

# **Finlandia Foundation National**

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## **Finlandia Foundation National Seeks Performer of the Year**

(PASADENA, California – November 9, 2017) – Every year since 1996, talented artists have traveled the U.S. as Finlandia Foundation National Performer of the Year (POY), entertaining audiences with a variety of programs, from classical, traditional and pop music to comedy and, currently, storytelling and song geared to children.

Nominations are now being accepted for the next POY. Applications must be submitted to Finlandia Foundation National (FFN) by February 15, 2018 for the performance year that begins September 1, 2018 and runs through August 31, 2019.

FFN, the premier network of Finnish-American organizations in the United States, launched the POY program to assist undiscovered artists and gain exposure for entertaining programs related to Finnish and Finnish-American culture. While most of the performers selected have been singers or instrumentalists, the POY may possess any talent that appeals to a range of ages and is consistent with the goals of the FFN.

Only individuals will be considered for POY, with the possible exception of an artist who requires an accompanist. Ensembles or groups are not eligible.

FFN awards the POY a travel stipend of \$7,000, and the POY must meet the minimum requirement of at least eight performances at FFN chapter events in the designated 12-month period. The POY must reside in the United States.

An artist may not self-nominate. FFN chapters, other Finnish-American organizations, or FFN trustees are eligible to submit nominations. Find lists of FFN chapters and trustees, as well as POY guidelines, application form, required support materials at the FFN website, [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org). All nomination packages must be postmarked by February 15, 2018.

The first POY in 1996 was Merja Soria, a vocalist and kantele (a stringed Finnish folk instrument) artist. Current POY is Pirjo Polari-Khan, whose program includes storytelling, poetry, puppetry and song geared to children and the young at heart. Find information about Polari-Khan and past performers on the FFN website at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org). For further details about POY nominations or to book an appearance by Pirjo Polari-Khan contact POY Coordinator Betsey Norgard at [norgard@paulbunyan.net](mailto:norgard@paulbunyan.net).

## **About Finlandia Foundation National**

Finlandia Foundation National is the premier network of Finnish-American organizations in the United States. Founded in Pasadena, California in 1953, it administers grants, scholarships and programs supporting and celebrating Finnish heritage and Finnish-American culture and traditions. For more information about the 501(c)(3) organization: [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org).

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