing along with my accordion." *Kimmo Pohjonen*

- "Both the historical stationary engines and the more recent machines in the metal workshop are like gigantic mechanical rhythm generators. The sounds of these machines performing their task with stubborn fluidity, and yet constant shifts, are an ideal partner for digital sound manipulation and electronic instruments." *Samuli Kosminen*

A unique culture of collecting, restoring and running ancient engines thrives in the village of Räämsö, 40 km from Tampere and about 1½ hours drive from Helsinki. Three Finnish musical innovators, Kimmo Pohjonen, Samuli Kosminen and Jukka Perko, visited the village and its 'Hard Iron Rally' showcasing these engines in 2005. The artists were inspired by the subtle, massive, romantic, rhythmic sounds of the machines and started working on pieces around these 'instruments'.

The original pieces, "*Stationary Engine Symphony*" and "*Konela*" combine original Finnish musical expression, true world-music elements and fertile jazzy beats with electronic soundscapes and definitively new musical innovations, i.e. contrasting acoustic and electronic musical instruments with various motorised engines and their sounds. Together they form an ingenious bridge between ancient local culture and modern global culture.

Maamoottorisinfonia (Stationary Engine Symphony) sees Pohjonen compose a new piece inspired by the unique engine-collecting culture fostered in the village of Räämsö, using sampled material from agricultural machines – ranging from stationary engines to mangles and vintage mopeds - and local farmers 'playing' some of these machines alongside Kimmo. *Konela* by Kosminen & Perko is clearly more post-industrial and a tad more urban. It seeks a link between tools and technologies of past and present: alongside a hydraulic shear and an eccentric press, a key tool is the computer, representing the latest generation of work machines. In essence *Konela* is a piece for metal-workshop tools, saxophone and data processor, a.k.a. a laptop.

Motor Music Festival is a great opportunity for an exchange between the worlds of agriculture and the arts. The event includes additional activities, such as travelling from the summer outdoor theatre to the machine workshop in a 1920s bus, and local food specialities to savour in the outdoor cafe before and after performances.

Notes on the artists:

Accordion adventurist **Kimmo Pohjonen** stands apart as one of the world's musical innovators. Likened to Jimi Hendrix, Laurie Anderson and even Batman, his singular mission is to expand the capabilities, sound and experience of his instrument in many different settings. Accordion, voice, effects and surround sound combine to create a compelling live experience which has won Kimmo ardent fans across musical genres. A visionary of boundless energy, Pohjonen's roots go back thirty years in all forms of accordion music including folk, dance, classical, rock, experimental, theatre music and more. His studies at the progressive Sibelius Academy Folk Music Department were a critical factor in Pohjonen's transition to the boldly creative and versatile musician he is today.

Kimmo's work spans film, dance, the visual arts and a wide range of musical genres. Current projects include: a new commission for the Kronos Quartet, which has been given highly acclaimed performances in New York, Helsinki and Moscow and at the Molde Jazz Festival; KTU, a band featuring Pohjonen and Texans Pat Mastelotto and Trey Gunn from King Crimson; and Kluster, a duo with sampling genius Samuli Kosminen (Mùm). Previous performances include pretty much all the key jazz and world music festivals around the globe, the Proms in London, and both David Bowie and Patti Smith's Meltdown Festivals.

www.kimmopohjonen.com – www.myspace.com/kimmopohjonen

SAMULI KOSMINEN is one of Finland's top drummers/percussionists. As a drummer, percussionist, composer, and producer, Kosminen has collaborated with a gargantuan array of Finnish and foreign rock, pop, jazz and electronic music artists, such as Kronos Quartet (USA), Valgeir Sigurðsson (ICE), KTU (USA-Finland), Emiliana Torrini, Pepe Deluxe, and many others. In the last few years his main collaborators have been Icelandic band Múm and Finnish accordionist Kimmo Pohjonen. Since joining forces as Kimmo Pohjonen/Samuli Kosminen Kluster in 2001, this adventurous duo have worked in numerous projects and formations, and performed worldwide. Recent highlights include the Kosminen/Pohjonen composition UNIKO, a concert collaboration with the Kronos Quartet specially commissioned by Kronos.

Kosminen's blind date in 2002 with Icelandic band Múm led to a long-term collaboration. After several joint records and world tours, Kosminen has gained a reputation as an original drummer whose style integrates acoustic drums with electronic beats as though he were an organic drum machine. Múm has garnered a cult following around the world.

Kosminen is also currently working on his solo project. Originally a drummer, now an explorer of flea-market percussion, beat devices, melody-making toys, clonky/clunky machines and tuneful data processors, Kosminen has discovered strange, new dimensions of rhythm and sound.

Saxophone virtuoso **Jukka Perko** made his international breakthrough in 1986 at Pori Jazz Festival in Finland where he was acclaimed with the name Little Bird, after Charlie Parker himself. His career was kick-started with no less than a place in the ranks of Dizzy Gillespie's Big Band in 1987 and 1988. From that time on, through various national and international projects and recordings, Perko has earned his position among the leading Finnish and European jazz musicians of our time.

www.jukkaperko.com

Motor Music Festival partners: Finnish Cultural Foundation, Arts Council of Pirkanmaa, Arts Council of Finland and the Finnish Institute in Oslo. The village of Rämsoö/Vesilahti is also supporting the event.

- **Festival showtimes:** Saturday, August 16 and Sunday, August 17
 6.00pm Konela
 8.00pm Maamoottorisinfonia
 10.00pm Konela

- Tickets and reservations: €22/concert, Festival ticket €40/both concerts. Group tickets €38 each (min. 15 people). Reservations & inquiries tel: +358 40 7036 208.

- Promo images, posters, flyers and maps and further information: www.ramsoo.fi/mmf

The village of Rämsoö(Vesilahti) close to Tampere is known for its activities and events.

Rämsoö was chosen village of the year in 2007

The village society has been organizing events and activities for over 30 years, and Rämsoö events have attracted over 14,000 visitors annually. The outdoor summer theatre of Rämsoö has been active for 22 years. Rämsoö villagers boast a large collection of vintage engines dating back to the 1920s. Kowan Teknolokian Päivät® ("Hard Iron Rally") has been held for the last 15 years. The event grew so popular that the village decided to call it a day: they did not want to turn it into a mass event. The engines are now beating time to music.

NB: Audiences should be prepared for spectacular beauty, mosquitoes, and high-voltage Finnish

summer madness.

- Further information and invitations for international guests:
Paulina Ahokas
Mobile: +358 40 5511 551
Email: paulina.ahokas@gmail.com
- Produced by Rämsoö Village Society:
Marjukka Lähdekorpi-Ojala (producer & promoter)
Mobile: +358 40 7036 208
Email: ramsoo@ramsoo.fi

On the same weekend, international visitors will have an opportunity to see another key Finnish event: **The Flow Festival** is organized by Nuspirit Helsinki in collaboration with Helsinki Festival.

The programming is based purely on the festival team's current interests, which essentially translates into showcasing top-notch music ranging from jazz to soul, indie to electro, techno to boogie and electronic to organic. While Flow has gained a place in the international festival calendar during its four years of existence, the emphasis is equally on showing off the most interesting acts from the lively Finnish music scene. Previous artists include Bebel Gilberto (BRA), Coco Rosie (USA), Carl Craig (USA), Gilles Peterson (UK), The Five Corners Quintet, Luomo, and many others.

Alongside great music, Flow is about urban spaces, sumptuous decoration, and good food and drink. Taking place near Helsinki's city centre, Flow offers international visitors great access to the city's services and other attractions. Further info at www.flowfestival.com