

The background of the entire poster is composed of various geometric shapes, including triangles and rectangles, in a palette of teal, coral, and light pink. At the top, there is a row of vertical teal bars of varying heights. On the right side, there is a vertical column of downward-pointing triangles in shades of pink and coral. The central text is set against a white background.

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FEST™**

MINNEAPOLIS

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

2026

September 17-20

Hilton Minneapolis & the
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91 Sessions of Music, History,
Culture and Community



FINN HOLLOW

SAUNA RETREAT & COFFEE SHOP

New Three-Hour Sauna Retreat

Nature | Movement | Meditation | Sauna |
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Join the Finn Hollow Founders Saunaseura

Exclusive access for the Minnesota Finnish community



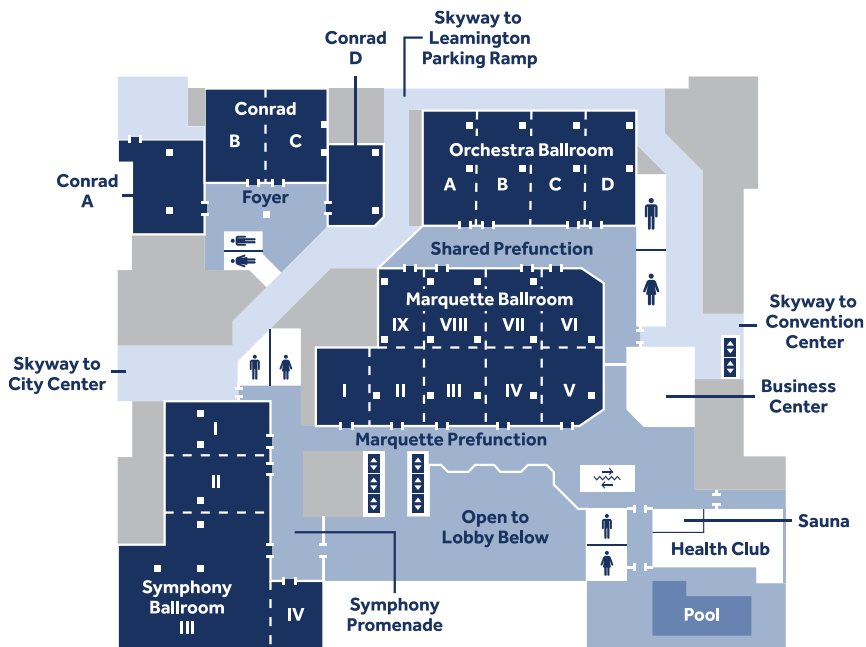
finnhollowsauna.com/saunaseura

*If black coffee and hot sauna can't cure it,
it's fatal.*

HILTON MINNEAPOLIS

EVENT MAP

Second Level



FINNFEST SUPPORTERS

FinnFest USA would like to thank all of its supporters for making this year's FinnFest possible:
Members, Volunteers and Sponsors.

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Jonathan Rundman

Cloquet River Press

Pittsburgh Finns (Finnish Nationality Room Project - University of Pittsburgh)

Asahi

Visit Bloomington

ESLA

FinnFest Merchandise

Aleksi



TORI NORDIC FAIR STAGE

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | FRI-SUN: 9AM - 5PM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18	
9:00 am - 9:30 am	Morning Asahi
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Ida Metsberg & Kyle Gray Young
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Kristie Cunningham
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Ruut—Finlandia Foundation Performer of the Year 2026
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Paleface Unplugged
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	My Finnish Soul Vol. 2
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Steve Solkela's "Overpopulated" One-Man Band
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Jonathan Rundman
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19	
9:00 am - 9:30 am	Morning Asahi
9:30 am - 10:00 am	Kahvitauko
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Fairytale and Folklore
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	An Introduction to Tales of Les Dames Blanches
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Finnish Singer-Songwriter Ida Metsberg
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Kyle's Favorite Songwriters
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	One Violin, Endless Possibilities
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Lindula Brothers
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Finish American Dance Music — The Northern Stars Girls

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Foundation
National



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Thursday

SEPTEMBER 17 • HILTON MINNEAPOLIS • WEAVERS GUILD OF MINNESOTA

**8:00 AM (return by
4:00 PM)**

Discover Finnish America: Minneapolis to Cokato

Departing from the Hilton Minneapolis at 8:00 a.m., this guided bus tour explores the urban and rural communities that shaped Finnish American life in Minnesota. Registration closes: September 4; \$60 ticket. Tours return by 4:00 PM.

