



NEWSLETTER 5

A week in Finland - TUESDAY



Stefan Backas, a sound artist

This morning we attended a talk on sound design and sound therapy. Stefan Backas, a sound designer and sound recordist - who is also studying sound therapy - told us about his job.

We listened to some of the soundscapes he recorded in various places, including birds near a swamp, the sound of the wind and geese in a field and even the sound of the frozen sea!

He also records the sounds produced by nature in man-made structures such as fences or radio towers on a windy day.

In addition Stefan Backas is interested in sound therapy and the way what you hear can change your mood. Sound therapists use instruments to produce specific sounds but he also combines the sounds of these instruments with those produced by nature in order to make music.

Journalists meet our students

Journalists from the local newspaper and radio met some of our students to ask them a few questions about their countries and their week in Finland.

And we know what the students answered as each and every time we organise such meetings and exchanges, we can notice that, in spite of their differences, they only need a few moments to get along and when you stroll the corridors of Vasa övningsskola, it is almost impossible to know whether the students you meet come from Belgium, Finland, France, Italy, Norway or Turkey. They are living together, working together, laughing together. Together.

Kantele

After lunch, we gathered in a room to listen to the stories and music of a kantele player, Reguel Steinbock.

He performed a few songs and pieces and told us stories about his life, the instrument he plays, his country and its history and legends with passion and humour.

But... What is a kantele?

A kantele (Finnish) or harppu (in Sami) is a traditional plucked string instrument of the dulcimer and zither family native to Finland and Karelia.

Its relatives can be found throughout the world, including Estonian kannel, Mari kusle, Russian gusli, Latvian kokle, and Lithuanian kanklės.



Vasa 2016

Another website has been created by the teachers and students of Vasa övningsskola. Every day, on this site, you will find a lot of new photos and information about this week's meeting and activities.
<https://thecityringsvasa.wordpress.com>

In a word

HUBBUB /'hʌbʌb/

A chaotic din caused by a crowd of people. (noise)

A busy, noisy situation. (chaos, confusion)

Sound Poetry

Sound poetry is an artistic form bridging literary and musical composition, in which the phonetic aspects of human speech are foregrounded instead of more conventional semantic and syntactic values; 'verse without words'.

By definition, sound poetry is intended primarily for performance.

To learn more about sound poetry and even know how to write a sound poem, visit the following website:

<http://www.rainerlinz.net/NMA/repr/Duke.html>



Workshops

Then the students were sorted into nine groups. Each group focused on a different aspect of our topic: *The sound of silence*, *Art and sound*, *Planning an open space*, *Japanese sounds in Vaasa*, *A guided sound tour of Vaasa*, *The perfect sound*, *Media and sound*, *Artistic sounds*, *Creativity and sounds*.

Several of these groups left the school to go to places (in town, by the sea, in a studio) where they could actually hear these sounds or work.

But before that, the students had to discuss various issues and answer a few questions in groups so that they would get to know the people they were going to work with in the afternoon.

They talked about their favourite sounds, the sounds that irritate them, those that illustrate the landscape of the place where they live and the sounds they can hear in their schools.

National meetings

When the students came back to school, they met their teachers in order to speak about their first three days in Vaasa, what they had done so far and how they felt.

Do you know what? Rumor has it they are having a great time! The students particularly enjoyed the evening when they went skiing and sledging and they really seem to enjoy spending time together.

Charity concert

Every year, the students of Vasa övningsskola organise a charity concert and collect money that is given to associations. Tonight they mainly played rock songs and the audience undoubtedly had a great time.



The goal of the concert was to raise money to help associations that the people who were present could choose. One could buy food and drinks or simply make a donation.

