



Sampo Haapamäki:

## Conception (2012)

**Juuso Nieminen**, quarter-tone guitar  
**Veli Kujala**, quarter-tone accordion  
 Tapiola Sinfonietta, cond. **Hannu Lintu**  
 Recorded at Tapiola Church, Espoo  
 on 25 April 2014  
 by **Jari Rantakaulio**

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## Sampo Haapamäki

Sampo Haapamäki (b. 1979) has composed chamber music, vocal music, electronic music, concertos, and orchestral music. Haapamäki had composition recitals in the Musica nova Helsinki festival in 2006 and at Scandinavia House in New York City in 2015. He has received the Gaudeamus International Composers Award 2004 in Amsterdam, the ISCM – Young Composer Award 2005 in Zagreb; and the Teosto prize 2006 in Helsinki. He was the Tapiola Sinfonietta's Composer-in-Residence for the season 2011–12.

Haapamäki studied composition at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki with Tapio Nevanlinna (1998–2002) and Veli-Matti Puumala (2002–05), graduating with a Master of Music in 2005. In the winter semester of 2006–07 he studied with Claus-Steffen Mahnkopf at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Leipzig. Haapamäki studied composition with Tristan Murail (2005–06, 2007–09) at Columbia University in New York City, where he received his Doctor of Musical Arts in 2012. He took part in a composition and music technology course, Cursus, at IRCAM in Paris, with Grégoire Lorieux as his tutor, during the academic year 2012–13. Nowadays Haapamäki lives in Helsinki and works as a free artist. Although his attitude to composition is modernistic, he does not neglect emotional tensions, which play a very important part in his works.

## CONCEPTION

*Conception* (2012) is a double concerto for quarter-tone guitar, quarter-tone accordion and orchestra of 41 musicians. It was commissioned by Tapiola Sinfonietta and dedicated to Juuso Nieminen and Veli Kujala. The composition is in three movements, with the second movement leading directly into the third without pause. In the third movement there is a cadenza consisting of both free and structured improvisation.

The quarter-tone guitar is an ordinary, normally-tuned 6-stringed concert guitar with added quarter-tone frets all along the fingerboard. The distance between adjacent frets on the string is thus a quarter-tone instead of a semitone. Juuso Nieminen's quarter-tone guitar was made by Keijo Korelin in Finland in 2014.

Veli Kujala invented a quarter-tone accordion in 2005. It differs physically from a standard button accordion in that it has quarter-tone reed blocks instead of the conventional ones, thus enabling the player to produce a complete quarter-tone scale over almost five octaves. The quarter-tone reed blocks were designed by Kujala and made by the Pignini accordion factory in Italy in 2006. The tuning system used in the quarter-tone guitar and the quarter-tone accordion is the quarter-tone equal temperament, in which the scale divides an octave into 24 equal-ratio steps.

Today many composers are interested in using micro-intervals. This increases demand for instruments able to produce them. The quarter-tone guitar and the quarter-tone accordion are certain answers for this demand.