TOUR • COKATO TOUR

1:00 PM–4:00 PM

Weavers Guild of Minnesota: Finnish Weaving Exhibit and Demonstrations

Explore Finnish weaving and Nordic textile traditions through a special exhibit and interactive demonstrations of weaving, spinning and linen flax. The exhibit will also be open Friday and Saturday and remain on display through October 17. Location: Weavers Guild of Minnesota, Open Book Building, 1011 Washington Ave. S., Suite 350, Minneapolis. The building is accessible and approximately 1.4 miles from the Hilton.

CULTURE • WEAVERS GUILD OF MINNESOTA

5:00 PM–6:30 PM

▲ Opening Convocation

Emceed by Eric Brown

FinnFest 2026 begins with an unforgettable evening of ceremony, community and live music! Emceed by Eric Brown, Hidden in Plain Sight brings together national anthems, dignitary greetings, poetry, music and reflections celebrating important Finnish–American anniversaries. Stay for refreshments, conversation and the joyful first chance to reconnect with FinnFest friends from across the country—plus a cash bar. Then turn up the energy with Eepi Ursin. If you've been to FinnFest before, this Convocation is a bit different; enjoy an elevated experience.

FEATURE • SYMPHONY BALLROOM 3

6:30 PM–7:00 PM

Evening Reception

Enjoy an evening of reconnecting with old friends and new. Meal station and cash bar.

GENERAL • SYMPHONY BALLROOM 3

7:00 PM–8:30 PM

▲ Opening Night Live Music

Eepi Ursin

Live musical performances to celebrate opening night, featuring Eepi Ursin.

GENERAL • SYMPHONY BALLROOM 3



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Friday

SEPTEMBER 18 • HILTON MINNEAPOLIS • ASI • THE CABOOZE

9:00 AM–10:00 AM

The Modern Finnish Remigrant

Craig Curtis, Elaine Kumpula, Hamish Wood & Trev Taylor

Live from Finland: Hear directly from Finnish Americans who made the move to Finland as they share what remigration really takes—from learning the language to building a new life and community.

IMMIGRATION • CONRAD A

9:00 AM–10:00 AM

Becoming and surviving as a Nation State: America, 1776, Finland, 1917

Sharon Franklin-Rahkonen

This presentation will compare and contrast the two countries' experiences of breaking away from large empire nation states.

HISTORY • CONRAD B & C

9:00 AM–10:00 AM

Boys of Winter

Bill Jamerson

Dressed as a ski jumper with guitar in hand, Jamerson shares songs and stories about the Bietila brothers of Ishpeming—the six Depression-era ski jumpers known as “The Flying Finns.”

MUSIC HISTORY • CONRAD D

9:00 AM–10:00 AM

5 & 10-String Kantele Workshop

Kay Seppala

Kantele workshop for more experienced 5 and 10/11 string kantele players

MUSIC • ORCHESTRA A

9:00 AM–10:00 AM

Kalevala: Just What the Doctor Ordered. Elias Lönnrot's Epic Prescription for the Finnish Nation

Thomas Dubois

First published in 1835, the Kalevala introduced Finnish folk literature to audiences around the world. This session explores what the Kalevala actually is, why it became so influential and why it continues to be regarded as a masterpiece of world literature.

LITERATURE • ORCHESTRA D

9:00 AM–9:30 AM

Finnish American History

Sirpa Aho

Finnish immigration waves in American history: an Expat perspective

HISTORY/IMMIGRATION · SYMPHONY BALLROOM 3

9:00 AM–9:30 AM

Morning Asahi

Led by Certified US Asahi Nordic instructors

Start your day the healthy Finnish way with a gentle Asahi Nordic practice. Follow along with the easy movements standing or sitting and feel the benefits.

HEALTH/ WELLNESS · TORI STAGE / MARQUETTE BALLROOM

9:00 AM–5:00 PM

▲ Tori Nordic Fair — Vendors & Exhibitors

Free Tori Nordic Fair marketplace — shop Nordic makers and Finnish American organizations. No festival pass required. See the Vendors & Exhibitors page for the full roster. Full details: finnfest.us/finnfest-2026/tori/

COMMUNITY · TORI STAGE / MARQUETTE BALLROOM

9:30 AM–10:30 AM

Balancing Your Body, Brain, and Nervous System with ASAH

Linda Chamberlain

How to balance your body, brain, and nervous system with a simple mind-body fitness program from Finland.

