

Cultural Heritage in Historical Perspective

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Modern Response of the People's Soul: Broadcasting and Exploring Sibelius' Music in Finland over the Last Decade

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Abstract. This article is devoted to the study of the perception and interpretation of the music of Jan Sibelius in Finland during the last decade. Sibelius is by far the greatest national composer in Finland, whose music is deeply rooted in the country's culture and identity. However, his work has undergone various interpretations over time, reflecting changes in the socio-political context and cultural values. This article analyzes current trends in the performance, critical understanding, and popularization of Sibelius' music in Finland. Special attention is paid to how the changing society and modern audience perceive the composer's legacy. The study covers a wide range of sources, including concert recordings, critical articles, academic research, as well as educational programs and cultural initiatives dedicated to Sibelius. The article deals with the question of how Sibelius' music is transmitted to the younger generation of Finns, and what methods are used to preserve the relevance of his music in the modern world. The article examines the influence of various factors, such as technological development, globalization, and changing cultural values, on the perception of the composer's music. In conclusion, the article offers an insight into the role of Sibelius' music in shaping Finland's modern national identity and cultural identity.

Keywords: Jan Sibelius, Finnish music, broadcasting practice, academic research, cultural identity

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Современный отклик души народной: трансляция и исследование музыки Сибелиуса в Финляндии за последнее десятилетие

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Аннотация. Предлагаемая статья посвящена исследованию восприятия и интерпретации музыки Яна Сибелиуса в Финляндии в течение последнего десятилетия. Сибелиус, безусловно, является крупнейшим национальным композитором Финляндии, чья музыка глубоко укоренилась в культуре и идентичности страны. Его творчество подвергалось различным интерпретациям на протяжении времени, отражая изменения в общественно-политическом контексте и культурных ценностях. В данной статье анализируются современные тенденции в исполнении, критическом осмыслении и популяризации музыки Сибелиуса в Финляндии. Особое внимание уделяется тому, как меняющееся общество и современная аудитория воспринимают наследие композитора. Исследование охватывает широкий спектр источников, включая концертные записи, критические статьи, научные исследования, а также образовательные программы и культурные инициативы, посвящённые Сибелиусу. В статье затрагивается вопрос о том, как транслируется музыка Сибелиуса молодому поколению финнов и каким образом актуализируется наследие композитора в современном мире. Рассматривается влияние различных факторов на восприятие музыки композитора, таких как развитие технологий, глобализация и меняющиеся культурные ценности. В заключении предлагается осмысление роли музыки Сибелиуса в формировании современной национальной идентичности Финляндии и её культурного самосознания.

Ключевые слова: Ян Сибелиус, финская музыка, практика трансляции, академическое исследование, культурная идентичность

Introduction

The life and work of Jan Sibelius (1865–1957) is inextricably linked to the national awakening and independence of Finland. His works, such as *Finlandia*, *Kullervo*, and others, not only laid the foundation for international recognition of Finnish music, but also became cultural

symbols that absorbed the folk spirit. In Finland, Sibelius has long ceased to be just a composer — he has become one of the key symbols of the national cultural identity. It is no coincidence that people say: “Sisu, sauna, Sibelius” — his music is deeply rooted in the Finnish way of life and national character.¹

¹ Folke Gräsbeck emphasized in his interview that “Sisu, sauna and Sibelius” are the three fundamental symbols of Finnish culture. This confirms the important role of Sibelius’ music in shaping the national character of the Finns. See: Stenger W. Sisu, sauna, Sibelius and heavy metal, too. In: *this is FINLAND*. January 2015. URL: <https://finland.fi/arts-culture/sisu-sauna-sibelius-and-heavy-metal-too/?ysclid=mjfnq9wv8q919989611> (accessed: 21.12.2025).

Over the past decade, in an era of globalization and cultural diversification, broadcasting, and exploring Sibelius' musical heritage in Finland has shown a striking contrast between "preserving tradition and innovation." On the one hand, the national component is carefully preserved through traditional concert venues and performances of classical works, keeping in touch with cultural roots. On the other hand, research perspectives are expanding, interdisciplinary, and detailed scientific approaches are emerging, and modern communication tools are contributing to a modern interpretation of musical heritage. Broadcasting practices and academic research in Finland form a harmonious symbiosis. The constant flourishing of concert life provides living examples for academic research, while in-depth academic research provides a theoretical basis for innovation in concerts and cultural communication.

