



About the performers

Rauma duo is inspired by Finnish, Japanese and Mongolian music traditions: Hiroko Ara plays the Finnish national instrument, kantele, and Haruhiko Saga's instrument is the Mongolian morin khuur. In the concert, they will play Finnish, Mongolian and Japanese pieces as well as their own compositions. In 2019, Finnish Kantele Association awarded the album *Deep Ocean* as the kantele album of the year. The duo's delicate and melodic music presents new sides of kantele and moves listeners in both Japan and Finland.

Zäpämmät is a duo that takes a stand for the rights of women and girls. In their music, various musical influences are brought together. The kantele artist Marjo Smolander draws from her North Karelian background and from West Africa, especially Senegal and Mali. Pauliina Kauppila's rich variety of exotic percussions echoes influences from flamenco and Afro-Cuban music. Together, the duo's singing style represents women energy distinctive of Finnish folk music. In 2019, the duo released its debut album *Äiti maa* (Mother earth), which was ranked on the prestigious World Music Charts.

Pelkkä Poutanen has a background in playing kantele, but is nowadays known also as a singer, composer and director of a choir. Her experimental solo works combine various styles of singing and different instruments (e.g. kantele, guzheng). In Poutanen's music, elements from different global music traditions meet classical, popular and electronic music. Her debut album released in January 2022 explores the theme of holiness. In 2022, Poutanen was also nominated for the Finnish Etno-Emma award.