

Kantele Mass by Livakat/Evergreen Kantele Ensemble
Sunday, September 13, 2015, 10:00 a.m.
at Messiah Lutheran Church
c/o Nordia House
8800 SW Oleson Road
Portland, Oregon 97223



Livakat/ Evergreen Kantele Ensemble touring Finland. Picture by Mikko Ranki

The *Kantele Mass* is a meditative service with music of a gentle nature, all played with kanteles, traditional Finnish instruments. The service is combined with the customary Lutheran liturgy. The performing 10-member *Livakat/Evergreen Kantele Ensemble* from the Pacific Northwest includes musicians playing kanteles varying from 5 to 39 strings. A flute occasionally joins in enhancing the sound and a drum keeps the rhythm going.

Music for the *Kantele Mass* is written by Jarkko Yli-Annala, a gifted Finnish composer and music director of the Porvoo Finnish Congregation in Finland. The lyrics are written by Anna-Mari Kaskinen, a renowned Finnish poet and author. The *Kantele Mass* was commissioned by *Livakat/Evergreen Kantele Ensemble* and was premiered at the *FinnFest 2006* in Astoria, Oregon.

The music director is Wilho Saari, one of the best-known and widely acknowledged kantele players in the United States. The director and the founder of the group is Satu Mikkola. Music is performed by the following kantele players: Valerie Blessley (also playing flute), Elisa Boynton, Marta Kuivinen Brown, Maila Cadd, Pirjo Caddy, Marja Hall, Eva Mannisto, Satu Mikkola, Wilho Saari and Sirkku Vasama. Pastor Jukka Joensuu from Vancouver, B.C. will be leading the service.

Livakat/Evergreen Kantele Ensemble was founded in 1999 in Portland, Oregon, by Satu Mikkola. Since then the group has performed in numerous events in Washington, Oregon, California, Florida and Vancouver, BC, Canada, including four *FinnFests*. In July 2007, the 14-member *Livakat/Evergreen Kantele Ensemble* group toured Finland. During the 2-week tour the *Kantele Mass* was celebrated with a great success in seven different venues.

All are welcome to join in this special musical event on this 113th Anniversary of the Finnish Church and its opening celebration at its new home at *Nordia House*.