This study covers the period from 2015 to 2025 — a key milestone marked by a series of celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of Sibelius' birth (2015) and Finland's systematic promotion of the preservation and exploration of his musical heritage. Research materials are obtained from three main sources: first, authoritative information published by Finnish organizations, including scientific publications of the Sibelius Academy, official archives of the Lahti Sibelius Festival and bibliographic collections of the National Library of Finland; second, results of international scientific platforms, such as thematic monographs published by *Cambridge Scholars Publishing* and scientific articles published by *Sibelius One* magazine; third, proven online resources, including thematic reports and statistics from the Finnish Tourism Office (this is FINLAND) and Finnish music promotion organizations (musicfinland.fi). By combining and analyzing these diverse

materials, we aim to comprehensively present the current state of broadcasting and new developments in Sibelius music research in Finland over the past decade.

Sibelius Music Broadcasting Practice in Finland over the Last Decade: Concert Venues and Innovations

Preservation and Modernization of Traditional Concert Venues

In Finland, concerts of Sibelius' music are inextricably linked to its cultural context and historical atmosphere. The continuous operation of traditional concert venues is the essence of the practice of heritage transfer. These venues include both memorial venues closely associated with Sibelius' life and regular concerts in professional concert halls, forming a dual broadcast system: "memorial performance in context" and "professional performance."

Hämeenlinna, the birthplace of Sibelius, is an important center for broadcasting his work. His childhood home, which was turned into a museum in the 1960s, after a major renovation in 2007, has become a cultural space combining an exhibition of exhibits and musical concerts. The museum holds chamber concerts all year round, where Sibelius' piano works, songs, and chamber music are performed. On important dates such as Finnish Independence Day, Christmas, and Sibelius' birthday (December 8), themed concerts are held. For example, on December 8, 2023, the museum invited young violinists to perform Sibelius' violin works, using a violin that belonged to the composer himself and passed to his granddaughter Satu Yalas. This instrument, presented to the composer by his uncle-captain, became a material link between the past and the present, allowing the audience to experience a "spiritual response

in music” in the atmosphere of the childhood home.² This “house-museum + concert” model deeply integrates the musical experience with the historical context, transforming Sibelius’ music from an artifact into a tangible cultural memory.

The Sibelius Concert Hall in Lahti, a professional symbol of the performance of Sibelius’ music in Finland, is recognized as one of the best places to interpret his works due to its “unsurpassed acoustics.” Over the past decade, the concert hall has created a holistic system for performing Sibelius’ works through an “annual series of concerts + an emphasis on the festival.” The Lahti Symphony Orchestra, the hall’s resident orchestra, has long been committed to fully presenting Sibelius’ works, collaborating with conductors Osmo Vanska, Hannu Lintu, and others to create authoritative interpretations and recordings of many works. The 2025 Lahti Sibelius Festival was held under the motto “Sibelius-Patriot and Mystic” and presented panoramic concerts, including symphonic poems, symphonies, and chamber music: on August 28, *Kullervo* was performed, on August 29 — *The Lemminkäinen Suite*, and on August 30, the festival ended with the First Symphony. The program also included orchestral songs by Sibelius and Grieg, forming a systematic overview of Sibelius’ creative career.³ The festival invited not only local Finnish artists, but also internationally renowned performers such as soprano Karita

Mattila and baritone Davone Taines, providing both a national component of the concert and an international impact.

Helsinki, the cultural center of Finland, is also an important venue for Sibelius’ music concerts. Professional ensembles such as the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra and the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra organize regular concerts of Sibelius’ works each year at the Helsinki Concert Hall, the Finnish National Opera, and other venues. During the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Sibelius’ birth in 2015, the Athenaeum Helsinki Art Museum hosted a special exhibition “Sibelius and the World of Art,” for which Finnish pianist Folke Gräsbeck prepared original music, including recordings of 90 rare and recently discovered works by Sibelius, implementing a cross-disciplinary fusion of music and visual art. This innovative form of “exhibition + audioaccompaniment” expanded the context of Sibelius’ music distribution and attracted the attention of a wider audience, including non-specialists.

“Reconstruction of Classics” and “Discovery of Little-Known Works”

Over the past decade, Sibelius music concerts in Finland have shown a trend of parallel development of “reconstruction of classics” and “discovery of little-known works,” preserving the classical heritage. On the one hand, key works such as *Finlandia*,

² The details of the concert at the Sibelius House Museum in 2023 are based on the official archival materials of the museum. The violin used in the concert was presented to the composer in 1881, when he turned 16 years old. Currently, the instrument is in the possession of Satu Yalas, who regularly uses it in memorable concerts. See: Visit Häme. *The musical heritage of Sibelius lives on in the landscape and in today’s concerts*. URL: <https://visithame.fi/en/see-and-do/culture-heritage/sibelius-musical-heritage/> (accessed: 21.12.2025).

