

# EFTA

50 years 1960-2010



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50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONCERT IN SALURINN, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 21:00

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In 2010, the European Free Trade Association celebrates its 50th anniversary. The EFTA Convention entered into force on 3 May 1960. In connection with this milestone in EFTA's existence and the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EEA Agreement, which entered into force 1994, EFTA has organised various events and publications. Iceland is proud to contribute to these commemorative events by hosting this concert.



**Presenting:**

**Una Sveinbjarnardóttir**

Una is concertmaster of Reykjavik Chamber Orchestra, and has premiered a number of new compositions as a soloist and chamber musician. In Iceland she has premiered Violin Concertos of Shostakovich, Phillip Glass, Kurt Weil, Atli Heimir Sveinsson, Sveinn Lúðvík Björnsson and Högni Egilsson. She has recorded Beethoven Violin Concerto with the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra. Una has

played on recordings of Björk Guðmundsdóttir, Rammstein, Bonnie Prince Billy, Till Brönner, Ane Brun, Valgeir Sigurðsson and Mugison and collaborated with several other artists. She has been guest concertmaster in the Icelandic Opera, Trondheim Symfonieorkester and Klassische Philharmonie Bonn.

Una's first CD, Fyrramál, was released in 2007, and another one, including her compositions GLEFSUR will be recorded this fall.



**Tinna Þorsteinsdóttir**

Tinna Þorsteinsdóttir already has a remarkably broad experience in the world of new music for the piano and has premiered around 30 works especially written for her. Her performances include solo recitals at the Bergen Festival in 2006, two concerts at the Reykjavík Arts Festival in 2007, Autunno Musicale in Italy 2009 and recently at The Foundling Museum in London 2010. Tinna plays all the different styles of the piano repertoire, although the prepared piano, electronics and toy piano often show up on her programs.

Tinna graduated in 2000 from the Hochschule für Musik Detmold-Münster in Germany. In 2001 she received a Fulbright scholarship and a grant from the American-Scandinavian Foundation to start her studies at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston with Stephen Drury, where she completed her Graduate Diploma in 2003. She has taken courses with pianists such as Mme Yvonne Loriod-Messiaen, Pierre Réach, Håkon Austbø and Peter Hill.

**Svavar Knútur Kristinsson**

Svavar Knútur's performances have been widely praised, in both the Icelandic and the international press. The German edition of Rolling Stone noted Svavar's exceptional storytelling, charismatic stage presence and his "soft cotton, nordic folk reverie". Brisbane's Rave magazine also described the young troubadour as having "swoon-worthy vocals" complimenting the "beautiful simplicity and raw emotion of his songs". Influenced by such songwriters as Nick Drake, Kris Kristofferson and Bonnie "Prince" Billy, Svavar has developed his own style, mapping the journey from misery to redemption. Consistent touring through Europe and Australia in recent years, has contributed to a rapidly growing fan base. An established artist in Iceland, Svavar has performed with the Icelandic Symphonic orchestra and with some of Iceland's leading artists. Knútur's songwriting has captured international attention. In 2007, his song Astarsaga ur fjöllum (Love story from the mountains) propelled his band Hraun into the final 5 on BBC World Service's Next big thing competition, playing for millions of viewers and listeners all over the world. Svavar Knútur's debut solo album Kvöldvaka (songs by the fire) came out in 2009. It received rave reviews from the Icelandic music press.



**Retro Stefson**

Retro Stefson started out as a project in middle school in 2006 and has since then become Iceland's top live acts. They made their public debut at the 2006 Iceland Airwaves festival, then 14, 15 and 16 years old. Since then the band has played a big part in the Reykjavik and Iceland music scene, playing regularly all around the city. Their first record Montaña was released in Iceland in the autumn of 2008. They have sold over 2000 copies and have received thrilling reviews. They are recording their second album this spring. The band has toured intensely in Iceland over the last couple of years and their first single "Senseni" has been the party boomer all over the Island since its release. Retro Stefson is a pop band but not by any means a typical one. Retro Stefson's music has been described in multiple ways, the words surf, latin, jazz, afro and pop up most frequently - with the members hailing from various countries it's no wonder the influences are so many - but let's not get tangled up in genres. The main thing is that the music is fun, youthful and refreshing.



**Members:**

- Unnsteinn Manuel:** Guitar, vocals
- Logi Pedro:** Bass
- Þorbjörg:** Keyboard, percussion

**Ingvi:** Keyboards

- Haraldur Ari:** Percussion, vocals
- Þórður:** Guitar, vocals
- Gylfi:** Drums



**Host:**

**María Dalberg**

María Dalberg graduated with B.A. honors in Acting from Drama Centre London in 2008. Since then she has taken part in numerous theatrical productions in London and Reykjavík as well as acting in several short-films.