**Tuulikki Bartosik - spontaneous, unorthodox musical adventures on free-bass accordion and voice**

Accordion music is rarely described as innovative and fresh, but Tuulikki Bartosik confounds expectations. From introspective solos to collaborations with musicians around the world, her inspiration is rooted in her Võrumaa origins in Estonia and to people and places she encounters elsewhere, creating spontaneous, unorthodox musical adventures.

Tuulikki continually explores how to adapt her accordions for different surroundings, from a busy city street to a Welch hillside cave, to her beloved deep forests in South Estonia. Her compositions evolve in different environments, in one, exploring a lullaby through the lens of a nightmare during a cosy house concert. In another, as her tune, “Tunturi,” expanded into a substantial production, in which her Estonian Folk Orchestra performed with Konzerthausorchester Berlin, conducted by Kristjan Järvi, during Estonia’s centennial celebration.

[Tuulikki Bartosik solo official video 2017](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6kOkZtO0iY&t=4s)

[Tuulikki Bartosik live solo in Tallinn 2017](https://youtu.be/A2xFOKIIUTI)

[Tuulikki Bartosik & Estonian National Symphony Orchestra 2018](https://youtu.be/bjp1myPcSBo)

2006 she released duo album “Gubbdrag” with fiddler player Emma Reid and 2014 Estonian Folk Orchestra’s album “Imemaa/Wonderland” saw the daylight.

[Estonian Folk Orchestra live at Umefolk 2013](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-G3EdE5So3k)

Tuulikki first came to the UK’s attention with “Chatterbox,” her album with fellow accordionist and clog dancer, Hannah James. Created in the Welsh countryside, the location inspired spontaneous and unorthodox musical adventures, including recording in a cave. The British newspaper, The Telegraph, chose “Chatterbox” as one of its best folk albums of 2015. Tuulikki and Hannah’s instinctive musical rapport and infectious on-stage banter have made them a sought- after duo for British festivals and other venues.

[Hannah James & Tuulikki Bartosik live in concert 2015](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iHjP6kOdRs)

Solo album, “Storied Sounds,” was released under the UK label, RootBeat Records, in 2016, followed by Germany’s Nordic Notes and Japan’s Metacompany labels in 2017. The album features solo pieces, as well as duos and trios, with Finnish pianist and composer, Timo Alakotila, Estonian mandolin player, Villu Talsi and Welsh guitarist, Dylan Fowler. Site-specific accordion compositions incorporate field recordings of birdsong, murmuring rivers, abrasive seagull cries and the growl of the city. “Storied Sounds” creates a vivid context for music that is, by turns, robust, joyous and wistful.

[Tuulikki Bartosik Trio live on tour 2016](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKhsf8ndCRA)

[Tuulikki Bartosik Trio at Tallinn Music Week 2016](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-LfTsTqo38)

Tuulikki also joins forces with Estonian singer-songwriter, Mari Kalkun, and multi-instrumentalist Pastacas. Their collaboration is available on the Estonian-released album, “Upa-upa ubinakõnõ,” which achieved a reputable 22nd place on Estonian Public Broadcasting’s 2015 list of best Estonian albums. Originally written for children, “Upa-upa ubinakõnõ” got a warm reception from Estonian media and audiences of all ages.

[Upa-upa in concert 2016 at EBU Euroradio Folk Festival](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBG9FWX-icI)

In 2018 Tuulikki represented Estonia at the annual EBU Euroradio Folk Festival held in Moscow together with electroacoustic composer Vanessa Massera. She presented her new project :sounds recollected: with Vanessas soundscapes and original music.

[Tuulikki Bartosik & Vanessa Massera at EBU Euroradio Folk Festival 2018](https://youtu.be/Y-YAGpkJDY4)

Tuulikki earned nominations for Estonian Folk Music Awards Best Musician and Best Album categories in 2014, 2015 and 2016. She also received an honorary award for promoting South-Estonian traditions in 2016, followed by a 2017 Live and Shine grant from Estonian Culture Capital. Tuulikki accompanied Estonian President, Kersti Kaljulaid, on her state visit to Finland in 2017 for Finland's centennial celebration.

Tuulikki’s latest projects include touring in Japan and the UK, playing with the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra and collaboration between her Estonian Folk Chamber Orchestra and the renowned conductor, Kristjan Järvi. She participates in an all-female accordion project, Accordionesse, along with Hannah James, Karen Tweed, Mairearad Green and Teija Niku, which debuted at Glasgow’s 2018 Celtic Connections Festival.

**Quotes from reviews**

*“Tuulikki is at her best when just playing and improvising on her accordion; the music feels relaxed, spontaneous, dreamy, it's music for the soul.”*- [folkworld.de](http://folkworld.de)

*"Bartosik blends the traditional with the experimental, with small phrases and her occasional wordless vocal accompaniment providing unexpected surges of emotion. The character and feeling that she injects into her compositions and arrangements allows for a renewed appreciation of the accordion as a contemporary instrument."*

* Arusa Qureshi, The List

*“There's little doubting Bartosik's credentials as a highly imaginative and expressive accordion player, yet in the case of Storied Sounds, it's the inventiveness of the musical arrangements, together with the use of atmospheric field recordings that brings these thirteen pieces of music alive; a meeting of music and nature so beautifully captured and encapsulated in just under an hour.”* - Alan Wilkinson, Northern Sky Magazine

*“Equally Tuulikki presents us with a mysterious vocal sound to give you goose bumps.”*- Paul Rawcliffe, FATEA magazine

*“Storied Sounds’ from Tuulikki Bartosik - fascinating melange of music and sound. (...)”*-Tim Carroll, FolkWords (April 11, 2016)

*“‘Chatterbox’ by Hannah James and Tuulikki Bartosik - a wholly original and mesmeric album...’Chatterbox’ is a lush piece of work suffused with original compositions, traditional tunes and sparkling improvisations. (...) Listen to ‘Chatterbox’ you’ll love it.”* - Charlie Elland, FolkWords

**Discography**

2016 EP “Primary reception” (Crónica) solo EP

2016 “Storied Sounds” solo album (RBRCD31; CDNN091)

2015 “Upa-upa ubinakõnõ” (Võro Instituut 2015) with Mari Kalkun and Pastacas

2015 “Chatterbox” (RBRCD25) with Hannah James

2014 Estonian Folk Orchestra “Imemaa/Wonderland” (EFO001)

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2006 “Gubbdrag” (TUEMCD1) with Emma Reid

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<https://www.facebook.com/bartosiktuulikki/>

**Instagram**

<https://www.instagram.com/accordioness/>

**Spotify**

<https://spoti.fi/2THjNs7>

**Soundcloud**

<https://soundcloud.com/tuulikki_bartosik>