

# Finland in the times of the Vikings, the Opera view

Mighty Jewel and the Vikings

Theses:

Part of the Finnish History a thousand years ago is hidden and lost memories.(The picture to the left portrays King Rurik, founder of Novgorod, i.e. Holmgard.)

Dr. Esko Haavisto

Historical background to the opera







# MAHTAVA JALOKIVI JA VIIKINGIT MIGHTY JEWEL AND THE VIKINGS

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MAHTAVA JALOKIVI JA VIIRINGIT  
MIGHTY JEWEL AND THE VIKINGS



OPERA in III ACTS

Historical Background

## Historical background to the opera: Mighty Jewel and the Vikings

The history of Scandinavia and Northern Europe has traditionally been dominated by the Vikings in the west and the Russians in the East, who spread to become the biggest state of the world. Between these two were the Finns. According to the generally accepted history Finland never developed into a sovereign Kingdom, but instead remained for centuries part of Sweden and Russia and a Grand Duchy of Russia still for more than a hundred years before declaring her independence in 1917.

Since history is written by the conquerors, Finns are seldom spoken of in the context of older Viking and Russian history. To sketch another historical truth there is alternative information available. Finns have had a role to play not only in the Swedish armies, but other functions as well as ancient writings, archeology and DNA have revealed. Finland was a Kingdom. We can dwell into this soon enough, but let us visit Germany and Rome first. It has been told that Finns have sat on top of fur loads in the Viking ships, acted as traders and interpreters while the Danish and Swedish boys and young men were guarding, rowing and moving the ships forward when directed towards Novgorod to do business.

A German text from the 7th century reveals a peculiar fact; The Roman Emperor ruled over Finland in the 5th century. "*Caesare weold Graecum, ond Caelic Finnum*" Meaning that the Emperor ruled Greece and the Kalevan/ Karelian Finns. Traditionally the view has been that the Roman Empire's power or influence never covered Scandinavia or Finland. It may well be, that this "rule" never meant any kind of activity. It was just a known fact that these territories existed and a claim was made to include these areas to the conquered lands simply because they existed and no-one had made any contradictory claims. It is a fact, however, that unearthed treasures in Finland have included Roman and Byzantine coins. The explanation given is that they have been taken to Finland in Viking business.

Before the glory days of the Vikings Finland was a strong and independent linguistic and cultural area, a nation. Finns were skillful metal manipulators and smiths, producing high quality armaments to soldiers and gem-decorated impressive jewelry. Finns traded with the Baltics and central Europe. The area of the Finns Nation was four times the size of our present Finland, a true Magnum Finland.

### Finland and the Vikings

There never has been given a good explanation to why Vikings not continuously robbd nor raided or occupied Finland, a country so close and so large. Yet during the same time waves of blood rolled over the rest of Europe. Did we belong to the same people? Either Finns were superior soldiers, which the Vikings did not want to challenge or we were in practice the same folks as they. The raiders that we saw visit us, may well have been raiding all of Scandinavia. These Vikings, who lived on the edge of society as hungry criminal gangs are the same type of people we see in our present societies today. Instead of rowing longboats they may be riding motorbikes.

The Viking era has been set in our history books between the years 800-1200 AD. High hilltops in Finland were turned into log fortresses, "castle mountains", with pre-built bond fires ready to be set on fire to warn neighboring villages, if ill-willed Viking raiders were sighted. The villagers down by the water below could then collect their dearest and move into the fortresses to defend themselves, often seeing, how their villages were raided, looted and burned down. Defenses in the castle hills typically were well designed and had food storages and held until the raiders got bored and left, understanding that fighting would mean loss of life also on their side of the pointed fence.

## Kingdom Finland- Suomi?

The Nordic sagas and documents in Germany that have survived to this day reveal, that at least during the 7th century and as late as the year 1190 Finland was considered one of the Nordic Kingdoms. Finns were thus not merely a loose, poor and underdeveloped group of deep forest dwellers.

