

Ilo Ensemble biography



Warm and engaging - this is Ilo Ensemble in a nutshell, both in their sound and in their stage presence. In June 2017 Ilo Ensemble was awarded the first prize in the acoustic series of The Contest for Vocal Ensembles at the Tampere Vocal Music Festival. The members of this five-woman a cappella group met each other as students at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki. The ensemble itself was born in 2012. Ilo's heart belongs to folk music, improvisation and theatre tunes. Versatile musicianship, an imaginative sound and use of the voice are the main ingredients in a musical broth guaranteed to make the listener swoon.

Ilo Ensemble's passion is the reki-song: Finnish popular music of the 19th Century, crafted by and for the ordinary people. These short rhymed folk songs were about everyday life, and no human sentiment was foreign to them. Ilo Ensemble revives this tradition for our modern age by composing, writing and arranging brand new, candid and vivid reki-songs. Indeed, the ensemble proves that the reki-song tradition is not a mouldy museum exhibit, but rather a fertile soil for artistic expression, be it about a love most furtive, or the ills of contemporary society.

"Hugely loveable group and album. A taste of real life."

"*Valtavan rakastettava yhtye ja levy. Tästä elämästä.*" – Mari Koppinen / Helsingin Sanomat 1.11.2017

"The folk music genre is modernised by none other than groups like Ilo who just carry on doing their thing for the love of it -in Ilo's case composing new Finnish reki-songs.

"*-Juuri Ilon kaltaiset yhtyeet, jotka tekevät pyyteettömästi omaa asiaansa, tässä tapauksessa siis uusia suomalaisia rekilauluja, ovat tämän genren uudistajia*". Inari Tilli / Kuorokuiskaaja-blogi Yle 2018

In June 2017 Ilo Ensemble was awarded the first prize in the acoustic series of The Contest for Vocal Ensembles at the Tampere Vocal Music Festival, Finland.

In October 2017 Ilo Ensemble released its debut album 'Elo', enjoying a lot of positive attention from the press.

In 2017 the band was selected in the school concert program of the Concert Centre Finland. This non-profit association was established in 1963. Its aim is to arrange tours of high-quality concert programmes in a wide variety all over Finland.

In the summer of 2018 the ensemble was one of the main headliners of Vaasa Choir Festival and Kaustinen Folk Music Festival. In August they recorded by commission four of their own new songs for the Finnish National Broadcasting Company YLE.

In 2016-2018 the ensemble has been touring widely around Finland, performing newly composed reki-songs in different festivals and venues, bars and schools as well as in senior and assisted living homes.

Members of Ilo Ensemble

Helmi Camus, Salla Haavisto, Lotta Hagfors, Tiina Palmén, Ulla Silvennoinen – vocals

All of the singers have graduated from Sibelius Academy, Helsinki. The artistic background of the members and their field of interest varies from Nordic folk music and world music into choir music, as well as popular music. Each member also composes, writes lyrics and arranges their own songs for the band. Besides singing in Ilo Ensemble, the members are also involved in various other artistic stage projects as well as teaching music.

<http://iloensemble.com> www.facebook.com/iloensemble www.soundcloud.com/iloensemble