

U.S. Embassy Finland Celebrates 100 Years of Diplomatic Relations Through Music

TEXT: U.S. EMBASSY FINLAND, PHOTOS: JARI FLINK

The U.S. Embassy celebrated the 100th anniversary of the U.S.-Finnish diplomatic relations at Musiikkitalo on April 17, 2019. The program featured a joint concert by a clarinet quartet from the United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) Band and a clarinet ensemble from Kaartin Soittokunta. We also made the Finland debut of the “100

years of diplomatic relations” photo exhibition, a joint project with the Finnish Embassy in Washington DC.

At the anniversary event, U.S. Ambassador to Finland **Robert Pence**, the Finnish Defense Forces Communications and Public Affairs Director Colonel **Sami Nurmi**, and the Commander of the United States Air Forces in Europe Band Lt. Colonel **Cristina Urrutia** delivered



welcome remarks. U.S. Embassy Deputy Public Affairs Officer **Ethan Tabor** highlighted several key moments of the U.S.-Finnish diplomatic history, focu-

Ambassador and Mrs. Pence with the musicians from the United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) Band and Kaartin Soittokunta.





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Musician from the United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) Band learning about Eleanor Roosevelt's 1950 visit to Finland.

sing on the origins in 1919 and many of the exhibition's images.

These included visits by Presidents Ford, Bush, Clinton, and Trump, and other special moments from the last 100 years such as **Charles Lindbergh's** visit in 1933, **Gregory Peck's** in 1953, **Spike Lee's** in 2018, and others. He also highlighted key moments from the past few weeks, such as the United States and Finland playing for gold in Espoo and the embassy-sponsored visit of world-renowned skateboarders **Lizzie Armanto** (who represents Finland internationally) and **Ben Hatchell**.

The "100 years of diplomatic relations" exhibition will travel throughout Finland this year. Stay tuned for details and here's to the next 100!

More information on the anniversary year events at <https://fi.usembassy.gov/our-relationship/usfin100/>.

One of the highlights was a joint performance of the "Säkkijärvenpolkka."



U.S. Embassy in Finland

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