

Schoenberg Residency Report

Residency host: Eesti Arnold Schoenbergi Ühing

Location: Pärnu, Estonia

Duration: 1.8-30.9.2024

Artist-in-residence: Heliä Mailiis Viirakivi, flutist and singer <https://linktr.ee/heliamailliismusic>

During the two-month period from August 8th to September 30th, I participated as an artist-in-residence at the Schoenberg Residency, organized by the Eesti Arnold Schoenbergi Ühing in Pärnu, Estonia. The residency aimed to foster artistic activities that promoted the well-being of the Pärnu community, enhanced the city's cultural appeal and tourism, and encouraged artistic growth. This was achieved through exploring alternative notational and aural performance practices, both as a soloist and ensemble member, as well as research through books, discussions, lectures and realize practical implementation of these alternative approaches in contemporary and experimental music. The residency was divided into active and non-active periods. Active periods involved on-site work in Pärnu, composing, program preparation, attending events, and performing. Non-active periods focused on research, note-taking, and composition. The activities included four concerts, multidisciplinary performance, a workshop, and a seminar, and premiered five new compositions, including two of my own.

During the first active period, from August 1-11, 2024, I participated in the RAAMID 5 series and the COMP 2024 workshop. I performed at the Andrus Kallastu Autorikontsert *WELT GEBAUT IST 2024* and participated in the multidisciplinary performance *HÄPPENING* at Pärnu Loovlinnak. I also attended the *KAUNITE KUNSTIDE FILOSOFIA* seminar and premiered four new works at the COMP 2024 Ensemble concert, one of which was my own. The second active period, from September 16-30, 2024, included recital performances at the Elisabeth Church in Pärnu and at the Contemporary Music Center in Tallinn. These concerts featured works from the 21st century, and I premiered my second composition during this period.

In conclusion, my two-month residency with the Eesti Arnold Schoenbergi Ühing was an enriching experience that promoted both artistic growth and cultural exploration alongside the local artists in Pärnu. I had the privilege of engaging with the community through performances, seminars, and interactions with Pärnu City Gallery staff and artists. I contributed to the residency's mission by composing two new ensemble works for local professional musicians and curating a vibrant concert program. I also invited international contributors to participate in the concerts. This residency allowed me to further my exploration of alternative notational and aural performance practices, pushing the boundaries of my artistry. Overall, the Schoenberg Residency successfully achieved its goals, providing a platform for community enrichment and personal artistic development, while deepening connections to contemporary and experimental music and contributing to the cultural landscape in Pärnu. As part of the lasting legacy of the Schoenberg Residency, I plan to continue collaborating with local artists from Pärnu to strengthen international connections and cultural exchange between Finland and Estonia. My objectives include performing and composing with and for local artists, while also inviting international collaborators to participate in future performances. This ongoing collaboration will foster artistic innovation and cross-cultural dialogue, offering a vibrant and lasting partnership.