HEALTH/ WELLNESS · SYMPHONY BALLROOM 2

9:30 AM–10:00 AM

John Morton Genealogy

Auvo Kostainen

Discover how John Morton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, descended from the Forest Finns as Kostainen traces his family story back to Central Finland using modern genealogical and DNA research.

HISTORY/IMMIGRATION · SYMPHONY BALLROOM 3

10:00 AM–10:30 AM

Forest Finns

Frank Eld

Part of the Kingdom of Sweden, people known as “Forest Finns” migrated to the Swedish Delaware Colony, starting in 1638. This presentation will discuss who they were and the community life they created.

HISTORY/IMMIGRATION · SYMPHONY BALLROOM 3

10:00 AM–11:00 AM

Ida & Kyle

Ida Metsberg & Kyle Gray Young

Ida and Kyle play a variety of Finnish and English covers and originals. They'll share some stories of how they ended up on stage together for the first time at last year's FinnFest. They'll be wearing Marimekko and so should you!

MUSIC · TORI STAGE / MARQUETTE BALLROOM

10:30 AM–11:30 AM

Finland and Migration

Jussi Juhainen

As Finland shifts from a country of emigration to one of immigration, who is arriving, how are newcomers adapting and how are Finnish society and government responding?

IMMIGRATION · CONRAD A

10:30 AM–11:30 AM

5-String Kantele Workshop

Margaret Vainio

5-string kantele strumming accompaniment workshop

MUSIC · ORCHESTRA A

10:30 AM–11:30 AM

A Dance Across Centuries

Renee Vaughan

In Swedish-speaking Ostrobothnia—especially Jeppo—the minuet remains a living community tradition centuries after moving from European courts into Finnish folk life. Renee brings its history to life with live music and an opportunity to try a few basic steps.

MUSIC · ORCHESTRA D

10:30 AM–11:30 AM

Forging a Career Pathway with a Fulbright Grant

Joseph Zinno and John Zobitz

A program for young professionals. Turn curiosity into a real application plan with guidance from Fulbright Scholars.

FULBRIGHT · SYMPHONY BALLROOM 2

10:45 AM–11:30 AM

John Morton and his role in the Declaration of Independence

Jay Smith

Finlandia Foundation National's Lecturer Of The Year 2026—join acclaimed historian Jay Smith for an engaging presentation exploring Finnish heritage and its influence on early America.

HISTORY/IMMIGRATION · SYMPHONY BALLROOM 3

11:00 AM–2:00 PM

▲ Nordic Business Luncheon

Robert Strand, Elias Revonta, and Stephanie Alles

Connect with Nordic and Minnesota business leaders at the Nordic Business Luncheon. Enjoy a Nordic-inspired lunch, valuable networking and brief insights from Robert Strand, Elias Revonta and Stephanie Alles. Your luncheon ticket also includes a FinnFest Saturday day pass! More information about this featured event at: finnfest.us/nordic-business-luncheon/

BUSINESS · AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE

11:00 AM–12:00 PM

Kristie Cunningham

Kristie Cunningham

Kristie Cunningham is a Finnish American singer-songwriter who performs genre-crossing originals and covers throughout the Duluth and Tucson music scenes, inspired by the simple joy and magic of making music.

MUSIC · TORI STAGE / MARQUETTE BALLROOM

11:30 AM–12:00 PM

John Morton: A Panel Discussion

Frank Eld, Auvo Kostiainen, Jay Smith

Frank Eld, Auvo Kostiainen, and Jay Smith reconvene for a lively exchange, connecting the threads that link the Forest Finns, John Morton, and the Finnish roots of early America.

HISTORY/IMMIGRATION · SYMPHONY BALLROOM 3 & 4

12:00 PM–12:30 PM

Lunch Hour Asahi

Margaret Vainio

HEALTH/WELLNESS · ORCHESTRA C

12:00 PM–1:00 PM

▲ Ruut — Finlandia Foundation Performer of the Year 2026

During her tour visiting Finlandia Foundation chapters, Ruut is offering audiences a sneak peek at her upcoming album, *Motherland*, a musical journey into Finnish mythology and heritage that bridges past and present through song.

