

## MASTERCLASSES ON IMPROVISATION & CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSION

*"Pietilä's uncompromising approach, search for new angles and refusal to walk the trodden path betray his lofty ambitions – a free improviser & a storyteller who expresses interesting fictional sagas of imagination."*

— FINNISH MUSIC INFORMATION CENTER (FIMIC)

Esa Pietilä Masterclasses offer specialized pedagogy in contemporary expression and improvisation without genre boundaries. Designed for small ensembles to large formats (e.g. chamber orchestras and big bands), the courses empower musicians to discover their unique creative voice, master nuances of rhythm, harmony, and timbre, and strengthen confidence in real-time performance.

## CORE CURRICULUM & SPECIALIZED FOCUS

### General Improvisation & Expression

- Creative Voice: Developing individual vocabulary and expression.
- Free & Collective Improvisation: Playing without pre-planned chords, tonality, or fixed forms.
- Dramaturgy & Form: Constructing compelling narrative arcs in real time.
- Ensemble Roles: Dynamic communication, leadership, and equality in small vs. large groups.
- Sonic Exploration: Advanced control of rhythm, harmony, and sound colors.

### Specialized Saxophone Course

- Personal Sound: Crafting a unique tone identity and resonant acoustic presence.
- Extended Techniques: Multiphonics, microtones, special effects, and timbre alterations.
- Solo Performance: Structural methodologies for designing captivating solo recitals.
- Sound Exploration: Pushing the physical and expressive limits of the instrument.

*"During years leading my own ensembles, performing as an orchestral soloist, and presenting entirely improvised solo saxophone recitals, I have developed distinct approaches to free improvisation liberated from traditional structural constraints."*

— ESA PIETILÄ

## INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC PEDAGOGY

Selected Conservatories & Universities where Pietilä has presented masterclasses:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Berklee College of Music, Boston, USA</li><li>• Université Laval, Quebec City, Canada</li><li>• Conservatorio Giuseppe Tartini, Trieste, Italy</li><li>• Privatuniversität Wien (MUK), Austria</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jamey Aebersold Jazz Program, Univ. of Louisville, USA</li><li>• Université de Montréal, Canada</li><li>• Lucerne School of Music, Switzerland</li><li>• University of Music &amp; Performing Arts Graz, Austria</li></ul> |
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