

## PEKKA KUUSISTO & IIRO RANTALA - VIOLIN/PIANO TANGO DUO



Pekka Kuusisto (photo: Tanja Ahola)



Pekka and Iiro (photo: Lauri Salo)



Iiro Rantala (photo: Maarit Kytöharju)

Out of Finland and coming to you! The Classical violin and Jazz piano Duo of our decade: **Pekka Kuusisto** and **Iiro Rantala**. Meet these two internationally renowned virtuosi and let them with their cunning charm and cheek put the Tango fire in your heart! Pekka and Iiro have individually toured Australia many times – Pekka with the ACO and State SOs – Iiro with Trio Töykeät and solo - rank among the highest rated musicians in musical Finland and indeed the world, and they do so because of two reasons: They are both top-notch instrumentalists but are not afraid to constantly seek new grounds for expression. Their duo collaboration submerges into the world of Tango by means familiar from the hey day of modern jazz.

Violinist **Pekka Kuusisto** (1976) is one of the most versatile and distinctive musicians working today. Always demonstrating his extraordinary individuality and imagination, Pekka is unusually free and fluid in his approach and has been acclaimed for the spontaneity and freshness in his playing. As Pekka puts it: "I don't play to be different or the same as anyone else, I just play it the way I think it and feel it."

In 1995, **Pekka Kuusisto** became the first Finn to win the Sibelius International Violin Competition. He says of his country: "I'm extremely proud that such a small country produced such a lot of really great music. Wherever I am, playing the Sibelius Concerto, I can see the landscapes of my homeland. It's a bit like carrying around a small box of soil from your garden." – For the past 15 years Pekka has toured and performed as a soloist with all the world's leading Orchestras, including on a number of occasions with the Australian Chamber Orchestra and the State SOs.

Check Pekka Kuusisto on youtube: [www.nme.com/artists/pekka-kuusisto](http://www.nme.com/artists/pekka-kuusisto)

After touring the world for 18 years with Trio Töykeät, Finnish jazz piano virtuoso **Iiro Rantala** (1970) is refreshingly still at the forefront of international pianism. The energetic keyboard lion crosses musical genres and styles with ease and excitement, playing at his exhilarating and adventurous best. Definitely entertaining, zany, unconventional and occasionally wicked, yet always uncompromising. Check: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D\\_CLboHD6Eg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_CLboHD6Eg)

**Iiro Rantala** is among the most internationally visible Finnish jazz musicians, and is second to none when it comes to unsurpassable keyboard technique and flaring showmanship. Iiro Rantala is best known as the founder and pianist of Trio Töykeät, Finland's most famous jazz group, which became one of the biggest success stories in Finnish jazz. Töykeät gave over 2,500 performances in 60 countries between 1988 and 2006, and released 8 albums

*"Pekka Kuusisto may be the best thing to happen to classical music in years" – The Guardian, 2007*

*"...His (Iiro Rantala) playing to put it mildly is virtuoso. One must perhaps go all the way back to Franz Liszt to find the same kind of virtuosity. At least there is lots of romanticism in Rantala" – Berlingske Tidene/Copenhagen 1998*

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