According to the Viking sagas, Finland was at the end of the First Millennium some kind of a center of the North, a place where the decision to start the Norwegian and Danish Kingdoms was made. The sagas also reveal that many Finnish men and women left to rule in Norway, Denmark and especially Sweden. Kings and Queens.

The best information source on the Finnish Kings is the collection of Islandic Sagas dating back to the years 1100-1300 AD. Finnish Kings are mentioned in them 30 times. For some reason some kings have been glorified into the mythology of Gods. As an example of these are King Fornjotr's sons Hler, Loge and Kare, who are described as Godlike figures in the mythology. Hler starts the Danish Kingdom and then turns into Aegir, God of the Seas, Loge starts the Kingdom of Norway and turns into the God of Fire.

The position of Finland as the Center of the North then slowly vanished from the scripts, but a Finnish King is mentioned still in 1154 AD, as a Sicilian inhabitant Ad Idrisi makes a note of money deposited by the Finnish Kings. Thus the Finnish Kings were known as far as Italy and Sicily at that time.

## The position was not lost until the beginning of the decade of 1250

Finland ended up under the rule of Sweden in 1249 (-1250), about a hundred years later that suggested in the widespread written history. Those, who win the wars, write the history. They wipe off a hundred years and if they so choose, rename the cities. Soon nobody remembered that Finland once was a large, developed and influential Kingdom. Instead, during the years of the Swedish influence, teachers told that Finland was, before the Swedish came, an illiterate and barbaric nation of trolls, living deep in their forests, living a nomadic life picking up whatever they found to eat or use.

## Finnish Prince Rurik

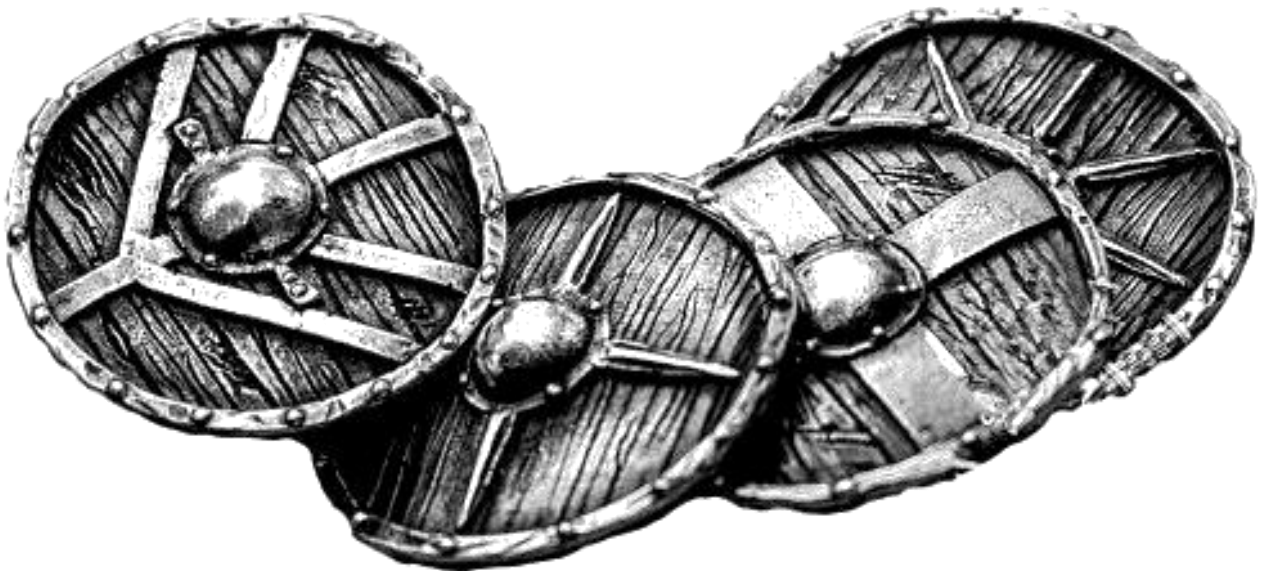
It has been estimated, that Rurik lived in 830-879 AD. According to a saga, he took command of Staraja Ladoga area from the Baltic Sea Finns and founded the City of Novgorod. It has been widely accepted as a fact, that Prince Rurik was a "varjag", ex-viking leader. Recent DNA research has revealed that he has been of Finnish origin. The Prince Rurik genes originate here, in the Vasa coastal area. He was thus with high certainty of Finnish origins, a Finnish Viking.

