

## Curriculum Vitae

**Juki Välipakka (born 22.9.1963)**

### Musical history & studies

Born in Jyväskylä, Finland, Juki Välipakka started his musical studies at the age of eight with trumpet. At the age of thirteen he took up playing guitar, and studied classical guitar at the Jyväskylä conservatory for five years.



At the age of sixteen he formed a rockabilly-band called The Aviators with his friends, and was their lead vocalist for a year.

After that Välipakka started to make songs himself, and was involved with some local bands both as a guitarist and singer.

From the year 1987 he has made troubadour-appearances with his guitar, playing both different kinds of covers and his own songs in his repertoire.

1991-92 he studied music in Oriveden Opisto (Orivesi Institute).

1992 he got in to study voice at the PopJazz Conservatory in Helsinki, and became a voice-teacher in spring 2001 from Bachelor's Degree Programme in Pop&Jazz Music at Helsinki Polytechnic Stadia. 1997 he was staying in Graz, Austria, to study the spring term with Mark Murphy as an exchange-student in Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst. He's other jazz-voice-teachers have been Madeline Eastman, Michelle Weir, and Christine Correa.

### Artistry and appearances

#### Jazz

Juki made his jazz-debut with his own band, Juki's Pack, at 1995, and awoke immediate interest as a rarity in Finland, a male jazz-singer.

One of the most important projects for him has been Ad Lib Quintet, the band he formed with hungarian-born pianist/composer László Süle.

The repertoire of the band consists of Süle's and Välipakka's compositions. The range of styles in their compositions is very wide, but the music could be described as modern cross-over jazz with influences from latin, classical, funk and be-bop, and, though with roots in tradition, it has it's own flavour.

Ad Lib Quintet released it's first album "JUMP" 10.3.2001. Both the record and the concert they gave to release it got praising critics at the nations biggest newspaper, "Helsingin Sanomat". Their critic, Jukka Hauru, wrote that Juki Välipakka is capable of handling scat, vocalese, voice-improvisation and nuanced moods in his interpretations.

Juki & Round 5 performs both traditional standards with his own arrangements, and his own original compositions.

Gigs with Ad Lib Quintet: National Jazz Event in Helsinki 1996 in Cotton Club, Jazz Federations tour 1997. Festivals: Kaamos-Jazz 1996, Ylläs Jazz & Blues 1998, Jyväskylä SummerJazz 1999, Hollola PuutarhaJazz, Kerava Jazz 1999, JazzEspa 2000, Art Goes Kapakka 2000. Other gigs in Helsinki in Kanneltalo, Culture Center STOA, and restaurant Juttutupa.

Duo performances with pianist Jasse Varpama: Nilsia 1999 (with Ami Aspelund), Ylläs Jazz & Blues 1999, Sibelius Academy Chamber music hall 1999 and 2000, Arabia's Spring 1999 and Arabian Nights 2000. With both Jasse and Ami Aspelund in restaurant Pulp 2000.

With vocalist Mirja Mäkelä a band called "Vocal Attack": JazzEspa 2000.

Juki & Birdie Nam-Nam: JazzEspa 2001 jand 2003. 2003 also JUMO jazzclub.

Juki & Round 5: Rymihäiriöklubi, restaurant Juttutupa 13.10 2004, Kanneltalo concert hall 4.11 2004.

With composer/pianist Heikki Sarmanto: continuous collaboration with different projects with Sarmanto's original material. Gigs 2001 Art Goes Kapakka, Cafe Carousel, Kämp Gallery.

With various artists and bands, for example: several sessions with trombonist Mikko Mustonen at Helsinki Cotton Club. National Jazzdays in Jyväskylä 1998 with Petri Toiviainen Quartet and an australian-bourne vocalist Anita Wardell. Korppoo SeaJazz -festivals 1999 with Timo Hietala, Pentti Lahti, Timo Roiko-Jokela and Ape Anttila. Summer 2001 a Frank Sinatra-tribute with LinnaTrio and guitarist Risto Toppola in LinnaJazz, Hämeenlinna, National Jazzdays in Kuopio 2001 and Ylläs Jazz & Blues 2002 with Jaso Big Band.

As a vocalist in Frank Carlberg's big band-composition, with vocalist Christine Correa, on Arabian Nights -festivals 1999.

Spring 2000 he and Süle performed in Krakow at the May-Festival as a duo.

In spring 2000 Välipakka also performed in Graz, Austria, with local musicians and singer Sanni Orasmaa.