MUSIC (FF HIGHLIGHT) · TORI STAGE / MARQUETTE BALLROOM

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

Finnish Architecture in America: Impact and Influence

Peter MacKeith

From Eero Saarinen's Gateway Arch to contemporary design, Finnish architects have quietly shaped America for nearly a century. This illustrated presentation reveals where to find their influence and how to recognize it. Presenter Peter MacKeith is a nationally recognized architect, educator, professor, and Honorary Consul of Finland for Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri.

ARCHITECTURE · CONRAD A

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

Beatrice Ojakangas: An American Voice for Finnish Food Culture

Thomas DuBois and Marianne Wargelin

How did Beatrice Ojakangas become America's leading voice for Finnish food? Thomas DuBois and Marianne Wargelin explore the lasting influence of *The Finnish Cookbook* and the woman who introduced generations of Americans to Finnish cooking. Audience participation is encouraged.

CULTURE · CONRAD B

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

The Story of Why We Are Here

Anna-Mari Laulumaa

Many Finnish American stories began in Ostrobothnia, whose emigrants carried their language, traditions and values to new lives in the Upper Midwest.

CULTURE · CONRAD D

1:00 PM–2:30 PM

Rune-along with the Kalevala

Karen Ba

Join us for an interactive introduction to ancient Finnish rune singing, learning traditional Kalevala-meter verses while exploring Finnish mythology, lunar deities and shared human emotions.

MUSIC · ORCHESTRA A

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

Finnish-American Folk Dancing

Kisarit

Kisarit will perform a variety of dances, both traditional and more modern dances from the many regions of Finland with waltzes, humppa, quadrilles, and other unique dances.

MUSIC · ORCHESTRA D

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

Beyond the Job Title — Three Paths to a Fulbright Grant Match

Edward Sivak, Maureen Mascha, Paul Niemisto

Three advanced career professionals discuss how the Fulbright experience expanded their careers.

FULBRIGHT · SYMPHONY BALLROOM 2

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

The Delaware Colony: A 20th Century Postscript

Auvo Kostiaainen

Discover why Sweden and Finland celebrated the 300th anniversary of New Sweden—founded in Delaware in 1638—and how they brought its history to life.

HISTORY/IMMIGRATION · SYMPHONY BALLROOM 3 & 4

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

▲ Paleface Unplugged

Paleface

Special unplugged performance by Paleface on the Tori Stage — an intimate set from Finland's leading voice in political Finnish rap.

MUSIC (FF HIGHLIGHT) · TORI STAGE / MARQUETTE BALLROOM

2:00 PM–3:00 PM

My Finnish Soul vol. 2 — Album Release Concert

Eepi Ursin

Beloved Finnish-American singer-songwriter Eepi Ursin continues her saga of Finnish nostalgia with a brand new album My Finnish Soul vol. 2.

MUSIC · TORI STAGE / MARQUETTE BALLROOM

2:30 PM–3:30 PM

Finnish and American Labor History: A Comparison and Contrast

John Hanson

Beginning with his father's role in the explosive 1934 Minneapolis Truckers' Strike, John Hanson explores how Finnish workers fought for better lives on both sides of the Atlantic.

HISTORY · CONRAD A

2:30 PM–3:30 PM

Writing Hybrid Family History: Finnish American fiction

Jim Johnson

Jim Johnson will read from his recent book Whitebird the stories of his Finnish immigrant grandparents who homesteaded in Montana in 1890.

HISTORY · CONRAD D

2:30 PM–3:30 PM

Finnish American Folk Music

Lauluaika

Join Lauluika for an hour of some of the finest Finnish and Finnish American folk music around! Their repertoire includes Finnish couples dances such as waltzes, polkas, humppa, jenikka (schottische), masurkka, and hambo, as well as lively group dances for all ages to enjoy.

MUSIC · ORCHESTRA D

2:30 PM–3:30 PM

Helping Finland Know America: Grassroots Diplomacy in Transatlantic Relations

MC: Thomas Flanagan; **Panel:** Päivi Tetri (FFN), Marianne Wargelin (FFUSA), Simon Elo (SAM), Edward Sivak (Fulbright Foundation)

What does cookbook author Beatrice Ojakangas have to do with Finnish–American relations? Leaders from FFN, FinnFest USA, SAM, and Fulbright Finland explore how cultural and educational exchanges have connected Finland and the United States—and how people-to-people diplomacy can build an even stronger relationship for the next generation.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS · SYMPHONY BALLROOM 2

2:30 PM–3:30 PM

Spotlight on Finnish America: Aapo Similä's Kantele Tour 1938–39

Carl Rahkonen

Finnish singer, composer and kantele artist Aapo Similä's remarkable six-month tour of Finnish American communities. The presentation reveals what he discovered about America—and how Finland understood itself on the eve of World War II.