There is an initiative within the *Family Tree Project* to approach the history of Rurik following the geneological bloodlines of the present time noble families and royalty. The results indicate that the entry of family of Rurik and the alleged Viking invasion to Russia actually was immigration of Karelian- Vepsian origin. The largest part of the population in Russian Novgorod area is according to the DNA findings, genetically Finnish. The reason for this is that the Finnish Prince Rurik, the Father of the Rurik Trone and Empire, founded the Novgorod City State and dedicated it to and populated the area with inhabitants.



There is controversy, however, and it is said in broader terms, that the Scandinavians founded the city and the area of Novgorod in the years of 900AD. It is a fact, that the Rurik Dynasty ruled Russia for about 600 years. The peace, that Rurik and his brothers came to safeguard, lasted continuously for 200 years. After Novgorod lost its position as a trading center and as a democratically chosen “vetse”- governed City State and local center of power and capital, Kiev became the new Center of Russia, with Moscow emerging.

The only source written extensively about Rurik is the Chronicle of Nestor, from 1100 AD. [Nestorin kronikka](#) It proposes, that the Fenno-Ugric and Slavic tribes, the Tšueds, Slovenians, The Krivitšes, the Vepsian and the Mervegians declined paying taxes, ([vepsäläiset](#) ja [merjalaiset](#).) deported the Varjags and started to govern themselves. The tribes ended in disputed and wars broke out. This is when they decided to invited the varjags back, contacting Prince Rurik and asking him to bring his brothers to start peace keeping forces. It is said, like told before, that Rurik was a “Varjag”, a Viking. It is apparent, that he was somehow known and the invitation took place.



## An old Encyclopedia page

Novgorod, former Veliki, Capital of Novgorod oblast, 53 700 km<sup>2</sup>, in 1959, 710 000 inhabitants. Left riverbank has a Kreml, where Sofia's Church (1045-50). Russian 1000 years monument hoisted in 1862. Right river bank, Antonius's Monastery. Great damage in WW II. Prehistory: Archeological finds: 8 meters thick cultural layer, many wood paved streets, Birch-Bark letters in ancient church Slavic, containing more than 300 private letters, official documents, oldest from 11<sup>th</sup> century. A silver treasure with 871 arabic coins, youngest 969-970 AD. [H. Arbman, Svear i Österviking (1955); C.F. Meinander (Nordenskiöld foundation journal 1956)... Great Novgorod covered all of North Russian territory 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries reaching to the Ice-Sea. Fought against Sweden about ownership of Karelia and Finland. In 1323 Sweden and Novgorod divided Karelia between them. In 1478 Ivan the III conquered Novgorod and its trading position was lost. In 1570 Ivan the IV let loot Novgorod and kill thousands of inhabitants. Sweden took over in 1611 with Jaakko De la Gardie heading the troops. He kept Novgorod in Swedens possession until 1617, Stolbova treaty.

**Novgorod**, ent. N. Veliki, N:n oblastin (53 700 km<sup>2</sup>, 710 000 as. 1959) pääkaup. Venäjällä Olhavanjoen varrella, Ilmajärven pohjoispuolella. 61 000 as. (1959). Joen vas. rannalla muurin ympäröimä Kreml, jossa mm. Sofian tuomiokirkko (1045-50) ja Venäjän tuhatvuotismuistomerkki (pystytetty 1862). Joen oik. rannalla Antoniuksen luostari (seinämaalauksia 1100-luvulta), hist. museo, taidemuseo. Suuria tuhoja 2. maailmansodassa.

