

Värttina

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Varttina in World's Top 40

One of America's most popular magazines, Utne Reader, has voted Varttina into their selection: Movers and Shakers - The 40 Most Exciting, Soulful Artists of 2003 - 40 Artists Who Will Shake the World.

In the recent Utne edition, called Utne Arts Extra, the magazine's editors write about their 40 artists selected: "The 40 creators here - most of whom are not celebrated stars - offer a thoughtful sense of where the arts are headed. They're innovative, edgy and of the moment - but they're not mere flavors-of-the-month. They've all got a depth, resonance and soulfulness that make them good companions on the journey toward a better world. And their work is full of ideas and insights that challenge us to live more fully, see more clearly and have more fun."

About Varttina, Utne critic Jay Walljasper writes: " Karelia, a region of south-eastern Finland mostly gobbled up by the Soviets during World War II, is about as far off the pop music map as you can get. But it is the point of departure for one of the world's most dynamic groups. Varttina - a Helsinki based group that adapts folk songs and chants of Karelian village women and other Finns into an enchanting musical experience. In rousing harmony with touches of ancient dissonance, the women of Varttina belt out these tunes (many of which recount and relish the foibles of men) along with equally exciting original material. You don't need to know a lick of Finnish to feel the power of these old musical traditions made fresh again."

Other artists named include singer Tom Waits, turntable hero DJ Spooky, jazz trumpeter Dave Douglas, sculptor Matthew Barney, architect Shigeru Ban and theater director-designer Julie Taymor.

Varttina celebrates their 20th year as a group in 2003 with the release of their 10th album iki, released by BMG Finland in late February with international licenses following close behind.

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