

Kaupunginjohtajan puhe Mikkelin musiikkiopiston konsertissa, jossa vieraita Tšekistä.

Good evening and welcome to Mikkel!

My name is Janne Kinnunen and I am the mayor of Mikkel. It is a great pleasure and honor to host our international guests who have arrived from the Czech Republic.

Few words about Mikkel and culture. Mikkel is a strong cultural city. We are not big, but our cultural life is quite vibrant. We also have a lot of traditions and know-how in the field of music.

An interesting fact is that our city orchestra is the third oldest still playing orchestra in Finland. Only Helsinki and Turku orchestras are older. The history goes back one hundred and twenty years, so we are celebrating a jubilee year.

Mikkel's annual classical music festival is the Mikkel Music Festival, where international performers come year after year. Our concert hall which is called Mikaeli is located a couple of kilometers from here on the shore of a beautiful pond. It is the most wonderful place for music and other cultural and entertainment events.

The Mikkel Music Institute also has a long tradition. The Institute teaches about 800 students every year. The Mikkel Music Institute is a modern educational establishment that offers many possibilities for studying music, as well as a wide selection of instruments. Music is always a good choice for a hobby and sometimes it may become a profession.

From my own relationship with music, I can tell you that the guitar is definitely the most familiar instrument. My taste in music is very diverse and of course I enjoy live music the most. I am extremely happy that our city has a good selection of both light music and art music.

If anything, music increases the feeling of well-being and brings

people together at gatherings. This is very important, especially after the Covid crisis when concert halls were empty.

Dear guests, I am pleased to see you here, welcome once again; I hope you've had a good time in Mikkeli. And thank you for your music! It gives us all warm thoughts and inspiration.

And now few more words also in Finnish.

Muutama sana vielä suomeksi.

Hyvä yleisö, tervetuloa minunkin puolestani tähän konserttiin. On ilo nähdä teidät täällä paikan päällä. Musiikki ja kansainvälisyys ovat hyvä pari ja tästä parista saamme nauttia tänä iltana täällä Mikkelin musiikkiopistolla. Mikkelin musiikkiopisto tekee loistavaa työtä nuorten harrastusten eteen, ja kansainväliset suhteet opettavat ja antavat tärkeitä kokemuksia ja kohtaamisia.

Toivon, että viihdytte yhtä hyvin kuin minäkin, kiitos.