With Paulina Savah Band in Crakow, Ostrowicze and Kielce 22.-23.3.2002, with László Süle ja Paulina Savah Band in Radio Cracows jazzfestival, Piwnica Pod Baranami-club, and clubs in Ostrowicze and Javorki 1.-5.7 2002.

In Prague a duo performance with László Süle 12.9 2002

Three gigs in London in May 2004, in The Lantern Arts Cafe, Kerith Centre and Winsor Art Centre, singing jazzstandards solo with guitar, and original rock-material in english made both by himself and his collaborators on stage, John Dougherty (guit.&voc.) and Rosie Donnen (guit. & voc).

With Polaris Celebration Band and Round 5 at Backas Jazz-festival 9.6 2006.

With Jazz For Fun and Sirpa Suomalainen (flute) during Lady Summertime (international vocal competition for female jazzsingers), 15.7 2006 Aulanko

"Floating With Sinatra": Imatra Big Band Festival with Settlemen Big Band and Carelian Swing Singers, arranged and conducted by Jarmo Kajjansinkko, 4.7 2006.

## Other things

A floorshow with singer Ami Aspelund in restaurant Bubbles december 1999.

Music for dance theatre: "A trace of the sun on your face", 1993, "Burnt", 1997, "Surroundings", 1997, "Surroundings: Landscapes (A pilgrimage into a city)", 2000. All choreographs by Inka Välipakka, video by Anna Alastalo.

A concert with Jukka Leppilampi, Jason Carter, Jani Malmi and Kaarle Mannila: "Surroundings: Innerscapes", 2000.

Songs for the theatre production for children, "The Home of the Sun", written by Hannu Lehtinen, spring 2003.

Vocalist in "Rad Gumbo". New Orleans-influenced R&B. Performed on Järvenpää Puistoblues -festival summer 2004.

Veljet & Siskot (Brothers & Sisters): finnish country rock & blues influenced songs in Kiinanruusuklubi, restaurant Piano, 16.3 2006

Juki's rhythm 'n blues-band "Backbone" has performed regularly in clubs since 2003 with Dr. Feelgood-material. Now they are also doing material of their own. Besides of being a singer in this band Juki also plays harmonica and guitar.

Juki has also made jazz compositions for his own bands, lyrics for Timo Roiko-Jokela's compositions, and both finnish and english pop/rock material of his own. A demo of this finnish material has been made spring 2004.

## **Recordings**

Pop Jazz Conservatoriums 25-year celebration CD: with Ad Lib Quintet performing his own compositions "Running Around in Rush" and "Karhu" (Ad Lib Quintet).

CD "JUMP" (Ad Lib Quintet) published 10.3.2001 at restaurant Juttutupa.

As a vocalist on a CD "Runoretki laulaen" (A Poetic Journey): Heikki Sarmanto's compositions to poems and rhymes fo children by Kaija Pakkanen.

Other records and backingvocals-sessions: as a solist and a background vocalist on a CD for WSOY-publishments musicbooks "Musiiikin Aika" for schools, 2000. Background vocals on CD and tour for Lasse Heikkilä's "Misa Concordia". Background vocals on Muska's compilation CD, and on a song "Karnevaali" on a CD by Jari Sillanpää. Backing vocals for Kassu Halonen's Celebration Concert, Hartwall Arena.

Music for Petri Pulli's lyrics "Helsinki-Vantaa" for a CD "Hakkaan Sun Ovee" by malechoir "Seminaarinmäen Mieslaulajat " 2001.

As a singer on CD "Runoretki Lauaen" (2004) : Heikki Sarmanto's compositions to Kaija Pakkanen's poems for children.

## **Merits and jobs**

Juki has been nominated the best male singer in Finland four times at years 1996-99 and 2001-2004 by the magazine "Jazzrytmit" critics poll.

He recieved a half-a-year scholarship for artists by the ministry of education in 2002.

Välipakka has taught voice at Helsinki Pop Jazz Concervatorium during years 2001-2002, and at Kuopio Concervatorium and at Kuopio Polytechnic Savonia 2003-2005. At Järvenpää Theatre he has taught voice for the he actors for musical-productions "Gotta Dare" (2003) and "Sleeping Beauty" (2004). At this moment he appears in "Evita" (Lloyd-Webber/Rice) in Helsinki City Theatre and is continuing his work as a freelance-musician and composer.

## **Contact information**

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