

Eesti Muusika- ja Teatriakadeemia



**EPARM 2025**

**AEC European Platform  
for Artistic Research in Music**

# A Researcher's Stage: Between Tradition and Innovation

3.04.2025 – 19.00

Great Hall of the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre



**Ekke Västriik** (1988)

*Breaking point* for accordion and electronics (2024)

**Darja Goldberg** (accordion)

**Ekke Västriik** (electronics)

**Eugenio Cecchini** (visuals)

**Eduard Tubin** (1905–1982)

Sonata for saxophone and piano ETW 61 (1951)

I *Allegro*

**Elisabeth Pae** (saxophone)

**Hyerin Youk** (piano)

**Viktoria Grahv** (visuals)

**Alisson Kruusmaa** (1992)

*Three Songs on Emily Dickinson's Poems*

for mezzo soprano, clarinet and piano (2023)

I *An Everywhere of Silver*

II *Not Knowing When the Dawn Will Come*

III *So Set Its Sun in Thee*

**Tuuri Dede** (mezzo soprano)

**Vittoria Ecclesia** (clarinet)

**Kristi Kaptan** (piano)

**Elia Dell'Orco** (visuals)

**Alexander Scriabin** (1872–1915)

Valse op. 38 (1903)

**Fortunato Salvador García Piquer** (piano)

**Ryan Adams** (visuals)

**Mikołaj Majkusiak** (1983)

Three movements from the Sonata for violin and accordion (2015)

I *Scherzo, ostinato*

II *Largo, instabile*

III *Rondo, ben ritmico*

**Mari Poll-Novaković** (violin)

**Momir Novaković** (accordion)

**Gabriele Teti** (visuals)

**Marcelo Politano** (1989)

I *Samba eterno* (2024)

II *Chacarera de los vientos* (2024)

**Francesco Russo** (bassoon)

**Marcelo Politano** (electric guitar)

**Ilja Korjukin** (visuals)

Director: **Robi Varul** (EAMT Theatre Department)

Supervisor of the visual solutions: **Einike Leppik**

Sound, video, light: **Eduard Reitman, Katrin Kvade, Ilja Korjukin,**

**Jose Maria Garcia Navarro, Nikita Shishkov**

Video and streaming: **Marek Vilba**

Artistic advisor (music): **Marje Lohuaru**

Today's concert "A Researcher's Stage: Between Tradition and Innovation" includes compositions and performances by doctoral students of the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre (EAMT) Ekke Västriik, Alisson Kruusmaa, Tuuri Dede, Fortunato Salvador Garcia Piquer, Momir Novaković, Francesco Russo, Marcelo Politano, alumni Vittoria Ecclesia (PhD in Music) and Kristi Kapten (PhD in Music). In addition to artistic researchers, this concert will also include lecturer Mari Poll-Novaković and students Darja Goldberg, Elisabeth Pae and Hyerin Youk.

On the one hand, the programme reflects tradition. Eduard Tubin, who fled the Soviet occupation to Sweden in the autumn of 1944 is one of the most important symphonists of the 20th century with his ten symphonies, whereas Alexander Scriabin's music was an important model for Estonian composers of the early 20th century. The work of the Polish accordionist and composer Mikołaj Majkusiak is an example of the EAMT's contemporary cultural contacts. Doctoral students Västriik, Kruusmaa and Politano represent the most recent developments in Estonian music, each having been successful internationally. It is worth noting that the EAMT's alumni include composers Arvo Pärt, Erkki-Sven Tüür, Tõnu Kõrvits, Helena Tulve, pianists Peep Lassmann, Kalle Randalu, Ivari Ilja, conductors Tõnu Kaljuste, Olari Elts, Kristiina Poska and others.

The Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre was established in 1919 during the first year of the Republic of Estonia. Initially known as the Tallinn Higher Music School, in 1923 it was renamed the Tallinn Conservatoire. The current name was adopted in 2005.

The first generation of EAMT professors was mostly trained at the St. Petersburg Conservatoire. In the 1930s contacts with Western European music centres became more frequent. In 1940 began the Soviet occupation and the school was required to transition to the Soviet curriculum. During the bombing of Tallinn on 9 March 1944 the school and its contents were

all but destroyed. The war had a devastating impact on the country, and its music community was not spared. Many leading members of the cultural elite had left Estonia as refugees. In spite of all this the conservatoire survived. A sense of continuity with the pre-war institution was maintained thanks in large part to the older professors, and this contributed to the pervading spirit of resilience.

After the restoration of the Republic of Estonia in 1991 an extensive reform of the curricula and study process was introduced. In 1999 EAMT was finally granted what it had been waiting for 55 years: a new building in the centre of Tallinn. In September 2019 EAMT opened its new performing arts complex (Great Hall, Blackbox) as an extension to the main building. Studies are conducted in Estonian and English. International students represent slightly more than a quarter of EAMT students.

In the field of artistic research EAMT has been a pioneer in Estonia, opening 3rd cycle degree studies in 2000. Since 2004 58 doctoral theses have been defended in artistic research. An important achievement in this area is the development and signing of the Estonian Artistic Research Framework Agreement by EAMT, Estonian Academy of Arts and Baltic Film, Media and Arts School of Tallinn University in 2021. This document made it possible to start supporting artistic research financially at national level: a new funding programme has been initiated by the Estonian Ministry of Culture.

EAMT has strong links with AEC. Artistic researchers from EAMT have given presentations at several EPARM conferences. A significant boost for the development of artistic research at EAMT was provided by the programme RAPP Lab – Reflection-based Artistic Professional Practice (2021–2023), a strategic partnership funded by the European Commission's Erasmus+ programme and bringing together seven institutions. In the autumn of 2021 EAMT hosted the conference-festival "Doctors in Performance".

The mission of EAMT is to sustain, develop and promote Estonian culture at the highest level through music and theatre studies, creative activities, research, and to deliver its contribution to the wider international culture. This means constant innovation, but also building on local traditions.



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**Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre  
Concert and Performance Office**

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