*Esihistoria.* Kaivaukset ovat paljastaneet N:n alla olevasta 8 m paksusta kulttuurikerroksesta useita päällekkäisiä puisia katuja ja hirsirakennusten pohjia. Löydöistä ovat tärkeimpiä muinaiskirkkoslaaviksi kirjoitetut tuohikirjeet (n. 300, yksityiskirjeitä, asiakirjoja ym.), vanhimmat 1000-luvulta, sekä hopea-äärre, joka sisälsi mm. 871 arab. hopearahaa, nuorin v:lta 969-970 jKr. [H. Arbman, Svear i Österviking (1955); C. F. Meinander (Nordenskiöld-samfundets Tidskrift 1956).]

*Historia.* N. (pohjoismaalaisten Holmgard) oli olemassa jo 800-luvulla, jolloin sinne Nestorin kronikan mukaan asetui Venäjän valtakunnan perustaja varjagipäällikkö Rurik. Kun Kiova Rurikin kuoltua tuli valtakunnan pääkaupungiksi, N. joutui siitä riippuvaksi. Jo 1100-luvun alkupuolella N. alkoi itse valita ruhtinaansa. N. oli jonkinlainen tasavalta. Päätösvalta oli kansankokouksella (vetše); ruhtinaan

*Ellette löydä kaipaamianne hakusanoja, etsikää X osan hakemistosta.*



Novgorodin Kreml. Vas. Sofian kirkko.

rinnalla oli tuomarina ja hallitusmiehenä posadnik-niminen virkamies. N. joutui kauppayhteyteen ensin gotlantilaisten, sitten hansan kanssa ja oli siten tärkeä idän ja lännen kaupan välittäjä. N:n alue laajeni ja käsitti 1200- ja 1300-luvulla koko Pohjois-Venäjän Narvajoesta Uralin ja Volgan lähteiltä Jäämereen saakka («Suuri N.»). Se taisteli ruotsalaisten kanssa Suomen ja varsinkin Karjalan omistamisesta. Pähkinäsaaren rauhassa 1323 N. ja Ruotsi jakoivat Karjalan keskenään. Moskovan suuriruhtinaat anastivat N:lta alueen toisensa jälkeen, kunnes Iivana III 1478 valloitti sen ja se menetti merkityksensä kauppakeskuksena. V. 1570 Iivana IV antoi ryöstää N:ia ja surmautti tuhansia asukkaita. V. 1611 Jaakko De la Gardie valloitti N:n. Se pysyi Ruotsin hallussa Stolbovan rauhantekoon asti (1617). [P. Johansen, N. und die Hanse (Städtewesen und Bürgertum als geschichtliche Kräfte 1953).]

**Novgorodin karjala**, ent. Novgorodin läänin karjalaisten kieli. → Karjalan kieli.

**Novgorod-Severski** [sē-], kaup. Koillis-Ukrainassa, Desna-joen varrella. 11 000 as. (1959). Itä-Euroopan vanhimpia kaupunkeja, ruhtinaskunta 1000-luvun lopulla.

**Novial** [-aʹ], tansk. kielentutkijan O. → Jespersenin 1928 esittämä ehdotus maailman apukieleksi. Muistuttaa lähinnä nykyenglantia. [O. Jespersen, Kansainvälinen kieli (1931); Novial lexike. International Dictionary. Dictionnaire international. Internationales Wörterbuch (1930).]

**Noviisi** (lat. *novicius* = vasta-alkaja <→ novus), koeaikaansa palveleva luostariveli tai -sisar.

**Novikov-Priboi** [nō- -oʹi], Aleksei Silyts (1877-1944), ven. kirjailija. Japanin sodan aikana osallistui matruusina Tsušiman meritaisteluun ja joutui sotavankenteen. Hankki maineensa teoksella «Tsushima» (2 nid., 1932-35, suomenn.), josta sai Stalinin palkinnon.

