

48TH INTERNATIONAL EPTA CONFERENCE

TEMPO NORDICO

TIMING, NATURE AND NURTURE IN PIANO MUSIC AND EDUCATION

AUGUST 20–23, 2026

ESTONIAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND THEATRE (TALLINN, ESTONIA)

THURSDAY, 20/08

- 12:30 Registration
14:00 Conference Opening

TEMPO AND TIMING IN PIANO MUSIC AND EDUCATION

- 14:15 **Opening Keynote: Penelope Roskell** (United Kingdom)
Pulse, Tempo and Rhythmic Vitality **SP**
- 15:00 **Alberto Urroz** (Spain)
Tempo Sospeso **LR**
- 15:30 **Nicola Cantan** (Ireland)
Right Feedback, Right Time **SP**
- 16:00 **Susan Bettaney / Nadia Lasserson** (United Kingdom)
'The Living Pulse' – Rhythm Through the Ages **LR**
- 16:30–17:00 *Coffee Break*
- 17:00 **Arbo Valdma** (Estonia/Germany)
The Timing and Expression of Silence in Rests, Pauses, Fermatas and Caesuras **SP**
- 17:30 **Eleonora Evangelia Apostolidi** (Greece)
Teaching Tempo and Timing through Yannis Constantinides' Eight Greek Island Dances **LR**
- 18:00 **Kristina Socanski Celik / Sonja Marković** (Norway)
Unfolding Time: Freedom and Constraint in Performing Canto Ostinato. Performance, Temporality, and Pedagogical Reflection **LR**
- 20:00–21:30 *Reception hosted by Professor **Ivari Ilja**, Rector of the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre and Honorary Member of EPTA Estonia*

FRIDAY, 21/08

NATURE AND NURTURE IN PIANO MUSIC AND EDUCATION

- 9:45 **Keynote: Isabel Gabbe** (Austria)
From Game to Gain: How the MozTrickBox Transforms Piano Lessons **SP** (WS)
- 10:30 **Jaime Garcia Bolao** (United States)
Nature and Nurture at the Piano: Understanding Innate Potential and Learned Musicianship in Contemporary Piano Education **SP**
- 11:00 **Hester Lenaerts** (Belgium)
Gifted Students in Piano Lessons: A Practical Toolkit **SP**
- 11:30 **Damjana Zupan** (Slovenia)
From Silence to Sound: Revisiting and Evolving the Grindea Technique through Somatic Listening and Sensory Awareness **SP**
- 12:00–12:30 *Coffee Break*
- 12:30 **Benita Rose** (United States)
Nature and Nurture in the Maturation of Piano Prodigies and Composers **LR**
- 13:00 **Marcella Crudeli / Maria Grazia Sorrentino** (Italy)
Nature in Rhythm **LR**
- 13:30 **Ester Vela López** (Spain)
Maria Rosa Ribas: Twelve Pieces – Study for Piano. Pedagogical perspectives and Collaboration at the CMMB **LR**
- 14:00–15:00 *Lunch*
- 15:00 **Grace Ho** (United States)
Nature and Nurture: The Science and Pedagogy of Eye-Hand Coordination **SP**
- 15:30 **Petra Charlotte Bleser / Martin Pohl-Hesse** (Germany)
A Nourishing Way to Learn – Teaching as Support in Discovering One's Own Musical Development **SP**
- 16:00 **Martti Raide/ Riine Pajusaar** (Estonia)
At the Crossroads of Sound and Piano Art: New Piano Works Commissioned by the Estonian Association of Piano Teachers **LR**

16:30–17:00 *Coffee Break*

17:00 **Monica Tomescu-Rohde** (Norway) / **Shannon Wettstein** (United States)

Mountains, Myths, and Musical Memory: Ibsen, Grieg and Backer Grøndahl Reconsidered – A Multimedia Reimagining of Peer Gynt **LR**

17:30 **Tami Kanazawa** / **Yuval Admony** (Israel)

Time Travel through Space - in The Planets of Gustav Holst **LR**

18:00 **Grieg Pianoduo: Elles van der Heiden & Siebert Nix / Peter Barthel** (The Netherlands)

