

The Music of Queen with the Minnesota Orchestra and Rajaton

Jaakko Kuusisto, conductor

Rajaton, vocal ensemble

U.S. Bank Weekender Pops

Friday, October 17, 2008, 8 pm | Orchestra Hall
Saturday, October 18, 2008, 8 pm | Orchestra Hall

Brian May /arr. Jaakko Kuusisto	<i>We Will Rock You</i>
Freddie Mercury /arr. Kuusisto	<i>Killer Queen</i>
Roger Taylor /arr. Kuusisto	<i>A Kind of Magic</i>
Freddie Mercury /arr. Kuusisto	<i>Somebody to Love</i>
Freddie Mercury /arr. Kuusisto	<i>You Take My Breath Away</i>
Queen and David Bowie /arr. Hannu Lepola	<i>Under Pressure*</i>
Queen /arr. Kuusisto	<i>Innuendo</i>
Freddie Mercury /arr. Kuusisto	<i>I'm Going Slightly Mad</i>
Queen and Freddie Mercury /arr. Kuusisto	Medley: <i>It's A Beautiful Day • One Vision • You Don't Fool Me • Mustapha • Made In Heaven • We Are The Champions</i>

I N T E R M I S S I O N

ca. 20'

Freddie Mercury /arr. Kuusisto	<i>Jealousy</i>
Roger Taylor /arr. Kuusisto	<i>Radio Ga Ga</i>
John Deacon /arr. Kuusisto	<i>Another One Bites the Dust</i>
Queen /arr. Kuusisto	<i>I Want It All</i>

Freddie Mercury/arr. Jussi Chydenius

*Don't Stop Me Now**

Freddie Mercury/arr. Kuusisto

Love of My Life
Essi Wuorela, vocals; Jaakko Kuusisto, violin;
Thomas Linker, piano

Brian May/arr. Kuusisto

Who Wants to Live Forever

Queen/arr. Kuusisto

The Miracle

Freddie Mercury/arr. Kuusisto

Bicycle Race

Freddie Mercury and John Deacon/arr. Kuusisto

Friends Will Be Friends

Queen/arr. Kuusisto

The Show Must Go On

* These works are performed a cappella by Rajaton.

This program was originally produced by the Lahti Symphony Orchestra.



Rajaton

The name Rajaton—pronounced RAH-yaton, meaning “boundless” in Finnish—perfectly describes the a cappella group’s eclectic style, which draws on jazz, pop, classical, folk and spirituals, among other genres. The ensemble, founded in Helsinki in 1997, includes sopranos Essi Wuorela and Virpi Moskari, alto Soila Sariola, tenor Hannu Lepola, baritone Ahi Paunu and bass Jussi Chydenius. Rajaton debuted with the Minnesota Orchestra in 2006, performing the music of ABBA under Music Director Osmo Vänskä, and reprised the program at Symphony Ball 2008.

Rajaton tours worldwide, performing more than 100 concerts and workshops each year, and has collaborated with orchestras in its native Finland and across Europe and North America. Several of its recordings, including the Christmas-themed *Joulu*, have gone gold, platinum or double platinum. The newest disc, released this month, features the music of Queen performed with the Lahti Symphony Orchestra. For more information, visit rajaton.org.



Jaakko Kuusisto

Jaakko Kuusisto is one of Finland’s most versatile classical musicians, active as a

conductor, violinist and composer. He is principal guest conductor of the Oulu Symphony Orchestra, and since 1999 has been concertmaster of the Lahti Symphony Orchestra, where he conducts several programs each season. Kuusisto made his Minnesota Orchestra debut in 2004, performing Rautavaara’s Violin Concerto with Music Director Osmo Vänskä conducting. He arranged much of the music of Queen that will be heard at these performances.

Increasingly in demand as a guest conductor, Kuusisto has appeared with such ensembles as the BBC Concert Orchestra and Royal Flemish Philharmonic. As a violin soloist, he has performed with top ensembles in Europe and Australia, and has recorded numerous albums for the BIS label. He has composed works including the *Between Seasons* suite and the children’s opera *The Canine Kalevala*. For more information, visit harrisonparrott.com.