MUSIC HISTORY · SYMPHONY BALLROOM 3 & 4

3:00 PM–4:00 PM

Steve Solkela's "Overpopulated" One-Man Band

A 24 piece One-Man Band loaded with jovial humor and Finnish–American musical Bangers sure to knock your sukat clean off!

MUSIC · TORI STAGE / MARQUETTE BALLROOM

4:00 PM–5:00 PM

Kantele Recital

Margaret Vainio & Kay Seppala

Kantele recital featuring musicians who attended the morning workshops

MUSIC · ORCHESTRA A

4:00 PM–5:00 PM

Jonathan Rundman

Jonathan Rundman

Jonathan Rundman is an acclaimed Finnish American musician celebrated by The New York Times and Billboard for his thoughtful songwriting and inventive instrumentation. A familiar FinnFest performer, he returns with his album *Waves* and award-winning memoir *Lost Songs of the Suomi Synod*.

MUSIC (FF HIGHLIGHT) · TORI STAGE / MARQUETTE BALLROOM

**Doors 6:30 PM ·
7:00–11:00 PM**

▲ FinnFest Presents Paleface

Paleface

FREE at The Cabooze — Finnish artist Karri ‘Paleface’ Miettinen brings hip-hop, folk tradition and fearless social commentary. Doors open 6:30 p.m. No FinnFest pass required. Advance Eventbrite registration encouraged — choose Cabooze – Headliner Event. Details: finnfest.us/finnfest-2026/paleface/

MUSIC · THE CABOOZE

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June 20–October 25



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Saturday

SEPTEMBER 19 • HILTON MINNEAPOLIS • MINNEHAHA PARK

9:00 AM–10:00 AM

Using History to Tell Stories in a Digital World

Mark Munger

Author Mark Munger discusses the research behind his Finnish American historical fiction, the continuing relevance of the genre and how writers can build an audience.

LITERATURE • CONRAD A

9:00 AM–10:00 AM

Howling With Huskies (And Other Ways To Feel Good)

Linda Chamberlain

Scientist, author and former dog musher Dr. Linda Chamberlain has spent more than 30 years studying how stress and trauma affect the brain and body. In this interactive presentation, she shares how Howling with Huskies, created with the Alaska Children's Trust, uses sled dogs and evidence-based techniques to help children and adults regulate emotions and build resilience.

HEALTH/Wellness • SYMPHONY BALLROOM 2

9:00 AM–10:00 AM

Finnish & US Diplomatic Relations

Presenters: Robert Anzenberger & David Scott Witwer

Starting with 1917, the speakers will follow the U.S. relationship with Finland from Finnish independence through the Cold War and its Aftermath. It will conclude with comments about the present.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS • SYMPHONY BALLROOM 3

9:00 AM–9:30 AM

Morning Asahi

Led by Certified US Asahi Nordic instructors

Start your day the healthy Finnish way with a gentle Asahi Nordic practice. Follow along with the easy movements standing or sitting and feel the benefits.

HEALTH/Wellness • TORI STAGE / MARQUETTE BALLROOM

9:00 AM–5:00 PM

▲ Tori Nordic Fair — Vendors & Exhibitors

Free Tori Nordic Fair marketplace — shop Nordic makers and Finnish American organizations. No festival pass required. See the Vendors & Exhibitors page for the full roster. Full details: finnfest.us/finnfest-2026/tori/

COMMUNITY · TORI STAGE / MARQUETTE BALLROOM

9:30 AM–11:00 AM

Writing Your Family Stories

Sheila Packa

Capture your family history in a hands-on workshop led by former Duluth Poet Laureate Sheila Packa. Writers of all levels will use guided prompts to begin shaping their stories into memoir, fiction or essays.

STORYTELLING · CONRAD D

9:30 AM–10:00 AM

Kahvitauko

Lily Obeda

Can't make it to campus? Come and speak Finnish with others at this low-pressure event led by Lily Obeda from the University of Minnesota Finnish program! Speakers of all levels are welcome.

