



# Vanessa Cunha

**Vanessa Cunha is a principal lecturer of the music and culture department at the Oulu University of Applied Sciences.**

Brazilian-born pianist Vanessa Cunha has been acclaimed for her “sparkling electricity” and “musical will of iron.” Her awards include numerous competitions in South America, the United States, and Europe. As a winner of the Artists International Auditions in New York, she played a critically acclaimed debut recital at the Weill Hall in Carnegie Recital Hall. Ms. Cunha has toured extensively in South America, the United States, Denmark, Finland, France, Spain, England, and Portugal.

Vanessa Cunha holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from the City University of New York and has studied with Martin Canin and Matti Raekallio. Among the musicians who have strongly contributed to her musical growth are Glacy Antunes, Neusa França, Luis Carlos de Moura Castro, Alicia Delarocha, Adraas Schiff, David Dubal, Peter Eicher, and Byron Janis.

Actively involved with current music, Dr. Cunha has performed works by composers such as Marlos Nobre, Ronaldo Miranda, Edino Krieger, Jouko Tötterström, and Cecilia Damström, among others. She is a graduate of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, where she studied with Myrian Dauelsberg and received a Master's Degree. As the recipient of a full scholarship from CAPES, she graduated from the Manhattan School of Music with a Professional Studies in Piano Performance degree under the guidance of Nina Svetlanova.

She has been the soloist with numerous orchestras, including the Brazilian Symphony Orchestra, Blumenau Chamber Orchestra, Paraná Symphony Orchestra, State of São Paulo Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonic Orchestra of UFRJ, Symphony Orchestra of Brasília, Minas Gerais Symphony Orchestra, Orquestra do Norte in Portugal, and Oulu Symphony Orchestra in Finland, collaborating with conductors Norton Morozowics, Eleazar de Carvalho, Elena Herrera, Roberto Tibiriça, Fabio Mechetti, José Ferreira Lobo, and Tibor Boganey. She has also appeared as a featured artist on radio and television stations including Houston's Kuhf.fm, Brasília.fm Super Radio, TV Cultura, TV Anhanguera, and Manchete Television Network.

Vanessa Cunha has given masterclasses at universities, colleges, and music festivals, and has adjudicated music competitions in the U.S., Brazil, and Europe. She has been invited to perform and teach masterclasses at the Oklahoma City University, Aaron Copland School of Music, Londrina Winter Music Festival, Ouro Branco Music Festival, Nova Friburgo and Petrópolis Festivals, Oulu Music Festival, Joroinen Festival, Sonkajärvi Festival, and Kemi Music Festival.

Photo: Lisa Marie Mazucco



# Tanja Torvikoski

**Tanja Torvikoski, M.A. in Artistic Development, is working as a lecturer in vocal studies and a team leader in the School of Wellbeing and Culture at the Oulu University of Applied Sciences.**

Tanja's teaching portfolio includes instrumental pedagogy, professional vocal pedagogy, personal voice coaching and supervising teaching practicums. Tanja is a certified Estill Master Trainer in Estill Voice Training (EMT), equipping her to provide advanced vocal guidance grounded in vocal science. Beyond her academic responsibilities, she serves as vice-chair of the Finnish Association of Teachers of Singing (FINATS), contributing to the development of vocal education and in Finland.

Additionally, she is a certified Logotherapy instructor (TFK) and is interested in incorporating Logophilosophy into her work to help support her students in developing an inspired and purpose-driven approach to their studies, ensuring her students could thrive both musically and personally also in their working life.

Photo: Sami Mustonen



## Maija Lauri

**Maija Lauri, M.A. in Music and Music Performance, is a dedicated lecturer and the principal teacher of classical singing in the music pedagogy program at the Oulu University of Applied Sciences.**

With a strong background in vocal education, Maija brings a holistic approach to her teaching, integrating both technical and psychological aspects of performance. She is also a certified instructor in Psychophysical Breathing Therapy, which she applies to help students manage performance anxiety. In addition to her teaching duties, Maija facilitates multidisciplinary performance anxiety groups and provides training supervision.

Her passion for personal development extends to her current studies, where she is training to become an Emotional Competence Coach for Children and Youth. Through her diverse expertise, Maija aims to support students in both their musical growth and emotional well-being, fostering a balanced and resilient approach to performing arts.



# Petri Hoppu

**Petri Hoppu is a distinguished academic and researcher in the field of dance studies. He currently serves as a Principal Lecturer of Culture at the Oulu University of Applied Sciences**

Petri Hoppu holds the title of Adjunct Professor (Docent) in Dance Studies at Tampere University. His extensive expertise spans theory and methodology in dance anthropology, the intricate dance-music interface, and the rich traditions of Finnish-Karelian folk dances and ancient dance music. Additionally, Petri is deeply involved in the revitalization of Nordic dance and music.

Petri's academic journey culminated in a PhD in Ethnomusicology from the University of Tampere in 1999. His scholarly pursuits have led him to manage significant research projects, including "Dance in Nordic Spaces" from 2007 to 2012 and "KanTaMus," which focused on developing a common pedagogy for folk dance and music between 2021 and 2023.

As an author and editor, Petri has made substantial contributions to the field. He co-edited "Nordic Dance Spaces: Practicing and Imagining a Region" in 2014 with Professor Karen Vedel and the special issue "In and Out of Norden - Dance and the Migratory Condition" for the Dance Research Journal in 2020 with Professor Inger Damsholt. Since 2002, he has also been the editor of the annual Nordic folk dance research journal, *Folkdansforskning i Norden*.

Petri's professional activities extend beyond research and publication. He is an active member of international dance scholars' associations and has lectured at universities across Europe and the United States. His selected works include "The Nordic Minuet: Royal Fashion and Peasant Tradition" (2023) and "Dancing Agency: Skolt Saami Identities in Transition" (2014), which highlight his diverse research interests and contributions to the field.

Photo: Johanna Hoppu



# Alexi Kauhanen

**Alexi Kauhanen is a senior lecturer at the Oulu University of Applied Sciences.**

Alexi Kauhanen has been employed as an art director in his own design agency since 2006. His clientele consists of businesses from various fields, including music festivals, record labels, booking agencies, and management agencies. The company provides visual design services related to brand building, web services, and all kinds of marketing material. He has studied visual communication and audiovisual media culture at the Polytechnic University of Oulu and the University of Lapland.

Alongside working in the field of visual design, he has founded a music festival and worked as a performing artist and songwriter. The festival combines different forms of performing art into a weekend of live music, DJs, dance, and light art. His responsibilities include the promotion and marketing of the festival, as well as producing and booking the artists.



# Jussi Tuohino

**Jussi Tuohino is a senior lecturer of music technology at the Oulu University of Applied Sciences.**

Jussi Tuohino (Master of Culture and Arts, b. 1985) is a senior lecturer of music technology in Oulu University of Applied Sciences and has founded the music technology major in his university. Jussi works internationally in the experimental music and sound art field, and his artistic and technical research concern the art of music technology in general and spatial music, audio coding, low-latency remote music collaboration, wearable music technologies, and novel digital music instruments in particular.

Photo: Jesper Andersen