**Novi Pazar** [-aʹr], Novipazar, turk. *Jenipazar*, kaup. Etelä-Jugoslaviassa, Serbiassa, Raška-joen varrella. 20 710 as. (1961). Ennen tärkeä kauppakaup. Kuului Turkille 1456-1912, Itävalta-Unkarin miehittämä 1878-1908, joutui Serbialle 1913.

**Novi Sad**, unk. *Újvidék*, Pohjois-Jugoslavian Vojvodinan autonomisen alueen pääkaup. Tonavan varrella. 102 370 as. (1961). Jugoslavian unk. vähemmistön keskus. Mm. myllyteoll., rautatiesolmu; lentoasema.

**Noviteetti** (lat. *novitas* <→ novus), uutuuus.

**Novoje Vremja** [nō- vrē-] (ven. = uusi aika), pietarilainen sanomalehti 1868-1917, pääomistaja vsta.



## Rurik

Rurik, Rörík in Swedish

died in 879 AD

The starter of the Russian empire and a Varjag chief, who, according to Nestor Chronicles arrived with his brothers Sineus and Trevor to reign in Novgorod and soon after his brothers died, continued alone.

Family, considering themselves as descendants of Rurik, reigned over Russia until 1598.

A DNA –analyses has been carried out on the bones claimed to be King Ruriks remains. This study has revealed that Rurik possibly has originated from the Finnish Vaasa (Wasa) area, where this similar genome (N1c1) is met. *A separate article on this matter follows on the next page.*

There is historical information, which explains, that Rurik and his brothers were invited to bring stability to end the unrest covering large areas of tribes. **Rurik** founded the *City State of Novgorod* and his brothers, **Truvor** founded *Kiev* and **Sineus** formed *Belarus*. Then, Finns were part of the “Northern people”, which supposedly included Estonian people as well. There is a concept that Rurik had ruled over Estonia also for some time, when he there received his invitation to rule over Russian territories and left for Novgorod (In Viking language: Hemgrdr “*Home estate*”) with his brothers. We still don’t know exactly, how the invitation was decided and sent to Rurik, but of course we can draw a conclusion from the fact that Novgorod became a sovereign democracy, led by a meeting, “vetše”.

## Rus (ven.), Russians

In the oldest historical writings ”Rus” is the name for the people that later became the name of the later Russian empire and its inhabitants. (Bysanthian writings call them rhōs) According to Nestor, rus:ses were “Varjag-people” (Vikings) who came rowing ships across the seas. (“på ro-båtar”, on row-boats) There are many historic, documented facts, that Rus:ses, Russians are of Nordic origins.

According to V. Thomsen the name has the same origins as the Finnish word for Sweden, “Ruotsi” and is a derivative of a Swedish county, Roden, or Roslagen. In the Swedish language these names are “Svenska“ and “Sverige” of “Svea”. In our language in Finland, a Swede and a Russian , “ruotsalainen ja ryssä” are from the same source.

Modern Russian research claims that the rus:es were either Slavic or both Slavic and Scandinavian.. (See: V.Thomsen, *Det russiske rigets Grundlaeggelse ved Nordboerne* (1919) E.Hjärne, *Namn och bygd* (1947) H. Paszkiewicz, *The Origin of Russia* (1954) )

It is thus a founded claim to say that the Russians are really Swedes, or Finns, people who governed large territories, all the way to Skåne, just across Denmark.

## Gene research, genealogy

The zars, were Ugrians up to the 17th century and the invited Vikings were a group of mixed breeding; Germanic, Slavic, Ugrians (Karelians and Estonians) We have to take note of the fact that all of Sweden was inhabited by Laplanders ( Saame) and Finnish tribes, excluding the Skåne region down by Denmark. The DNA-haplo-groups point to the north of the Birka-area, the Finns and to the Karelian Aunus. Sweden “Ruotsi” and Swedes, “Ruotsalaiset” took form only after the Danes organized themselves at the turn of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

The genetic DNA- haplo group N1c1 belongs to the most common Finnish N- haplo group. 65% of Finnish men are of this type. More precisely, Finnish men are part of a mutation from this N-haplogroup, the N1c1. Most of the people in the Novgorod area are genetically Finnish.

