

# THE KALEVI AHO CHALLENGE 2020

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To celebrate the publication of the piano reduction for Kalevi Aho's Violin Concerto No. 2, Fennica Gehrman is launching The Kalevi Aho Challenge on its social media platforms. The challenge is open for everyone, regardless of the instrument – but the challenge work is Violin Concerto No. 2.

**Composer Kalevi Aho and violinist, prof. Elina Vähälä, who gave the premiere performance, will be the jurors.**

Instructions:

- Download the solo violin part from Fennica's website: <http://challenge.fennica.digital/>
- Choose a section you want to play, max 30 seconds
- Make a video of your performance
- Upload it on Fennica Gehrman's Facebook page or Instagram page

The jury will watch all entries and select the winner. The winner will get a 100 eur gift voucher for Fennica Gehrman's webshop. All other participants will get 20 % discount for an item of their choosing on Fennica Gehrman's webshop (requires a personal discount code, obtainable from the publisher).

Timeline:

- **Deadline for submissions: Sunday June 7, 2020, by midnight your local time**
- **Winner will be announced on-line: Thursday June 18, 2020**

**Kalevi Aho** is one of Finland's most well-known composers. Aho is a master of multiple classical and contemporary genres who in the course of his career has gone from Shostakovich-tinted Neo-Classicism towards Modernism, Post-Modernism and free tonality, combining these in a highly original idiom. Besides being a prolific composer, he is an influential figure on the Finnish musical scene in many other ways too. Aho has written concertos for every orchestral instrument. Violin Concerto No. 2 was a commission by the Kymi Sinfonietta and it was premiered by the orchestra and Elina Vähälä on November 30, 2016. The work has recently been recorded for the BIS label.

**Elina Vähälä**, born in the US and raised in Finland, made her orchestral debut with the Lahti Symphony Orchestra at the age of twelve. Since then, her career has continued to develop on the international stage, winning praise from audiences and musicians alike. She enjoys a fruitful working partnership with many leading conductors such as Leonard Slatkin, Carlos Kalmar, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Okko Kamu, Jakub Hrůša, Thierry Fischer, Sakari Oramo, Leif Segerstam. Educational activities play an important role in her commitment to music. In 2009 Elina Vähälä launched the Violin Academy; funded by the Finnish Cultural Foundation, the academy is a master class based educational project for highly talented young Finnish violinists. She has been a professor at the Hochschule für Musik in Karlsruhe, Germany, and in autumn 2019 she became a professor at the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst in Vienna. Elina Vähälä performs with a Giovanni Battista Guadagnini violin made in 1780.

**Fennica Gehrman** is Finland's leading sheet music publishers. The company's roots go back to Music Fazer and its predecessors in the 1880's. The company has always been associated with the leading Finnish composers of each generation, and holds pride in its affiliation with today's top names, such as Kalevi Aho, Kimmo Hakola, Paavo Heininen, Mikko Heiniö, Olli Kortekangas, Lotta Wennäkoski and Matthew Whittall. [www.fennicagehrman.fi](http://www.fennicagehrman.fi)