

# Värttinä

## ACTIVITY JANUARY 2004

Finland's internationally acclaimed contemporary folk music ensemble Värttinä, enter their third decade at the peak of their 20 year career. First off are two major projects:

-collaboration with India's top film music composer A.R. Rahman in composing music for the musical stage production of **The Lord of the Rings**, which will have its World Premiere in London's West End in Spring 2005. This coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the complete J R R Tolkien trilogy, "The Fellowship of the Ring", "The Two Towers" and "The Return of the King". With a budget of £8 million, **The Lord of the Rings** musical, produced by Kevin Wallace and Saul Zaentz, will be the largest musical ever produced in London.

-Scheduled for late 2004 is the release of the first Värttinä DVD. The DVD, **20th Anniversary Concert**, was videotaped live in Helsinki, Feb 28, 2003 by DeCo Media of Helsinki. Värttinä, presents a collection of songs from the whole of their career with particular focus on new songs from their latest album **iki**, released January 2003. A special edited TV version of the concert was broadcast on Finnish digital TV YLE, Teema, on New Years Day 2004.

The DVD will include:

- 1 hour of live concert material mixed to 5.1 surround sound
- special collaboration with 30 piece female choir Philomela
- 30 minutes interview with founding members Mari Kaasinen and Janne Lappalainen with English subtitles
- archive videos from concerts throughout the last 5 years
- biography, discography, foto gallery

Värttinä's latest album, **iki**, their 10<sup>th</sup>, was published in 2003 to great acclaim:

- iki** named one of the "50 World Music Albums You Should Own" by Songlines Magazine (UK)
- iki** picked number 9 in Songlines Top 10 in issue May/June 2003.

Additionally, Värttinä was named one of the "40 Most Exciting, Soulful Artists of 2003, 40 Artists Who Will Shake the World", by Utne\_Magazine USA.

2003 performances included Spain Scotland, Turkey, Switzerland France, Belgium, Hungary, Germany, Estonia, Finland, Italy and their 8<sup>th</sup> tour of USA. One highlight was their third appearance at Sziget Festival in Budapest, headlining for 12000 people.

Värttinä kick off 2004 with concerts in Rome, Umeå, a three week European tour in March, Lord of the Rings rehearsals and summer festivals. (Note: in Belgian concerts, singer Johanna Virtanen is replaced by Karoliina Kantelinen)

**Feb 14: Rome, Italy - Auditorium Parco della musica**

**Feb 21: Umeå, Sweden – Umeå Festival**

**March 2: Kortrijk , Belgium - Schouwburg**

**March 3: Dilbeek, Belgium – CC Westrand**

**March 4: Beveren, Belgium – CC Ter Vesten**

**March 5: Bornem, Belgium – CC Ter Dift**

**March 6: Maaseik, Belgium – CC Achterolmen**

**March 8: Groningen, Holland - Oosterpoort**

**March 9: Utrecht, Holland – Tivoli de Helling**

**March 10: Tilburg, Holland - 013Musica**

**March 11: Amsterdam, Paradiso - La Nuit**

**March 13: Berlin, Germany - Kulturbrauerei,**

**March 14: Praha, Czech Republic – Abaton**

**March 15: Ljubljana, Slovenia - Cankarjev Dom**

**March 16: Wien – Szene Wien**

**March 17: Bratislava , Slovakia - Divadlo ARENA**

**March 18: Zurich - Moods**

**March 19: Bremen – Schlachthof**

### VÄRTTINÄ 2004

**MARI KAASINEN - voice, SUSAN AHO - voice, JOHANNA VIRTANEN - voice,**

**ANTTO VARILO - guitars, JANNE LAPPALAINEN - bouzouki & sax,**

**LASSI LOGREN - violin, MARKKU LEPISTÖ – accordion,**

**HANNU RANTANEN - double bass, JASKA LUKKARINEN - drums & percussion**

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