



## ESA PIETILÄ MASTERCLASS ON IMPROVISATION & EXPRESSION

Saxophonist Esa Pietilä has performed internationally with his groups, as solo saxophonist and as a soloist for orchestras. With his own compositions, he has appeared as a soloist for symphony orchestras with e.g. one of the worlds leading conductors Esa-Pekka Salonen performing a concerto for contemporary jazz-trio & chamber orchestra. Esa has also premiered the saxophone concerto of Eero Hameenniemi (dedicated to Pietila) with Santtu-Matias Rouvali and premiered the saxophone concerto from Kalevi Aho (dedicated to Pietila) .

**Master classes and residencies of 1-5 days time on improvisation and expression in general, and special courses for saxophonists:**

**The general courses** are for contemporary expression in general without any musical genre specified. Pietilä's workshops are for different sized groups from small to larger ensemble (e.g. big band or chamber orchestra). The courses teach how to find Your own creative voice, how to learn to play with different aspects of rhythm, contrast, harmony, soundcolours in different musical situations, as a goal to strengthen Your expression. The course also teaches free improvisation, collective group improvisation, how to create a form and dramaturgy by improvising and how to explore sonic materials. The masterclasse reveals techniques and insights that one can only learn by playing and performing. The courses are tailor made depending on the number of students and which instruments are available taking account the skill level of students etc. although it is advisory that the level of students would be from intermediate to advanced.

The masterclass is meant for **composers** too since Pietilä himself is a composer. The course opens insights to the dialogue between improviser and composer. The class presents how the realtionship between the roles can be nurtured and preserved at its best and how to find personal and efficient practices to work a composition using improvisation as a vehicle for creation of ideas, texture & form. Vice versa, the composer also serves the improviser diversly.

**The special courses for saxophone** teach how to developed extended techniques of saxophone with multiphonics, special effects and the alterations of sound colours. The course also teaches the many aspects how to develop a solo performance.

*"During the years with his own groups, performing as a soloist for orchestras and with totally improvised solo saxophone concerts of his, Pietilä has gained special experience on various topics on how to improvise freely without any pre-planned chords structures, tonality, forms or structures".*

**Pietilä has given masterclasses e.g. at following conservatories & schools:**

Boston, Berklee Music school of Music, Louisville, Kentucky "Jamey Aebersold Jazz Program Studies", Laval University in Montreal, Privatiuniversitet Wien, Graz University Jazz Department, Luzern Musichochschule in Switzerland, Malmö Royal Academy of music (Sweden), Reykjavik FUI Music School, Conservatory Giuseppe Tartini in Trieste, Italy, Conservatory Antonio Scrontino in Trapani, Sicily etc.

## Topics:

**Finding Your own creative voice - collective group improvisation - creating ideas - exploring sonic materials - free improvisation - motive improvisation - importance of communication - roles of equality and leadership - creating dramaturgy & form - the relationship between improviser and composer**

## Quotes from reviews:

*"Esa Pietilä as a musician, has specialized on tenor saxophone, and he has become a leading Finnish expert on the instrument. The backgrounds of Pietilä are in jazz music and from there he has widened his scope as an artist also to the field of contemporary classical music. He is also an excellent composer. Pietilä is known also as a excellent improviser, and when I composed my concerto for tenor saxophone and Pietilä, I chose to leave the main cadenza of the concerto for him to improvise. Pietilä's performance of the concerto was sovereign". - Kalevi Aho*

*"Esa Pietilä's concerto "Graffiti Play", which we premiered with Esa in 2014, sounds like if Frank Zappa and György Ligeti had married themselves and had gotten a child together"" - Esa-Pekka Salonen*

*"The impressive tenor saxophonist Esa Pietilä" -Downbeat Magazine/ Josef Woodart*

*"As for the captivating quartet Liberty Ship , led by experienced tenor saxophonist Esa Pietila, it brilliantly recasts the creeping, crepuscular ambiances of electric Miles and Milestone period Joe Henderson for the digital age. This is one of the highlights of the whole four-day event insofar as it keeps listeners rapt during a lengthy, often hypnotic suite that shifts seamlessly from tautly executed grooves to electronic hiss and crackle without ever losing its bold narrative drive". - Kevin Le Gendre/Jazzwise (Tampere Jazz Happening)*

*Pietilä is a very powerful but also gentle saxophonist who can reach far out but first of all let all the capabilities of his fellow musicians unfold in this band. Great, incentive playing! - Henning Bolte (All About Jazz)*

*"A solo saxophone work from arguable the finest saxophonists from Eastern Europe in "Karhea" of their craft. "Karhea" is a landmark release for one of the finest saxophone player that I have had the exception to hear. Eg. the tune "Lighting's Surprise" is a master class in the art of the tenor sax." Brent Black, Critical jazz, USA*

*"Esa is one of Finland's leading jazz musicians and a dedicated jazz educator. I recommend his albums Direct (Fiasko Records) with Uffe Krokfors on bass and Markku Ounaskari on drums as well as the album Fulica Acra that followed, which show his scope and imagination as a player." Professor Stuart Nicholson, Author, Journalist, Lecturer, UK*

### Listen & videos :

<https://www.youtube.com/user/avantgardeshooter>

<https://esapietila.com/video>

### Price of the masterclass:

tailor made depending how many days & hours

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**[www.esapietila.com](http://www.esapietila.com)**