LANGUAGE · TORI STAGE / MARQUETTE BALLROOM

10:00 AM–11:00 AM

Fairytale and Folklore

Petra Jasmiina feat. Scott Tran

New York-based Finnish singer-songwriter Petra Jasmiina takes us to a world of fairytale and folklore with original chamber pop and folk, featuring violinist Scott Tran.

MUSIC · TORI STAGE / MARQUETTE BALLROOM

10:30 AM–11:30 AM

Lost Songs of the Suomi Synod

Jonathan Rundman

Musician and ELCA Lutheran pastor Jonathan Rundman spent 15 years collecting and arranging songs and hymns of Finnish Lutheran immigrants to North America. Join Jonathan for a musical expedition through his book, featuring songs by J. L. Runeberg and Jean Sibelius — and a chance to hear songs nobody in North America has heard for a century.

MUSIC · ORCHESTRA A

10:30 AM–11:30 AM

Performance by the Kivajat Finnish American Folk Dancers

Kivajat Dancers

The Kivajat Dancers bring the energy and color of Finnish folk dancing to FinnFest! This enthusiastic group of teens from the Finnish American Heritage Center in Hancock, Michigan, will perform traditional dances with an emphasis on Karelian traditions—and invite the audience to join the fun.

DANCING • ORCHESTRA D

10:30 AM–12:00 PM

▲ Keynote: Nordic Capitalism

Robert Strand

Can capitalism be competitive, sustainable and genuinely good for people? Robert Strand, author of *Nordic Capitalism*, explores what America can learn from Nordic countries—where strong companies, democratic values, sustainability and societal well-being often advance together. Strand will be joined by Finnish medical technology CEO Elias Revonta and former U.S. Foreign Service Officer Thomas Hanson for a lively response and discussion. This keynote is included with a FinnFest four-day pass or a \$45 Saturday day pass. Visit finnfest.us for tickets.

FEATURE • SYMPHONY BALLROOM 3

11:00 AM–12:00 PM

The Necessary and Persistent Ole & Lena

Loren Niemi

From absurdly broad to quietly subversive, humor is an essential part of Finnish culture. Explore the many lives of Ole and Lena, what they reveal about how Finns see the world—and come ready to share your favorite joke.

STORYTELLING • CONRAD B & C

11:00 AM–12:00 PM

Poetry Reading

Greg Watson & Diane Jarvenpa

POETRY • SYMPHONY BALLROOM 2

11:00 AM–12:00 PM

Selections from An Introduction to Tales of Les Dames Blanches, a Musical by Johanna Telander

Johanna Telander

The new musical work by Finnish-American composer Johanna Telander explores the depths of a woman's soul journey through the lens of "Les Dames Blanches", or Ladies in White, a collection of notorious ghost stories told throughout the world.

MUSIC • TORI STAGE / MARQUETTE BALLROOM

11:30 AM–12:30 PM

Finnish–American Folk Dancing

Kisarit

Kisarit will perform a variety of dances, both traditional and more modern dances from the many regions of Finland with waltzes, humppa, quadrilles, and other unique dances.

DANCING • ORCHESTRA D

12:00 PM–12:30 PM

Lunch Hour Asahi

Margaret Vainio

HEALTH/Wellness • ORCHESTRA A

12:00 PM–1:00 PM

Finnish Singer–Songwriter Ida Metsberg

Ida Metsberg

Ida will be sharing her immigrant experience moving from Finland to the United States, through her music. Her songs are about trying to fit in to a new culture as an introverted Finn, being homesick, and navigating the ups and downs of life in New York as a performer.

MUSIC • TORI STAGE / MARQUETTE BALLROOM

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

Beyond Washington: Communities and States Building Connections between Finland and the USA

Elaine Kumpula & Edward Sivak

American cities and states, working separately from the Federal Government, have been creating their own official contacts with Finland. The three panelists will discuss the purpose and value of these separate connections.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS • CONRAD A

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

Sauna Wellness Panel: Tradition and Evolution

Lisa Steinmann (Moderator), Karen Rue, Kathy Matalamaki, Sierra Blake, Gloria Nash, Nell Rueckl

Explore how Finnish sauna traditions—from community storytelling and natural skin care to cold plunges and the vihta—support wellness today. Sauna blogger Lisa Steinmann moderates the conversation.