³ The program of the Lahti Sibelius Festival in 2025 has been officially published by the organization for the promotion of Finnish music. Founded in 1975, the festival has become a key venue for the performance of Sibelius’ works in the world. See: *Music Finland. Lahti Sibelius Festival*. URL: <https://musicfinland.fi/events/lahti-sibelius-festival/> (accessed: 21.12.2025).

the Violin Concerto, and the Seven Symphonies continue to be performed at high frequency, but the way they are performed is constantly being updated. On the other hand, the ignored early works, chamber music, and piano compositions attract more attention, forming a more complete picture of Sibelius' work.

In classical works, Finnish artists strive to bring a modern interpretation, while remaining true to the original. Folke Gräsbeck, an authoritative interpreter of Sibelius' music, has performed two-thirds of the composer's approximately 600 works. He emphasizes that the key characteristic of Sibelius' music is the "strong melody" that is evident in his early works, although it has not yet formed the "Kalevala romantic language" characteristic of the *Kullervo* and *Lemminkäinen*.⁴ During the anniversary concerts in 2015, he recorded an album on the Steinway, presented to the composer for his 50th birthday (located in the Sibelius House Museum), restoring the "warm, delicate, and lyrical tone"⁵ of Sibelius' music due to the historical quality of the instrument. This double reconstruction "instrument + interpretation" has become an important direction in the modern interpretation of classical works. Conductor Thomas Dausgaard's interpretation of the "three-dimensional texture"⁶ in Sibelius' symphonies suggested a new approach to the reconstruction of classical music. He focused on the interconnection of independently developing melodic lines, fast

figures, revealing the "irrational mystery"⁷ in Sibelius' music through subtle conducting work and allowing listeners to feel the contemporary vitality of classical works.

The discovery and promotion of obscure works has been an important breakthrough in broadcasting practice over the past decade. Finnish artists and academic organizations have collaborated with each other to discover a number of Sibelius' unpublished works and manuscripts through documentary processing and archival research, and their first performances have become highlights in concert practice. Folke Gräsbeck has long promoted Sibelius' little-known works, believing that they "bring true listening pleasure, new perspectives, and depth,"⁸ complementing the limited presentation formed only by "popular works" such as *Finlandia* and *Sad Waltz*. At his festival on the island of Korpo in Finland, he performs both classical and early chamber compositions and piano miniatures by Sibelius. In 2015, Gräsbeck invited the Australian quartet *Flinders* to perform these little-known "pearls" together. The project of recording "the complete works of Sibelius," implemented by the Lahti Symphony Orchestra in collaboration with *BIS Records*, covered all the famous works of the period from 1883 to 1931 and was published in the form of 68 CDs, which allowed listeners to fully appreciate the creative path of Sibelius and provide the concert market with an extensive inventory of little-known works.

⁴ Stenger W. Op. cit.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ The concept of "three-dimensional texture" by conductor Thomas Dausgaard is described in detail in his article dedicated to the 150th anniversary of Sibelius. The conductor focuses on the importance of fine work with textured layers to reveal the mystical essence of the works. See: Serinus J.V. Sibelius at 150: Probing Depths of the 7 Symphonies. *Classical Voice North America: Journal of the Music Critics Associations of North America*. 2015. March 17. URL: <https://classicalvoiceamerica.org/2015/03/17/sibelius-at-150-probing-depths-of-the-7-symphonies/> (accessed: 21.12.2005).

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Stenger W. Op. cit.

Chamber music, an important part of Sibelius' oeuvre, has attracted more attention over the past decade. The 2025 Lahti Sibelius Festival specially organized a chamber music concert, where the *Iloa Quartet* and pianist Ossie Tanner performed the String Quartet in *A Minor* (1889), the Piano Sonata in *F sharp Minor* (1893), and the Piano Quintet in *G Minor*, demonstrating Sibelius' mastery of small genres. Sibelius' songs caught the attention of the audience: soprano Johanna Rusanen-Cartano and tenor Klaus Florian Vogt performed Sibelius' orchestral songs in combination with Grieg's compositions, revealing the common features and unique style of Scandinavian folk song. These concerts of little-known works not only enriched the ecosystem of concerts of Sibelius' music, but also allowed the audience to get a better idea of the diversity of his creative style.

Diversification and Youth of Business Entities

Over the past decade, the subjects of broadcasting Sibelius' music in Finland have diversified, forming a three-dimensional broadcast network: "professional groups + young artists + public participation." Professional artistic groups play a leading role, young artists bring innovative energy, and broad public participation provides a solid social foundation for broadcasting heritage.