The archeological findings have shown that most of the oldest items in the Novgorod area are from around 850 AD and are Finnish items. An interesting observation is of course, that since there was no paper, messages and documents were written and drawn on the paper-like Birch-bark. There is a rumor that an entire Bible had been transcribed, “punched” on bark, but the bibles have been lost in the fires that broke out easily in cities those days. In the opera, “Mighty Jewel and the Vikings”, a message to King Rurik is delivered written on bark.

If you ever have wondered, who started Russia, the answer is thus: A Finnish Viking from the district of Wasa on the Finnish West-coast, a varjag and Prince, later King Rurik, year 862. This is the time that has been attributed to the start of the Russian Empire and Monarchy. This history has never been taught, even though it is now available to us right in plain sight.

The later rulers, the Romanov-family also has Rurik blood in their veins and are inheritants of the Rurik Dynasty. We should also remember, that when St Peterburg was founded, most of the inhabitants in that area were Finnish. “Nevskij Prospect”, the St. Petersburg main street has been named after Aleksanteri Nevalainen, a Finnish, highly appreciated Russian national hero.

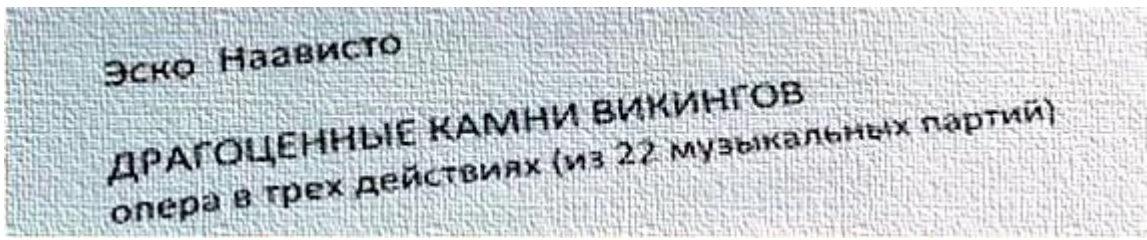
These historical views were openly and widely shared and taught by teachers still in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. For some reason or other it has been very quiet in this part of the library lately. There has been a fluent effort to claim that the Finnish and the Russian cultures and races are so very different. This declination has been supported widely in the west, maybe because of the different alphabet, a language barrier (the Finnish language has a myriad of Russian vocabulary) and of course the “Small Hate and Big Hate”-periods in our history, where the Russian conquerors, our cousins, treated us, stubborn lovers of freedom and justice, badly in a vain effort to put us on our knees.

The radical turmoils of our societies and the World Wars have also been a period of re-writing history. We have had to motivate ourselves on both sides of the border to kill and bomb each others. We forget, that Russia is so big and stretches over such an area, that it is just as easy to claim at the far end, that Russia and Russians actually are of Mantshurian- Chinese origin as well culturally as genetically, not to mention that the Siberian, Mongolian, Saame Laplanders and Eskimos and the American Indians in reality form the Northern Folk and a Nation of Tribes..

What we are interested in is, of course, that in our eyes, Russian are often beautiful, handsome people. Of course they are, as they are of the same race. It is so easy to fall for the beauty, the by attitude and prejudice forbidden love. The genes in our bodies command our hormones and overrule the social norm.

One could think that in this globally strange and somewhat dangerous time that we live, it is questionable to treat Russia as an outsider and thus force it to act in opposition and offer a low threshold to make troubles.

## The Mighty Jewel and the Vikings has been noticed in Russia already in 2014



The Opera is being translated in Russian and has created interest in the Russian Government. It would be great to have e Premiere for it also in Novgorod and thus offer the “Mighty Jewel” Rurik sings about also to our neighbors, the Russians.