SAUNA • CONRAD B

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

Writers for Democratic Action

Presenters: Diane Jarvenpa, Sheila Packa, Lynette Reini-Grandell and Loren Niemi

Echoing the history of Finnish-American writers and activists that include, Sirkka Tuomi Holm, T-Bone Slim (Matti Valentin Huhta), Earl Nurmi, Helmi Mattson, Lauri Lemberg.

WRITING • CONRAD D

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

Kantele Music: Rooted in Tradition

Sheila Coughlin

Sheila Coughlin shares how the kantele led her to explore her Finnish-American roots. Through music played on 5-string, 11-string, and large kanteles, she'll introduce the history, folklore, and traditions of Finland's national instrument.

MUSIC • ORCHESTRA A

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

Singalong with Popular Finnish Tunes

SF 100 Choir

Join the SF100 Choir Singalong to celebrate Finnish song with both evergreens and new pop tunes!

MUSIC • ORCHESTRA D

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

St. Croix Ave, Duluth

A Community gathers its story: the Duluth Finnish American Historical Society shows how it's done.

HISTORY • SYMPHONY BALLROOM 2

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

▲ Business Panel: Response to Robert Strand's Keynote—Continued

Professor Robert Gavin Strand (Keynote) with panel of respondents

How does Nordic capitalism affect everyday life? The conversation continues with a discussion of whether the Nordic approach could offer a viable model for American society.

BUSINESS • SYMPHONY BALLROOM 3 & 4

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

Kyle's Favorite Songwriters

Kyle Gray Young

Kyle will perform songs by some of his favorite singer-songwriters from Finland. Knipi, Matti Johannes Koivu, Suvi Isotalo, and Jarkko Martikainen are a few of the songwriters you'll hear music from.

MUSIC • TORI STAGE / MARQUETTE BALLROOM

2:00 PM–3:00 PM

One Violin, Endless Possibilities

Charlotte Loukola

A captivating solo violin experience celebrating tradition, innovation, and the limitless possibilities of a single instrument

MUSIC · TORI STAGE / MARQUETTE BALLROOM

2:30 PM–3:30 PM

The Finno-Ugric World Tour

Gage Keränen

A Finno-what? Join us for a Finno-Ugric 101 to learn about the many linguistic and cultural cousins that Finnish-Americans have around the world!

CULTURE · CONRAD A

2:30 PM–4:00 PM

From Finland to America: Five Women Artists in Conversation

Five women born in Finland working as artists in America. Eepi Ursin, Ida Metsberg, Petra Jasmiina, Johanna Telander, and Ruut will have a roundtable discussion about their experiences.

IMMIGRATION · CONRAD B & C

2:30 PM–3:30 PM

A Good Story Wants To Be Told

Donna Salli & Doreen Salli

Sisters, writers, and storytellers share stories of their Finnish-American family—from saunas and grandparents' farms to the joys and losses of immigration. Come listen, share your own memories, and learn how to begin writing your family's stories.

STORYTELLING · CONRAD D

2:30 PM–3:30 PM

A Medieval Stringed Instrument from Turku

Alice Margerum

Archaeological finds of medieval stringed instruments are extremely rare. In public collections for over 90 years, a small medieval instrument from Turku, discovered in 1928, is finally getting some well-deserved attention.

MUSIC · ORCHESTRA A

2:30 PM–3:30 PM

Northern Light

Diane Jarvi

Music and poetry of nature and ancestry

MUSIC · ORCHESTRA D

3:00 PM–4:00 PM

Lindula Brothers

Lindula Brothers

Finnish–American Folk/Bluegrass Music

MUSIC · TORI STAGE / MARQUETTE BALLROOM

4:00 PM

Shuttles start to run at 4:00 from Hilton to the Park

GENERAL · MINNEHAHA FALLS

4:00 PM–5:00 PM

Finnish American Dance Music — The Northern Stars Girls

Finnish American Dance Music Reawakened With A Classical Flair

MUSIC · TORI STAGE / MARQUETTE BALLROOM

4:30 PM · evening

▲ MORTON: The Forgotten Founder

Frank Theatre · Finlandia Foundation National

Move over, Hamilton—meet Morton! This fast, funny new comedy with music brings forgotten Founding Father John Morton and his pivotal vote for American independence into the spotlight. Commissioned and funded by Finlandia Foundation National in celebration of America's 250th birthday, the play makes its free world premiere at FinnFest through a collaboration with Frank Theatre. Bring a picnic, enjoy an unforgettable evening at Minnehaha Park, and stay after the show for live Finnish folk music and social dancing with Lauluaiika!

