

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 choir will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2011.

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. In addition, Seitakuoro has premiered works by many composers from Lapland, Finland and from abroad, the latest being Jan Hellberg's five-part "Feelings of the Fell Traveller" composed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the choir.

The choir cooperates regularly with Lapland Chamber Orchestra. Seitakuoro and Lapland Chamber Orchestra have performed together several grand works such as Fauré: "Requiem", Saint-Saëns: "Oratorio de Noël", Pärt: "Te Deum" and Kõrvits: "Kreegi Vihik" (Finnish premiere 2008). Seitakuoro also often gives concert tours in Lapland.

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.

Seitakuoro has published four recordings, of which the most recent one "Arctic Scenes" (2011) was published by Alba Records. The CD consists of pieces composed for Seitakuoro or otherwise related to Northern living. On the Christmas CD "Seimen luo – Away in the Manger" (2007) one can hear Christmas songs from all over Europe, sung in the original (8!) languages.

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 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 Concil of Lapland granted her a Cultural Award for her persistent work for the cultural life in Lapland.

www.seitakuoro.fi
www.rovaniemi.fi