

FINLAND

Suomen Harmonikkaliitto (SHL)

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News from Finland...



Kimmo Mattila

Suomen Harmonikkaliitto – Finnish Accordion Association: The Suomen Harmonikkaliitto - Finnish Accordion Association (SHL) was founded on the 27 September 1952 and they recently celebrated their 50th Anniversary. There are currently approximately 5,000 active members in the SHL including approximately 95 clubs and orchestras from all over the country.

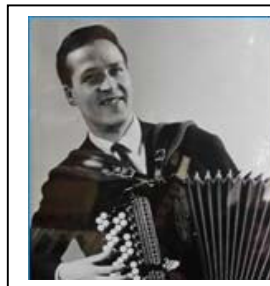
The Suomen Harmonikkaliitto publishes an official magazine "Hanuri" (Hanuri means 'small accordion' in Finnish) four times per year. This full color 60 page magazine is distributed all over Finland as well as to fellow accordion organizations throughout the world.

The SHL is supported annually by the Ministry of Education and its main annual activities include:

- Magazine for the members, 4 times a year
- Competition "Golden and Silver Accordion" in July which is broadcast live on national TV.
- Accordion Cruise in March
- Supports seminars and organizes many kind of educational affairs
- Supports Finnish candidates for the international Competitions

The Suomen Harmonikkaliitto cooperates closely with several organizations including:

- Sata-Häme Soi Accordion Festival
- Finnish Accordion Institute (Ikaalinen)
- Accordion Teachers' Association (approximately 140 members)



Finnish Legend Lasse Pihlajamaa Featured in AWW Celebrity Interview: Lasse Pihlajamaa (born 1916) is a Finnish accordionist, composer-arranger, teacher, entertainer and world-class accordion comedian and father of a range of accordion models.

Lasse Pihlajamaa has had an exceptionally far-ranging career. For over 60 years, he has been the pioneer of Finnish accordion music.

To read this fascinating interview please visit: www.accordions.com/finland then select '2004', then 'Meet Lasse Pihlajamaa.'