

"Impeccable accuracy, a sound that sang, radiant and luminous; this young woman shows herself to be a soloist of the highest rank whose ease and presence place her among the rising glories of the violin."

-Le Monde

Born in the US and raised in Finland, Elina Vähälä made her orchestral debut with Sinfonia Lahti at the age of twelve and was later chosen by Osmo Vänskä as the orchestra's 'young master soloist'. Since then, her career continues to expand the international stage, winning praise from audiences and musicians alike as 'a fluent, stylish and gifted musician whose brilliant technique is matched by an abundant spirit, sensitivity and imagination' (Chicago Tribune).

Elina Vähälä has appeared with orchestras including Helsinki Philharmonic, Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonia Lahti, Turku Philharmonic as well as Oregon Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra and Nashville Symphony Orchestra. She has worked with conductors Leonard Slatkin, Carlos Kalmar, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Okko Kamu, Jakob Hrusa, Thierry Fischer and Leif Segerstam and toured throughout the UK, Finland, Germany, China, Korea and South America; in 2008 she was chosen to perform at the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony which was televised to a worldwide audience. Season highlights for 2015/16 comprise of concerts throughout Finland with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra performing the early version of Sibelius' Violin Concerto and the Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra alongside a tour with Lahti Symphony Orchestra including concerts in Vienna and Salzburg, as well as a return to North America performing with orchestras in Buffalo and Colorado. Elina Vähälä will also make her debut with the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra in Japan as well as with the Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra performing the Corigliano violin concerto, The Red Violin, with conductor Jeffrey Tate.

Recent highlights from Elina Vähälä's concert schedule include performances with Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra and a variety of orchestras throughout Finland, performances in North America with the Symphony Orchestras of Nashville and Detroit as well as a tour of the US with the Festival Pablo Casals Prades Collective, a highly successful debut with the Gävle Symphony Orchestra and a week of concerts as part of the Clandeboye Music Festival in Belfast, performing with Barry Douglas.

With a repertoire that ranges from baroque to contemporary, Elina Vähälä has given world premieres of Aulis Sallinen's Chamber Concerto and Curtis-Smith's Double Concerto, both written for her and pianist-conductor Ralf Gothóni. In addition, Vähälä gave the Nordic first performance of John Corigliano's Violin Concerto The Red Violin and commissioned a new violin concerto from composer Jaakko Kuusisto. Both the Corigliano and Kuusisto concertos were recorded for BIS in 2013.

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 selected, highly talented young Finnish violinists. As a devoted chamber musician Elina Vähälä performs with Andras Adorjan, Yuri Bashmet, Ana Chumachenco, Chee-Yun, Peter Csaba, Itamar Golan, Ralf Gothóni, Ivry Gitlis, Bruno Giuranna, Gary Hoffman, Steven Isserlis, Frans Helmerson, Cho-Liang Lin, Adam Neiman, Arto Noras, Jean-Yves Thibaudet and Alisa Weilerstein.

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