The Sibelius Academy, Finland's leading music training organization, has become a key structure for broadcasting Sibelius' music. The Academy not only trains a large number of professional performers and researchers, but also through the Global Music Project⁹ encourages undergraduate and graduate students to participate in research and performance

of Sibelius' music. Doctoral programs focus on performance practice, teaching methodology, and the cultural significance of Sibelius' music. Established by the Academy, *Trio*, a peer-reviewed journal, specializes in publications on the practice of performing Western classical music and aesthetic research, including many articles on performing techniques and stylistic analysis of Sibelius' works, providing theoretical guidance to young artists. In addition, teachers of the Academy actively participate in concert practice: for example, Folke Gräsbeck, a well-known professor of the Academy and an internationally recognized authoritative interpreter of Sibelius' music, transmits his interpretation experience and research results to the younger generation through the "learning + concert" model.

The arrival of young artists brought new energy to the broadcast of Sibelius' music. Young Finnish musicians, inheriting a traditional style of interpretation, boldly experiment with cross-disciplinary fusion and innovative forms of self-expression. For example, the Young Sibelius Festival in Helsinki in 2023 invited Finnish young musicians under the age of 30 to perform Sibelius' works in the format of chamber music and solo performances. Some performers combined electronic musical elements with traditional Sibelius pieces, creating a unique modern style of performance. Sibelius' descendants are also actively involved in broadcasting the legacy: his granddaughter Satu Yalas inherited the composer's violin and collaborates with artists such as Gräsbeck to record albums and conduct concerts, becoming an important link between family memory and music broadcasting. Young artists attract more young audiences to Sibelius' music through

⁹ The global musical project of the Sibelius Academy is described on the official website of the Institute. The project supports more than 20 students annually through participation in international studies and concerts related to the music of Sibelius. See: Sibelius Academy. Sibelius Academy's publications.

URL: <https://www.uniarts.fi/en/sibelius-academy/research-and-impact/publications/> (accessed: 21.12.2025).

social networks, online broadcasts, and other modern communication tools, effectively expanding the circle of admirers of the composer.

Broad public participation is an important guarantee of continuous broadcasting of Sibelius' music in Finland. Community choirs and amateur orchestras often include Sibelius' works in their concert programs. *Finlandia*, as a symbol of the national spirit, is a must-have piece during important holidays such as Independence Day. During the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Sibelius' birth in 2015, "The Whole Country sings Sibelius" events were held all over Finland, where residents, students, and workers sang together in a choir, forming a large-scale cultural event. Educational activities related to Sibelius are widespread: music education programs in schools introduce the composer's works, and music schools organize special courses on their performance, educating teenagers to recognize and love national music. This broadcast model of "professional leadership + public participation" has deeply rooted Sibelius' music in Finnish society, making it a common cultural asset.

Academic Research on Sibelius' Music in Finland over the Past Decade: Expanding Dimensions and In-Depth Analysis

System Support for Research Organizations and Research Platforms

Significant advances in Sibelius music research in Finland over the past decade would not have been possible without the systematic support of professional research organizations and academic platforms. These organizations and platforms lay the foundation for Sibelius' research by pooling resources, creating communication networks, and publishing

scientific results, becoming the driving force behind scientific innovation.

Sibelius Academy, Finland's leading music research organization, plays a leading role in the field of composer's music research. At the Department of Music History and Musical Aesthetics, the *Doc Mus doctoral program* has long focused on Sibelius' creativity, performance, and cultural influence, producing a large number of professional researchers. Scientific series published by the Academy include *Doc Mus Research Publications*, *Finnish Journal of Music Education* and *Finnish Journal of Ethnomusicological Research*, which contain articles on text analysis, pedagogical practice, and cultural translation the music of Sibelius. In addition, the Academy works closely with international scientific organizations, participates in organizing International symposia dedicated to Sibelius, and publishing articles, promoting international dissemination of the results of local Finnish research.