Keys to the Stars – a Tribute to the Fourhanded Pianoworks of the Estonian Composer Urmas Sisask (1960–2022) **WS**

19:00 *Joint walk to the Tallinn College of Music and Ballet (MUBA) (Pärnu mnt 59)*

19:30–20:30 *Visit to the Tallinn College of Music and Ballet (MUBA), including a guided tour and a mini-concert by pianist Havryil Sydoryk*

SATURDAY, 22/08

TEMPO AND TIMING IN PIANO MUSIC AND EDUCATION

10:00 **Raphaël Sudan** (Switzerland)

Surfing Time: Improvisation as an Experience of Irreversible Musical Temporality **SP**

10:30 **Robijn Tilanus** (The Netherlands)

Timing and 'Flow-time': a Tool to Open our Souls to a World of Imagination **LR**

11:00 **Carlotta Masci** (Italy)

The Flow of Time, the Art of Timing: Experiencing Philip Glass **LR**

11:30 **Tutu Aydınoğlu** (Turkey)

From Gesture to Tempo. How Physical Awareness Shapes Musical Time Illustrated through Tofiq Guliyev's Variations **LR**

12:00–12:30 *Coffee Break*

NATURE AND NURTURE IN PIANO MUSIC AND EDUCATION

12:30 **Nancy Litten** (United Kingdom)

What to Do After No Practice? **SP**

13:00 **Balder Neergaard** (Denmark)

Nurture Beyond the Lesson: The Practice Collective as a Model for Reflective Growth in Piano Practice **SP**

13:30 **Allan Duarte Manhas** (Germany)

Rhythm, Gesture, and National Identity: Folk Dance in Latin- American Piano Music **LR**

14:00 Annual General Meeting (EPTA Presidents) (Room D526)

15:00 Bus departs from the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre for the Arvo Pärt Centre (approx. 1-hour drive)

16:00–18:00 Visit to the Arvo Pärt Centre, including a mini-concert by pianist Tähel-Lee Liiv

18:00 Return bus

20:00–22:00 *Gala Dinner at the National Library of Estonia (Tõnismägi 2)*

Separate ticket required: €75 via [Piletikeskus](#)

SUNDAY, 23/08

TEMPO NORDICO. NATURE AND NURTURE IN PIANO MUSIC AND EDUCATION

9:45 **Keynote: Sten Lassmann** (Estonia)

Nordicness, 'Estonianness' and their Connotations in the Piano Music of Heino Eller **LR**

10:30 **Tuire Ranta-Meyer** (Finland)

Composer Erkki Melartin: An Idealistic Teacher and Open-Minded Conservatory Director **SP**

11:00 **Eveliina Sumelius-Lindblom** (Finland)

Nature as a Multifaceted Source of Inspiration in Erkki Melartin's Pedagogical and Large-Scale Piano Compositions **LR**

11:30 **Glenn Riddle** (Australia)

Advanced Repertoire for Young and Small-Handed Pianists **SP**

12:00–12:30 *Coffee Break*

12:30 **Hande Dalkılıç** (Turkey)

Reflections of Water: Stillness, Flow and Cultural Memory in Baltic and Anatolian Music 

13:00 **Rūdolf Vanks** (Latvia)

Main Aspects of Latvian Piano Music. Temperament, Virtuosity, Polystilism 

13:30 Conference Closing

Introduction to the EPTA Conference 2027 at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (United Kingdom), by **Penelope Roskell** and **John Thwaites**

Mihkel Poll (Estonia)

The Everlasting Allure of the North: Eduard Tubin's 'Northern Lights' Sonata 

Guided Tour: Tallinn Old Town

August 20, at 10:00–12:15

Meeting point: 9:50 AM in front of the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre (Tatari 13)

Price: 20€ via [Piletikeskus](https://piletikeskus.ee)

Guided Tour: Estonia Piano Factory (Kungla 41)

August 23, at 15:30–17:00

Advance registration is required. Register [HERE](#)

 – Lecture-Recital

 – Spoken Paper