

KANTTILA MANAGEMENT

ARTIST
DOSSIER

BIOGRAPHY • CV

Ville Rusanen

Baritone

Biography

Ville Rusanen



Finnish baritone Ville Rusanen combines international opera, concert and song work with longstanding associations with Finnish National Opera and the Savonlinna Opera Festival. His forthcoming engagements include Ping in *Turandot* with Tampere Opera at Tampere Hall in early 2027 and Ned Keene in *Peter Grimes* in Helsinki in November and December 2026. His other Helsinki roles in 2026 include Paul Jobs in Mason Bates's *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* and Baron Douphol in *La traviata*.

A former ensemble member and now a regular guest at Finnish National Opera, Mr. Rusanen has sung Pelléas in *Pelléas et Mélisande*, the Forester in *The Cunning Little Vixen* and Billy Budd, as well as the Phantom in *The Phantom of the Opera* and Ping. Finnish opera has a particular place in his work, including Jussi Harri in Madetoja's *Pohjalaisia* in Helsinki and the title role in Aulis Sallinen's *Kullervo* at Savonlinna. At the festival, he has also sung Figaro in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, returning to the role in 2023.

International engagements have taken him to Teatro alla Scala, the Opéra de Lyon and Dutch National Opera. He appeared as Harlequin in *Ariadne auf Naxos* at the Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg and as Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* on tour with Scottish Opera.

On the concert stage, Mr. Rusanen sang the Celebrant in a staged production of Bernstein's *Mass* with Oulu Sinfonia in April 2026, conducted by Rumon Gamba and directed by Petri Kauppinen. In 2023, he performed the title role in a concert *Billy Budd* at the George Enescu Festival and Sibelius's *Kullervo* with the Japan Philharmonic in Tokyo. His wider orchestral work includes the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine and Philharmonique de Liège, as well as the Bergen Philharmonic, NHK Symphony Orchestra and RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra.

He made his Australian debut with the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs under Vladimir Ashkenazy and has appeared at the BBC Proms in London and the Grant Park Music Festival in Chicago. His first solo album, *Polkuja – Songs from Finnish Nature*, was released in 2020 with pianist Pami Karvonen. The Savonlinna Opera Festival named him Artist of the Year in 2014.

Mr. Rusanen began his musical training as a double bass player at Kuopio Conservatory, where he also studied singing with his father, Pertti Rusanen. He subsequently completed his vocal studies with Jorma Hynninen at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki.

Curriculum vitae

Ville Rusanen

BARITONE

NATIONALITY Finland

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Finnish National Opera (former)



SELECTED HOUSES AND FESTIVALS

Teatro alla Scala · Opéra National de Lyon · Dutch National Opera · Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg · Savonlinna Opera Festival · George Enescu Festival

Performed on Stage

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Ping	Turandot <i>Puccini</i>	Tampere Hall	2027
Ned Keene	Peter Grimes <i>Britten</i>	Finnish National Opera	2026
Paul Jobs	The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs <i>Bates</i>	Finnish National Opera	2026
Baron Douphol	La traviata <i>Verdi</i>	Finnish National Opera	2026
Jussi Harri	Pohjalaisia <i>Madetoja</i>	Finnish National Opera	2025 2024
Baron Douphol	La traviata <i>Verdi</i>	Tampere Opera, Tampere Hall	2024
Phantom (Erik)	The Phantom of the Opera <i>Lloyd Webber</i>	Finnish National Opera	2024
Figaro	Il barbiere di Siviglia <i>Rossini</i>	Savonlinna Opera Festival	2023

Performed on Stage

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Ping	Turandot <i>Puccini</i>	Finnish National Opera	2023
Billy Budd	Billy Budd <i>Britten</i>	Finnish National Opera	2022
Harlequin	Ariadne auf Naxos <i>R. Strauss</i>	Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg	2021
Young Aleksis	Aleksis Kivi <i>Rautavaara</i>	Finnish National Opera	2011
Guglielmo	Così fan tutte <i>Mozart</i>	Scottish Opera (tour)	2009



In Concert

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	VENUE / ENSEMBLE	YEAR
Celebrant (concert)	Mass <i>Bernstein</i>	Oulu Symphony Orchestra	2026
Baritone soloist	Kullervo, Op. 7 <i>Sibelius</i>	Mikkeli Music Festival	2024
Soloist	Denis & Katya <i>Venables</i>	Finnish National Opera	2023
Soloist	Joulukonsertti <i>Tchaikovsky</i>	Jyväskylä Sinfonia	2023
Baritone soloist	Kullervo, Op. 7 <i>Sibelius</i>	Suntory Hall	2023
Billy Budd (concert)	Billy Budd <i>Britten</i>	George Enescu Festival, Sala Palatului	2023



CURRICULUM VITAE

Education & distinctions

Vocal studies
Sibelius Academy · with Jorma Hynninen

Double bass and vocal studies
Kuopio Conservatory · with Pertti Rusanen (voice)

Awards & competitions

2014 Artist of the Year
Savonlinna Opera Festival

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