The National Library of Finland, an important organization for the preservation of Sibelius' documents, provides extensive support in the form of primary sources for scientific research. The library is responsible for compiling the "Complete Works of Jan Sibelius,"¹⁰ which uses a critical approach to the systematic processing of manuscripts and variants of Sibelius' works, providing researchers with an authoritative text base. The Taju Library's institutional knowledge base Taju contains electronic resources such as doctoral theses and research reports from the Sibelius Academy, providing open access to scientific results and facilitating search and citation for researchers from different countries. In the year of the 150th anniversary of Sibelius'

¹⁰ The project "The Complete Works of Sibelius" was launched by the National Library of Finland in 1996. By 2025, 32 volumes have been published, covering various genres of the composer's work. For more information, see: [1].

birth in 2015, the National Library of Finland, in collaboration with the city of Hämeenlinna, organized an International Symposium dedicated to Sibelius, where scholars from all over the world gathered in the composer's homeland to discuss his work, historical context, and cultural influence. The results of the conference were published by *Cambridge Scholars Publishing* under the title *Jean Sibelius's Legacy: Research on his 150th Anniversary*, [2] becoming an important document in Sibelius' research over the past decade.

The interaction of international academic platforms and Finnish research has further expanded the international perspective of Sibelius' music research. Sibelius One, the authoritative international platform for Sibelius research, publishes a semi-annual journal and contains scientific articles, concert reviews, and bibliographic lists in which the contribution of Finnish scientists plays an important role. In the July 2025 issue of the magazine, Professor of the Sibelius Academy Veijo Murtomäki published an article *Patriotism and Political Nationalism in Sibelius the Late 1910s*, [3] analyzing Sibelius' work on the eve and after the independence of Finland and revealing the complex relationship between his work and that of the Soviet Union music and political context.¹¹ International symposia provide local scientists with a platform to communicate with international colleagues. Since 1990, symposia have been held in Helsinki, Oxford, Hämeenlinna, and other places. The sixth Hämeenlinna Symposium in 2015 included articles by Finnish scholars on Sibelius' chamber music and songs, promoting international recognition of research on lesser-known works. This research model "support for local organizations + interaction

with international platforms" ensures national uniqueness of research and diversification of the scientific perspective.

***Expanding Research Dimensions:
from Text Analysis
to Interdisciplinary Research***

Research on Sibelius' music in Finland over the past decade has gone beyond the traditional analysis of the text of music, showing a trend towards interdisciplinary and multidimensional research. Scholars no longer focus on the technical characteristics of works such as melody, harmony, and structure, but instead view Sibelius' music in a broad historical, cultural, and social context, conducting cross-disciplinary research with literature, history, geography, and pedagogy, enriching the depth and breadth of research.

The relationship between music and national cultural identity remains a key topic in Sibelius' research in Finland. Over the past decade, research has become more focused on the combination of historical context and contemporary meaning. Veijo Murtomäki, an authoritative Finnish researcher of Sibelius, has long studied the relationship between his music and the formation of Finnish national identity. His monograph *Jean Sibelius ja isänmaa* (Jan Sibelius and the Motherland) [4] deeply analyzes the connection between Sibelius' work and the Finnish independence movement, and the article 2025, dedicated to the critical period of the late 1910s, reveals the complex interweaving of patriotism and political nationalism in Sibelius' music. By studying the epic elements and folklore materials in such works as *Finlandia* and *Kullervo*, the researchers explore how Sibelius shaped the Finnish national image through music and

¹¹ The article by Veijo Murtomäki analyzes Sibelius' letters and drafts from the period 1917–1920, revealing the connection between the Fifth Symphony and the political context of Finland.

how this image functions in modern Finland. Research shows that Sibelius' music remains the core of Finnish national identity, as it not only carries historical memory, but also adapts to the cultural needs of different eras. In the era of globalization, this nationality is becoming an important symbol of Finnish culture's entry into the international arena.

The study of nature and geography has been an important innovation in Sibelius' research over the past decade. Finnish scientists, using theoretical perspectives of environmental humanitarianism, explore the image of the Finnish natural landscape in Sibelius' music and its connection with the Finnish view of nature. Later Sibelius' work *Tapiola* is considered as an example of "natural music." Scientists analyze the shape, texture, and orchestration of the piece and interpret how the music reproduces the mysterious atmosphere and vitality of Finnish forests. These studies draw attention not only to the artistic characteristics of the works, but also to the deep relationship between music, the environment, and national character — the vast forests, lakes, and other natural landscapes of Finland inspired Sibelius, and his music, in turn, increased the love and reverence of Finns for nature. The international research project *Scandinavian Music and Cultural Geography*, implemented by Professor Daniel Grimley of the University of Oxford in collaboration with Finnish scientists, includes a section on Sibelius, which has received support from Finnish scientific organizations and has become an example of interdisciplinary research.

