

Iiro Ollila

Portfolio



Iiro Ollila (b. 1971) is a composer, musician and an improviser. His special area of expertise is stage music and musical theatre and improvisation in its various forms and he has a master's degree in theater arts. His compositional style is best described as *art pop – melodic and emotional music, with classical and avant-garde influences*. Ollila is also a classically trained guitarist and a guitar teacher. Ollila has worked as a full-time freelance composer-musician since 2000 and has composed musicals, music for circus and drama and audio plays, dance works and music for films and television. Recently he has composed music for the Dance Theater Hurjaruuth's praised Winter Circus- shows. (Talvisirkus BAU 2019, Vauhti (Speed) 2020, Ilo (Joy) 2022.) His stage works have been performed extensively in Finland, for example at the National Theatre of Finland (The Brothers Karamazov 2018), National Broadcasting Company YLE (Taidenäyttely radiossa [KOURA-award 2016]) and at numerous theaters in Finland. Ollila was the artistic director of the choir Koiton Laulu from 2000 to 2006 and has been a member and a musician-performer of the Stella Polaris Improvisational Theater since 1998. As a musician, Ollila is a multi-instrumentalist: both a classically trained musician and a versatile improviser (guitars, keyboards, flute, Irish whistles, electronics, vocals and feestyle rap). Ollila has been awarded a one-year artist grant from the Finnish Art Promotion Centre in 2010, 2015, 2018, and 2023.

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Links to audio

Virginia - trio for flute, clarinet ja and cello, 2022, Anna-Sofia Kallio flute, Pinja Jokinen clarinet, Joel Nachtigall cello

[Ollila.mp4](#)

Songs From Winter Circus Bau – A live-album recorded from the performances of Winter Circus BAU 2029, Emily Brontë Nursery Rhyme Orchestra a.k.a. Salla Markkanen, Senni Eskelinen, Ville Syrjäläinen

<https://open.spotify.com/artist/0vs5kACtGu0ti48yJQVZga?si=-5NltnJVQJGJU9bM5UvumQ>

Music From Winter Circus Joy – An EP-release based on the music for Winter Circus Joy 2022-2023, Salla Markkanen, Iiro Ollila

<https://open.spotify.com/album/6QMq2jRTsUEI7MHeoVXd6z?si=osObU3ASTQmZOHWqiyTILA>



Iiro Ollila and Hannu Risku a.k.a.

Kaksi Pitkää Miestä, Turku Improviation Festival 2019

Review quotes:

"Näyttämöllä eräänlaisena tiskijukkana työskentelevän Iiro Ollilan ja koreografi Liisa Risun yhteistyö on samalla tavalla saumatonta. Moderni liikekieli ja klassisesta ammentava konemusiikki sulautuvat luontevasti yhteen..."

"...Karamazovin veljesten perusajatus kiteytyy mainiolla tavalla näyttämöllä seisovaan merkilliseen soittimeen, taivaallisen harpun ja helvetinkoneen ristisiitokseen, jonka toimintaperiaatteesta on mahdotonta saada selvyyttä." "...härveli tuntuu soittavan itse itseään, mikä tietysti on sulaa hulluutta."

HS, Lauri Meri 29.11. 2018, Karamazovin veljekset, Suomen Kansallisteatteri

"The collaboration between the choreographer Liisa Risu and Iiro Ollila, who works on the stage as a DJ of sorts, is seamless. Modern kinesthetics and electronic music that draws its inspiration from the classical tradition blend together naturally.

(Helsingin Sanomat, Lauri Meri 29.11. 2018, Karamazovin veljekset [The Brothers Karamazov], Suomen Kansallisteatteri, Finnish National Theater, translation Iiro Ollila)

"...The basic idea of The Brothers Karamazov is perfectly encapsulated in the remarkable musical instrument standing on the stage, a crossbreed between a celestial harp and an infernal machine, the functioning principle of which is impossible to comprehend." "...the instrument seems to be playing itself, which of course is pure madness." **(Helsingin Sanomat, Lauri Meri 29.11. 2018, Karamazovin veljekset, Suomen Kansallisteatteri, Finnish National Theater, translation Iiro Ollila)**



"Iiro Ollila on tehnyt muusikoille upeaa musiikkia, joka vaihtelee omaperäisistä melodioista etnovaikutteisiin sävyihin ja Adiemus-tyyppisiin paisutuksiin. Kylmät väreet juoksevat selkää pitkin. Soittimina on muun muassa elektroakustista kanteletta ja ksylofonia. Ja tietysti instrumenteista parhaita; ihmisääntä."

**HS, Jussi Tossavainen 8.11.2019
Talvisirkus Bau, Tanssiteatteri Hurjaruuth**

"Iiro Ollila has written wonderful music for the musicians. It varies from original melodies to ethno-influenced tones and Adiemus-type swells. Cold shivers run down my spine. The instruments are, for example, an electroacoustic kantele and a xylophone. And of course the best of all instruments; human voice." **(Helsingin Sanomat, Jussi Tossavainen 8.11.2019, Talvisirkus Bau [Winter Circus BAU], Tanssiteatteri Hurjaruuth, Dance Theater Hurjaruuth, translation Iiro Ollila)**