Medals of honor given to the Composer and his Mother in 2016

On the next pages are pictures of the official letters from the Russian President’s Office and the Office of the Ministry for Cultural Affairs.



# Office of the Russian President



АДМИНИСТРАЦИЯ ПРЕЗИДЕНТА  
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

**УПРАВЛЕНИЕ  
ПРЕЗИДЕНТА РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ  
ПО РАБОТЕ С ОБРАЩЕНИЯМИ ГРАЖДАН  
И ОРГАНИЗАЦИЙ**

ул. Ильинка, д. 23, Москва, Российская Федерация, 103132

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« 14 » октября 20 14 г.



1045552

№ A26-13-104555271

Ваше обращение на имя Президента Российской Федерации, полученное 13.10.2014 г. в письменной форме и зарегистрированное 14.10.2014 г. за № 1045552, рассмотрено и направлено в Министерство культуры Российской Федерации в целях объективного и всестороннего рассмотрения с просьбой проинформировать Вас о результатах рассмотрения (часть 3 статьи 8 Федерального закона от 2 мая 2006 года № 59-ФЗ «О порядке рассмотрения обращений граждан Российской Федерации»).

Консультант департамента  
письменных обращений граждан  
и организаций

К.Коробов



## Letter from the Ministry for Cultural Affairs



**МИНИСТЕРСТВО КУЛЬТУРЫ  
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*«13» ноября 2014. № 5044-ОА-13*

на № \_\_\_\_\_ от « \_\_\_\_\_ » \_\_\_\_\_

Уважаемая Светлана Тарасовна!

Обращения граждан к Президенту Российской Федерации по вопросам культуры в соответствии с ч. 3 ст. 8 Федерального закона от 2 мая 2006 г. № 59-ФЗ «О порядке рассмотрения обращений граждан Российской Федерации» направляются на рассмотрение в Министерство культуры Российской Федерации.

Департамент государственной поддержки искусства и народного творчества Министерства культуры Российской Федерации рассмотрел Ваше обращение к Президенту Российской Федерации В.В.Путину по вопросу оказания материальной поддержки композитору Финляндии и сообщает следующее.

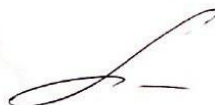
Поддержка современных отечественных композиторов является одним из приоритетных направлений деятельности Минкультуры России в области музыкального искусства.

В рамках Федеральной целевой программы «Культура России (2012-2018 годы)» финансируются фестивали современной музыки, поддерживается исполнительское творчество российских музыкантов, представляющих современную музыку отечественных и зарубежных композиторов в региональных гастрольных проектах. В репертуар Московской государственной академической филармонии включены абонементы, концертные программы которых выстроены на премьерном исполнении сочинений российских композиторов. Значительное внимание уделяется организации российских композиторских конкурсов и творческих лабораторий.

Вместе с тем сообщаем, что Минкультуры России оказывает поддержку творческих проектов, в том числе новых постановок оперных спектаклей, на основании конкурсного отбора заявок на участие в мониторинге Федеральной целевой программы «Культура России (2012-2018)», представленных по форме установленного образца.

Кроме того, согласно действующему законодательству Российской Федерации, Минкультуры России не вправе вмешиваться в художественную деятельность учреждений культуры. Репертуарная политика и художественное руководство творческих коллективов и организаций, работающих в сфере культуры, осуществляется ими самостоятельно. Для осуществления постановки оперы «Викинги» Эско Илмари Хаависто на сцене российского театра необходимо согласие руководства учреждений.

Директор Департамента  
государственной поддержки искусства  
и народного творчества



И.В.Тарасова

### Seal of King Rurik in a Viking inspired chain

The stylish, abstract design of a Striking Hawk looka a bit like Russian art of the 60's



### Coat of Arms of King Rurik





**King Rurik, Founder of Novgorod and Russia**