Studies of Sibelius' creative techniques and aesthetic ideas over the past decade have shown a tendency to detail and systematize. Analyzing manuscripts and drafts of works, scientists reveal the creative process and evolution of Sibelius' style. Timo Virtanen, editor-in-chief of *The Complete Works of Jan Sibelius*, has long been engaged in musical and documentary

research, finding out the chronology of the creation of works and transmitting variants through comparing different handwritten and printed publications, providing a solid documentary base for analyzing the text. In addition, scientists pay attention to the mutual influences of Sibelius and contemporary composers: for example, Murtomäki's article *Sibelius and Busoni* in the *Sibelius One* journal [5] examines the influence of two composers in the field of aesthetic ideas and creative techniques, which expands the international perspective of research. In aesthetic studies, scholars focus on "mysticism," and "minimalism" in Sibelius' music, analyzing the thickening and elevation of musical language in the composer's later works, as well as the impact of this aesthetic orientation on contemporary music.

Sibelius' research in the field of music education is an important applied field that has emerged over the past decade. With the spread of Sibelius' music in general education and music schools in Finland, scientists began to study practical ways and methods of teaching his works. Researchers from the Sibelius Academy are studying empirically how to integrate the composer's works into music programs of different age groups, while simultaneously developing students' performance skills and strengthening their national cultural identity. The collection of articles *Expanding Professionalism in Music and Higher Music Education: A Changing Game* [6] includes research by Finnish scientists on teaching Sibelius' works, offering innovative methods such as "experimental learning" and "cultural-contextual learning," and providing a theoretical guide for the practice of music education. These applied studies build a bridge between academic research and pedagogical practice, advancing the transmission of Sibelius' music from generation to generation.

**Publication and Dissemination
of Research Results:
Books, Articles, and Digital Resources**

Over the past decade, the results of research on Sibelius' music in Finland have been presented in various forms, including books, scientific articles and digital resources, forming a diversified publication system of "monographs + journal articles + digital documents," which has contributed to the wide dissemination and scientific exchange of research results.

In the field of publications, Finnish scientists produce systematic comprehensive studies and thematic monographs. Veijo Murtomäki, a leading Finnish Sibelius scholar, has published several influential monographs, including *Symphonic Unity: The Development of Formal Thinking in the Symphonies of Sibelius* [7] is a classic document in research on Sibelius' symphonies, which is still widely cited. His 2007 monograph *Jean Sibelius ja isänmaa* was reprinted several times, becoming a key source for research on the relationship between Sibelius' music and nationalism. International collaborations are also important. The collection writings *Jean Sibelius Legacy: Research on his 150th Anniversary* [2] published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing in 2015, includes articles by scientists from Finland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and other countries where the contribution of Finnish scientists it is a third of the total volume. The content covers Sibelius' work in all genres, including orchestral music, chamber music and songs. Well-known works are analyzed in detail and new compositions are researched. The 2021 Chinese edition of *Sibelius*, [8] although written by a British scientist, was verified by Finnish Sibelius research specialists.

The analysis of Sibelius' late creative silence period in the book integrates the latest Finnish research, becoming a bridge between Sibelius' Chinese and Finnish studies.

The publication of scientific articles demonstrates a trend of "stable growth in quantity and quality improvement." According to statistics, from 1981 to 2022, 238 journal articles about Sibelius were published in the world, of which more than 40% were published from 2012 to 2022.¹² Articles of Finnish scientists are published in reputable publications. Like pearls, they naturally take pride of place in recognized music publications, such as *Trio*, *Finnish Magazine of Music Education* and *Sibelius One*. The themes of their works are as multifaceted as the facets of a diamond: from a close analysis of the musical text, such as the study of K. Kallioniemi *Melodic Features and Structural Innovations in Sibelius's Piano Sonata*, [9] before penetration into cultural and historical roots, as in the article by A.O. Väisänen *The Influence of the Epic Kalevala on Sibelius' Early Works*. [10] The questions of concert practice and the history of perception, revealed in works like J. Heikkinen *Traditions and Innovations in the Performance of Sibelius' Works by the Lahti Symphony Orchestra*, [11] are also not left out. It is noteworthy that the works of Finnish researchers organically combine theoretical depth with concrete examples drawn from concert life, which is a vivid reflection of the Finnish tradition of combining theory with practice.

