

Juhannus 2019 – June 10-22

Here's a look at the great Finnish American Folk School classes we're offering this year during Juhannus. The classes are designed for all ages and skill levels.

Monday, June 10, 6 p.m. – Introductory talk and demonstration by folk instrument master Minna Hokka about building folk instruments with natural materials – Finnish American Heritage Center, 435 Quincy Street, Hancock. This presentation is free and open to the public; bring your friends and neighbors and learn about this unique tradition!

Tuesday June 11, 2 p.m. – Building a reed pipe with case – \$20 – (approx. 2 hrs) Finnish American Heritage Center, 435 Quincy Street, Hancock



Reedpipes were popular in most parts of Finland already in the Middle Ages. These clarinets were used by kids, shepherds and others. The longest reedpipes have more than an octave in range. The class includes background on the Finnish style reed pipe, as well as construction of a reed pipe and a beautiful carrying case covered in birch bark. All materials will be provided.

Tuesday June 11, 6 p.m. – Building nynnypilli (humming pipe) with case – \$20 (approx. 2 hrs) - Finnish American Heritage Center, 435 Quincy Street, Hancock



The nynnypilli was built and played in Finland at least by the beginning of the 20th century by folks such as Finland's Swedish-speaking fishermen. The class includes background on the Finnish style humming pipe, as well as construction of a humming pipe and a carrying case similar to the reed pipe case. All materials will be provided.

Thursday, June 13, 4 p.m. – Building a cow-horn trumpet – \$60 (3-4 hour workshop) - Finnish American Heritage Center, 435 Quincy Street, Hancock

Trumpets made of cattle horns were used to call people together, or to send messages and signals, already in the Bronze Ages. Shepherds also used horns to frighten predators away from cattle in forest pastures. All materials, including the cow horn, will be provided.



Saturday, June 15, 12:30 pm – Birch bark harvesting course – \$60 (approx. 4 hrs) (Site to be announced)

Students will learn hands-on how to properly harvest birch bark with instruction from Minna Hokka (folk instrument master) of Koski, Finland and Jerry Jondreau (local Ojibwe with significant birch bark harvesting experience). **Pre-registration is important as the harvest site will be determined based on which birch trees are ready for bark removal.**

** Birch bark is the primary material to create several Finnish folk musical instruments taught in this year's Finnish American Folk School summer slate. **

Monday, June 17, 12 p.m. – Build a shepherd's flute – \$60 – (approx. 6 hrs, light refreshments will be provided, but during the dinner break students are on their own) - Finnish American Heritage Center, 435 Quincy Street, Hancock



The Ingrian folk musician Teppo Repo learned the shepherd's flute, which is beautifully wrapped in birch bark, in the 19th century. Repo reintroduced the shepherd's flute to Finland and even after his passing he continues to inspire Finnish folk musicians.

Tuesday, June 18, 1 p.m. – Build a Karelian woodwind – \$30 (approx. 4 hrs) – Finnish American Heritage Center, 435 Quincy Street, Hancock.



The Karelian woodwind (Lävikkö) was made beginning in the Middle Ages, typically from reed, wood and birchbark. They were crafted by shepherds, who made and played them primarily for recreational purposes.

Thursday, June 20, 1 p.m. – Build a birchbark trumpet – \$130 (approx. 4 hrs) – Finnish American Heritage Center, Hancock.



The birchbark trumpet is a traditional shepherd's instrument that has existed for about 1,000 years. The impressive sound of birchbark trumpets will be very empowering to modern-day music enthusiasts. The size of the trumpet will be dependent on the acquisition of birchbark strips during the harvesting class of June 15.

Saturday, June 22, Finnish American Heritage Center – tori (outdoor market), raising of the Finnish flag, with music by Laula Aika and performance by the Kivajat dancers, followed by a presentation by Minna Hokka (and perhaps some of her students) in the Martha Wiljanen Hall of the Finnish American Heritage Center at 12:30 pm. Admission is free and open to the public.

Saturday, June 22, all day – Juhannus events at Agate Beach, Toivola, including a pot luck meal, crafting birchbark rings and garland wreaths, a demonstration of making squeaky cheese near an open fire, and a nature setting filled with the ancient sounds of Finnish folk wind instruments. Call (906) 487-7347 for details.

Saturday, June 22, 3 p.m. – Pelimannit style music workshop – \$10 (2 hrs) – Misery Bay School House, near the intersection of Misery Bay Road and Lots Road in Toivola.

The Finnish-American folk group Laulu Aika of the Twin Cities will conduct a workshop in performance of Finnish folk music in dance and performance venues. Participants are highly encouraged to bring their instruments and just have fun!