

DUO CAMILLA HOITENGA & EIJA KANKAANRANTA



Photo by Maarit Kytöharju

The collaboration between Camilla Hoitenga and Eija Kankaanranta began in 2015 at the suggestion of composer **Kaija Saariaho**, who featured the two of them in her opera *Only the Sound Remains*, which toured worldwide from 2016 to 2022.

They have performed at venues such as Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, Barcelona's Palau de la Musica and Helsinki Music Center, with further invitations coming from festivals in Cologne, Strasbourg, Turku, Madrid, California and Aix-en-Provence.

The synergetic duo focuses on contemporary music written for their instruments

- from **piccolo flute to bass flute** and
- from **5-string kantele to the modern concert kantele**

inspiring composers such as **Jean-Baptiste Barrière**, **Maija Hynninen**, **Stefan Hakenberg** and **Olli Moilanen** to write exciting new works for them.

Their repertoire further includes works and new arrangements by **Matthew Whittall**, **Juhani Nuorvala**, **Anne LeBaron**, **Noriko Nakamura** and **Kaija Saariaho**.



The duo premiered Saariaho's *Light Still and Moving*, written for them, at the Festival Présences in Paris in 2017.

Flutist **Camilla Hoitenga** is internationally known for her close work with composers like Kaija Saariaho and Karlheinz Stockhausen. Praised by The New York Times for her seamless blend of technical brilliance and expressive depth, she has appeared at major venues like the London Royal Festival Hall or the Beijing Concert Hall, premiering concertos by Saariaho, Peter Kőszeghy or Ken-Ichiro Kobayashi with leading orchestras and conductors worldwide. Inspired by traditional Asian music, she is frequently invited to perform in China and Japan, also to premiere numerous pieces by Japanese composers. Her repertoire ranges from Baroque to interdisciplinary projects with live video, electronics and improvisation. Based in Cologne and North Carolina, she also teaches and mentors worldwide, both in person and online. Further details: www.hoitenga.com



Eija Kankaanranta is a Finnish kantele musician specializing in contemporary music and improvisation. She has premiered works by Jukka Tiensuu, Lotta Wennäkoski, Juhani Nuorvala, Juha T. Koskinen and Kaija Saariaho, and most recently, concertos by Mikko Heiniö and Timo Alakotila. Her solo CD "Griffyr – contemporary music for kantele" was released in 2007. In 2009 Eija became the first classical kantele player to complete a performer's doctorate in the Sibelius Academy. She has appeared as a soloist with Avanti! Chamber Orchestra, Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra, Pori Sinfonietta, Joensuu City Orchestra and the Netherlands Wind Ensemble. She has also played in ensembles like the Tapiola Sinfonietta, Finnish Baroque Orchestra, Moscow Contemporary Music Ensemble and the Athelas Sinfonietta Copenhagen. Her own ensembles include Superpluck (with harpsichord and guitar) and Juurakko (blues / contemporary folk). In 2021 Eija was appointed to be Lecturer in Kantele at the University of the Arts Helsinki. In 2024 she received a one-year state grant from the Arts Promotion Centre Finland. Further details: ekantele.blogspot.com