A real breakthrough in the dissemination of knowledge about Sibelius over the past decade has been the creation and opening of digital archives. The Sibelius Digital Archive

¹² Statistics on publications related to Sibelius show that the works of Finnish scientists account for about 28% of the total number of publications in the world. A source: 掌桥科研. "西贝柳斯论文文献" (Zhǎng qiáo kēyán. "Xī bèi liǔ sī lùn wén wén xiàn = Zhangqiao Research. "Sibelius Papers and Literature") [EB/OL]. 2022-07-17.

of the National Library of Finland is a treasure trove of manuscripts, letters, photographs, and other invaluable evidence of the composer's life and work, including first-time published digital copies of manuscripts available for online study by researchers around the world. The institutional knowledge base of the Sibelius Academy Taju opens up the full text of numerous doctoral theses and research reports; between 2020 and 2025, 15 works on Sibelius' music were published, covering music analysis, pedagogical aspects, cultural broadcasting, and other important areas. In addition, the online platform of *Sibelius One* magazine publishes not only the latest scientific articles, but also provides information about concerts, recommendations for listening to recordings and other useful content, becoming a true digital center that combines scientific research and its practical application. The advent of these digital resources has erased geographical boundaries, expanding research opportunities, allowing scientists from all over the world to get acquainted with the results of Finnish research on Sibelius and increasing the international prestige of local developments.

**Transformation of Cultural Value
and Modern Significance
Sibelius Music in Finland**

***From the National Symbol
to the Cultural Industry:
Diversified Value Transformation Paths***

Finland in recent years has not only been actively engaged in preserving and studying Sibelius' musical heritage, but also boldly experimenting with its modern cultural transformation. Using diverse approaches such as "music + tourism," "music + education," and "music + creative industries," the country transforms intangible musical wealth into concrete cultural products and industrial assets,

finding a harmonious balance between cultural and economic values.

"Music + Tourism" has become one of the key areas of cultural value transformation. Places that are inextricably linked to Sibelius' name, such as Hämeenlinna (city of birth), the Ainola House Museum and the Sibelius Concert Hall in Lahti, have become iconic sites of Finnish cultural tourism. The Sibelius Children's Home-Museum in Hämeenlinn welcomes tens of thousands of visitors every year; the museum offers a unique "music tour" that includes a guided tour of the house, chamber concerts, and stories about the composer's life, allowing guests to get deeper into the atmosphere of Finnish music and culture. The Lahti Sibelius Festival has become a prestigious international music destination: in 2025, the festival attracted audiences from more than 20 countries, stimulating the development of the hotel business, restaurant business, transport infrastructure and other related industries in Lahti. The Finnish Tourism Office actively promotes music tourism dedicated to Sibelius, presenting on its official website the theme route "Sibelius Musical Journey" — from Helsinki to Hämeenlinna and Lahti, combining iconic places associated with the composer into an attractive tourist product. Such a model, where "musical heritage is combined with vivid impressions," allows tourists not only to get acquainted with the music and culture of Sibelius, but also makes a significant contribution to the economic development of the region.

The transformational path of "music + education" finds its expression in the deep integration of Sibelius' music into the Finnish music education system. The educational programs of Finnish schools include Sibelius' works in the main curriculum, forming students' musical literacy and national identity through listening, singing, and performing. Higher music education institutions, such as

the Sibelius Academy, offer specialized courses in the performance and research of the composer's works, attracting students from all over the world and creating a recognizable international brand of music education. In addition, music schools and centers in Finland organize "Sibelius master classes" and "Sibelius competitions for young performers," providing a platform for demonstrating and developing young talents. This educational model, which combines "education and professional training," not only ensures continuity in the transmission of Sibelius' musical heritage to the next generations, but also increases the overall level of music education in Finland, preparing qualified professionals for the music industry.

The interdisciplinary direction "music + creative industries" pushes the boundaries of transforming the value of Sibelius' music. Finnish creative companies create a whole series of original products inspired by motifs from the composer's music and biography: stationery with a portrait of Sibelius and sheet music, music boxes that reproduce the melodies of the *Finnish Anthem* and *Tapiola*, interior items stylized as the Sibelius House-Museum. These creative products combine artistic merit and practical utility, becoming important conduits for the culture associated with Sibelius' music. In addition, the composer's music is actively played in movies, video games, and other areas: the soundtrack to the Finnish film by Aku Louhimies' *Tuntematon sotilas* (Unknown Soldier) (2017) contains quotes from the *Finnish Anthem*, enhancing the national sound of the picture; in the Finnish mobile game *Norse Mythology*, Sibelius' orchestral music is used as a background, introducing the younger generation to national music in a playful way. This way of transformation through interdisciplinary synthesis allows Sibelius' music to go beyond traditional cultural spaces and seamlessly integrate into the everyday life of modern people.

Current Meaning: Maintaining Cultural Identity and Bridging International Dialogue

In modern Finland, the preservation and study of Sibelius' music is of great importance: this is not only the protection and promotion of national cultural heritage, but also an important element that forms cultural identity and promotes international cultural dialogue.

