

Timo Alakotila & Grand piano

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Composer, musician, Professor of Arts **Timo Alakotila** is one of the most in-demand musicians in Finland. His fascinating touch at the keyboard of the harmonium and piano has been heard in the programs of countless ensembles. His talent as a composer and arranger is known and appreciated internationally over the genres.

Now, after working for years with other bands, he has jumped to a new adventure and released his first solo album. The official release date was 2.3.2016 when Timo Alakotila had the premiere for a solo concert in Tokyo, Japan.

"I have always considered myself primarily an accompanying musician. The idea of making a solo album matured during the year 2015; I wanted to try a new way to make music without the excellent colleagues, just trying to express my music by the piano. This new adventure has felt comfortable, very challenging and inspiring!"



Photo: Marko Mäkinen

All the melodies on the album are composed by Timo Alakotila. In the tunes, it is possible to hear familiar, ambient and sensitive musical interpretation. At the same time the solo album introduces a very personal relationship between the pianist and the music. The melodies are composed mainly in 2015. The atmosphere shifts between sorrow and joy. The album contains also waltz, fairy tale landscape and tango.

Timo Alakotila released also **a sheet music book Timo Alakotila and Grand Piano** which contains the same material as the album. The book is meant to be played with any instrument, not only the piano. The album gives support in reading the notes, but Alakotila encourages musicians to use their own interpretation and improvisation, which is very essential for Timo Alakotila himself.

Timo Alakotila graduated in 1992 from Helsinki Pop Jazz Conservatory. He majored in composing. His huge variety of compositions consists of concertos, musicals, dance performances and numerous arrangements. Alakotila's primary ensembles are currently Maria Kalaniemi/ Timo Alakotila, JPP, Nordik Tree, duo May Monday with Karen Tweed (UK), Tango Orchestra Unto, Pianoilla-duo, Psalttamus and T for Three.

Alakotila teaches at Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, at Limerick University, Viljandi Culture College and both Joensuu and Kokkola University of Applied Sciences. He has worked on over two hundred albums as an artistic producer, musician, composer or arranger. He has developed a method for improvisation in folk music. Timo Alakotila has received the title "Professor of Arts" in 2011 and he is currently on his third consecutive five-year composer's grant from the Finnish Government.

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