Co-rehearsal with young musicians

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Ringing bursts of laughter lend wings to the side-by-side rehearsal of the Minnesota Orchestra and Vivo, a Finnish symphony orchestra that consists of young musicians, as the orchestra musicians are having a rehearsal at the Sibelius Hall on Monday.

Conductor Osmo Vanska amuses players with the way he specifies the nuances of Dvořák’s Ninth Symphony, the piece they’re working on.

“It is good that the feeling at rehearsal is relaxed yet everybody takes things seriously,” says Anthony Ross, the principal cellist of the Minnesota Orchestra after the rehearsal.

It was easy to laugh also in that respect that the rehearsal was not for a performance. In his interview earlier last week, Osmo Vanska told that in the United States the orchestras rehearse a lot with young musicians and these exercises have been very well-liked.

Anthony Ross remembers how he himself joined the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s rehearsal when he was a student at about 16 years old. The cellist next to him left an unforgettable impression when he played every single note precisely at the right time.

Cellist Aino Siurula sat next to Ross. She says that playing amidst professionals is inspiring. Siurula studies music at Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences. “All the nuances are really clear: piano is piano, and forte is forte. You really have to be precise in your work.”

The stage of the Sibelius Hall was full to the brim with musicians. Violinist Pekka Kuusisto had also situated himself among the approximately 180 players in the back rows of the string section. Kuusisto plays as the soloist with the Minnesota Orchestra during its European tour.

Kuusisto emphasizes the significance of practicing, although he himself has already gained star status. “If I would not have practiced 12 hours a day at some point, I could not be so free to play folk music, for example,” Kuusisto says referring to his performance at the Proms that became an internet hit.

As if to be on the safe side and to really prove the strength of practicing he demonstrates his violin hand, of which fingers are about half a centimeter longer than in his right hand. They have stretched as a result of practicing.