Sibelius' music is still the quintessence of Finnish national identity. In the era of globalization, when there are more and more contradictions between cultural diversity and unification, Sibelius' music, as a unique Finnish cultural symbol, is a powerful factor that unites public sentiment and strengthens cultural identity. The performance of the *Finnish Anthem* during festive events such as Independence Day can awaken the historical memory and national pride of Finns, strengthening collective self-awareness; the celebration of nature, life, and freedom in Sibelius' music resonates deeply with the way of life and values of Finns, being a musical reflection of the Finnish national character. Practical activities and research conducted in recent years have deepened Finns' understanding of the cultural essence of Sibelius' music, allowing it to continue to serve as a unifying principle and pass on cultural traditions to future generations.

Sibelius' music has become an important bridge connecting Finland with the global cultural community. As the most famous Finnish composer, Sibelius has long crossed national borders, becoming an integral part of the world musical heritage. Over the past decade, Finland has demonstrated to the world the contemporary appeal of Sibelius' music by hosting international Sibelius festivals, international academic conferences, producing authoritative recordings, and publishing scientific research, which has allowed Finnish culture to gain even wider international recognition. The Lahti Sibelius Festival invites

world-renowned musicians to participate in concerts, popularizing Sibelius' music and promoting the exchange of musical ideas between Finland and other countries; scientific works of Finnish researchers are published in international journals and presented at scientific conferences, allowing the world to better understand the cultural roots and artistic value of Sibelius' music. This international dialogue "through music" not only enhances Finland's cultural influence in the world, but also opens up opportunities for mutual understanding and respect between different countries and cultures.

Finland has developed a comprehensive approach to heritage conservation Sibelius' project, which combines the transmission of performing traditions, scientific editing of works and their cultural actualization, which makes its heritage alive and significant in the 21st century, was able to breathe new life into the musical heritage, proving that traditional art still has a huge potential in the modern world. This model emphasizes the need for respect for the authenticity of heritage, as well as attention to modern innovations and applications, avoiding both rigor and conservatism, as well as excessive commercialization that can distort the essence of heritage. Finland's experience is of great importance to other countries seeking to preserve their musical heritage — only through an organic combination of knowledge transfer, research, and modern reinterpretation can traditional art be allowed to shine in new times.

Conclusion

Over the last decade (2015–2025), the preservation and study of Sibelius' music in Finland has been characterized by comprehensive development and profound innovation. In the field of Finnish experience transfer, we have managed to create a holistic

system that includes both professionals and amateurs, combining tradition and modernity through the preservation and modernization of classical concert venues, the revival of classical works and the discovery of little-known works, as well as the diversification and expansion of the audience, thanks to which Sibelius' music has firmly established itself in Finnish culture. In the field of scientific research, with the help of reputable organizations such as the Sibelius Academy and the National Library of Finland, Finnish scientists have expanded their research areas, moving from traditional text analysis to interdisciplinary research, and published many high-quality monographs, articles, and digital resources, helping to deepen and expand the scope of Sibelius' research. In the area of cultural transformation, Finland has been able to breathe new life into the musical heritage by using approaches such as "music + tourism," "music + education," and "music + creative industries," making it an important tool for maintaining cultural identity and promoting international dialogue.

The success of preserving and studying Sibelius' music in Finland is based on the fundamental principle of "equal attention to the national and international, unity of traditions and innovation."¹³ On the one hand, Finland carefully preserves the national identity of Sibelius' music, closely linking it with its own history, culture, and nature, which makes it an irreplaceable cultural symbol. On the other hand, Finland openly embraces globalization and modernization, using international exchange, interdisciplinary approaches and digital technologies to adapt traditional musical heritage to the needs of modern society. This model of conservation and research not only allows Sibelius' music to be a model of inspiration in Finland, but also serves as

¹³ "This is Finland — Sibelius!" — national program to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the composer / Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland, 2015. URL: <https://sibelius150.fi/en> (accessed: 21.12.2025).

a valuable example for the protection and development of the world's musical heritage.

In the future, the preservation and study of Sibelius' music in Finland has even greater potential for development: in the field of experience transfer, digital technologies such as virtual reality and online concerts can be used more actively to expand the audience; in the field of scientific research, interdisciplinary research can be deepened, strengthening cooperation

with literature, history, ecology and other fields in the area of value transformation, more models of interdisciplinary collaboration can be explored, allowing Sibelius' music to play an even more significant cultural and social role. In any case, Sibelius, as the soul of the Finnish people, and his musical heritage will remain an important part of the cultural map of Finland, symbolizing the connection between the past and the future, national identity and the whole world.

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