

## Communication

The Association's most important methods of communication are a newsletter and the Sulasol magazine. The official website and e-mail are used regularly.

## Cooperation

SNKL actively cooperates with national and international women's choirs and other music organisations. Some choirs have twin choirs in other countries. Mutual singing events are arranged every now and then in order to meet other music enthusiasts.

The Finnish Women's Choir Association is a self-governing organisation operating under Sulasol – The Finnish Amateur Musicians' Association.

SNKL is also a member of the Nordic Women's Choir Network (Nordiska Damkörsnätverk).

SNKL and its member choirs can arrange together and with support of OK Study Center study modules and peer learning groups.

## Commemoration

The member choirs can apply for medals to honor their own members for their musical activity. There are dedicated medals for both singers and conductors.

The Association awards annual trophies for choirs based on their musical activities.

SNKL grants some annual scholarships to be used for singers' or conductors' education.

## THE FINNISH WOMEN'S CHOIR ASSOCIATION

The Finnish Women's Choir Association (SNKL) was founded in 1945. It is a nationwide organisation which consists of 81 women's choirs and altogether about 1800 singers.

SNKL was founded to promote and cultivate interest in music written for women. This is done via organising training, courses for song examinations or conductors as well as publishing and providing compositions for women choirs.

Any Finnish women's choir or ensemble can join SNKL. It is also possible to join as a supporting member; such members may then participate in the Association events and/or join the special SNKL choirs.

More information on the Finnish Women's Choir Association, joining it or its products/services can be found on the internet pages or by contacting the chairwoman or the secretary. Current SNKL Chairwoman is Helena Toivanen, Artistic Director Rita Varonen and Secretary Maija-Liisa Konttinen.

### Contact information:

Suomen Naiskuoroliitto  
Laulutalo, Kauppakatu 51,  
FI-80100 Joensuu, Finland

Chairwoman +358 500 205 525

Secretary +358 503 052 584

[naiskuoroliitto@sulasol.fi](mailto:naiskuoroliitto@sulasol.fi)

[snkl.sulasol.fi](http://snkl.sulasol.fi)

Business ID 0872845-0

Sampo pankki FI91 8000 1271 1580 33

## THE FINNISH WOMEN'S CHOIR ASSOCIATION



The Finnish Women Choir Association (Suomen Naiskuoroliitto ry, SNKL) is the national organisation for Finnish women's choirs.

It offers its members (both singers and conductors) training and courses as well as publishes new compositions for women's choirs. Its purpose is to develop and support members' accomplishments in music.

## The Finnish Women's Choir Association offers to its members

### Education

SNKL offers a variety of courses including a annual summer camp for singers and conductors. The target of the courses is to develop and raise the level of amateur choir music and to encourage members to take song examinations and to sing in smaller groups, e.g. quartets. Annual Women's Choir Conference and participation in special SNKL choirs (Vox Feminae and Louhi) offer further learning possibilities for members of the Finnish Women's Choir Association.

### SNKL summer camp

One of the most important training events of the Association is the annual summer camp. Singers and conductors can practice towards and take song/conducting exams on three different levels (basic, professional or expert). There are also dedicated courses for conductors to master their art. The summer camp offers a great way to make friends with like-minded singers from all over Finland.

### Women Choir Conference

Every year SNKL arranges the national Women's Choir Conference. The program consists of training, an ensemble or choir competition, concerts and the annual general meeting. "The choir of the year" is chosen based on musical activity over the

past year and is announced during the conference.

### SNKL choirs

**Vox Feminae** was founded 1988 in Salla after a proposal made by singers who passed the expert level song examination. They wanted a choir where they could continue their great hobby and meet up with the friends made in the summer camps. Vox Feminae repertoire consists of songs used for exams as well as new women's choir music.

Current conductors are Raakel Solvin and Terttu Jauhiainen. Vox Feminae consists of 45 singers and it practices and gives concerts 2-3 times per year. Training weekends are held in different towns in Finland but also concert trips abroad are also organised.



**Louhi** was founded in 1998 to perform new and demanding music for women's choirs – especially music produced by SNKL. The singers in Louhi are enthusiastic women chorists from the SNKL member choirs as well as individual SNKL supporting members.

The choir, with about 30 members, meets for weekend camps a couple of times a year with the conductor, SNKL musical head, Rita Varonen. One longer practice session is held during the SNKL summer camp. Quite often Louhi holds concerts

after their practice sessions. Concert trips abroad also are included in Louhi's calendar.

### Publishing and providing music

SNKL is seeking new music for women's choirs by commissioning, publishing and printing compositions for women's choirs as well as arranging composition competitions. The Association has published 50 separate women's choir compositions and nine songbooks. Songbooks are generally built upon a single theme - there are books for the exam songs, traditional sing-along, religious hymns, Christmas songs as well as modern music.



SNKL also supplies music published by other organisations.

The history of the Finnish Women's Choir Association was published while celebrating the 60 years of active operations.