FEATURE · MINNEHAHA FALLS

7:00 PM–9:00 PM

Traditional Lavatanssit

Lauluika

Come and enjoy an evening of music and dance at Minnehaha Falls with Lauluika. Lauluika ("Song Time") is a Finnish folk band based in the Twin Cities, formed in 2016 out of a shared commitment to learning, preserving, and teaching Finnish and Finnish American folk music.

MUSIC · MINNEHAHA FALLS



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Sunday

SEPTEMBER 20 • AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE & NEARBY

9:30 AM

Worship Service at Christ Church Lutheran

Christ Church Lutheran congregation will share its Sunday worship service with FinnFest. Finnish music will be featured in hymns (sung in translations.) and other Finnish sacred music presented by the Finland 100 choir. Christ Church Lutheran is the last work designed by Eliel Saarinen before his death in 1950.

COMMUNITY • CHRIST CHURCH LUTHERAN

11:00 AM–12:00 PM

John Morton: America's Finnish Founding Father and a Legacy that Speaks Today

Jay Smith

Join acclaimed historian Jay Smith for this Sunday lecture exploring John Morton — America's Finnish founding father — and a legacy that speaks today.

HISTORY • LARSON HALL

11:00 AM

Charlotte Loukola — Solo Violin

GENERAL • MANSION SALON

12:00 PM–1:00 PM

ASI Cloudberries

ASI Cloudberries

GENERAL • MANSION SALON

12:00 PM–2:00 PM

Young Professionals Networking Event

Young Leaders Board

Meet young professionals from across the Finnish-American community, build connections, and enjoy light refreshments. Free and open to all—no FinnFest pass required. Space is limited; RSVP in advance.

GENERAL • PAULSON HALL

1:00 PM–4:00 PM

Mark Your Sauna Towel

Lisa Steinmann

Finns and other Nordic folks once made a personalized mark — a puumerkki — to show ownership. Using basic hand stitching, participants mark a rustic linen towel in red thread and take it home. All skill levels welcome; instruction begins on the hour, up to ten at a time, first come, first served.

GENERAL • CLASSROOM A

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

Beginning 5-String Kantele Workshop

Kay Seppala

Five strings, five notes. Give me five...and you can make beautiful music on the kantele!

MUSIC • CLASSROOM B

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

Salolampi Singalong

Susan Harstad & Lily Obeda

MUSIC • MANSION SALON

1:00 PM–3:00 PM

Finn Fun Day

Outdoor games and playful activities welcome families to move, laugh, and celebrate together.

OUTDOOR GAMES • NCC LAWN

2:00 PM

Writing Fiction and Using Your Own Stories: a workshop

James Johnson

James Johnson speaks about his new fiction book, telling the story of his grandparents, immigrants to Montana, and talks with attendees about how they too can explore writing about people whose stories they have heard.

WRITING • CLASSROOM B

2:00 PM–3:00 PM

Ponyfolk

Clif & Paul will bring their Nordic folk music to life, unplugged and unforgettable.

MUSIC • MANSION SALON

2:00 PM–3:00 PM

Rag Rug Roadshow

Barbara Yarusso and Lisa-Anne Bauch

Was there a rag rug weaver in your family? Bring your family rugs, photos or memories as we explore Finnish American rag-rug traditions and share advice for cleaning, repairing and repurposing treasured textiles.

CULTURE • STUDIO CLASSROOM

2:30 PM–4:00 PM

Board Games — Learn Some Basic Finnish!

Lily Obeda

GENERAL • NORSE SAGA ROOM

3:00 PM–4:00 PM

An Open Jam with Ralph Tuttila and Lauluaiika Open Jam

Ralph Tuttila, one of the founding members of Finn Hall and now Lauluaiika, will be hosting the FinnFest Open Jam at the American Swedish Institute. Bring your instrument or bring your voice, or your dance shoes.

MUSIC · PAULSON HALL

3:00 PM–4:00 PM

Rag Rug Roadshow—Continued

Barbara Yarusso and Lisa–Anne Bauch

Bring your rugs to the classroom for closer examination and individual advice about cleaning, repairing and preserving them.

CULTURE · STUDIO CLASSROOM

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