

### **Women's Orchestras in Finland, 1870–1900: A Case Study of Urban Cosmopolitanism**

This presentation aims to analyze the cosmopolitan tendencies of late 19th-century Finnish musical life by examining the activities of itinerant women's orchestras. Surprisingly, these bands, which often originated from the German-speaking parts of Central and Eastern Europe, have been relatively little discussed within the academic community. Nevertheless, women's orchestras offer an exceptionally interesting challenge for the canonized, nationalist- and masculine-oriented view on Finland's music historiography. Following the example set by Dorothea Kaufmann's and Margaret Myers' studies, it is my aspiration to research this phenomenon and its inherently cosmopolitan nature by means of social and cultural history.

Since women's orchestras were closely intertwined with the European café culture of the 19th century, my focus is on their functions and meanings in urban areas, namely those of Helsinki, Turku, Tampere and Viipuri. First, women's orchestras' repertoires and performances are analyzed in the context of other entertainment groups competing for employment opportunities in Finnish cities, e. g. military bands and family orchestras. Secondly, their audiences and employers are examined in detail to get a broad view on their socio-political status. As this presentation focuses on an era during which ladies' orchestras were a relatively new phenomenon in Finland, special attention is paid to the bands' public image as well as their position in Finnish music criticism.

Thus, I argue that women's orchestras offer valuable insight to the spectrum of different musical influences and transnational interaction that can be found in late 19th-century Finnish urban history. In addition, this doubly-marginalized point of view has potential in enriching the current critical discussion on methodological nationalism in Finnish historiography. Even though this presentation does not concentrate on "cosmopolitanism" as a concept, the cultural practices in question may be of help in clarifying its meanings in an urban context.

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Koivisto has studied European history, aesthetics and literature in the University of Helsinki from 2008 to 2014 as well as 19th century French history in the Université Paris IV – La Sorbonne from 2011 to 2012. In her master's thesis, she analyzed the nationalist and cosmopolitanist tendencies in the works of Countess Marie d'Agoult. Since 2013, Koivisto has also been working as a research assistant in the project "Rethinking Finnish Music History", funded by the Academy of Finland and led by professor Vesa Kurkela (Sibelius Academy).

In addition, Koivisto has been entrusted with the position of the secretary of the Finnish Musicological Society as well as that of a board member of the online art journal *Mustekala*. She has also won the award for the most distinguished master's thesis of the academic year 2013–2014 of the department of history at her alma mater. In April 2015, Koivisto was granted the four-year Matti Klinge scholarship for doctoral studies in the field of European history, and has since then been working as an employee at the University of Helsinki.