

# TUULIKKI BARTOSIK

## Innovative Nordic electroacoustica

From rural Estonia to a Welsh cave and the streets of Japan, Tuulikki Bartosik's music has taken her to plenty of places around the globe. Along the way, she's grown from playing traditional and classical music to being a relentless experimenter on the accordion.

As a composer, Bartosik's earned renown, starting with the tune "Tunturi," which was performed by the Estonian Folk Orchestra with the Konzerthausorchester Berlin, conducted by Kristjan Järvi, during Estonia's centennial celebration as well as her piece "Stormfågel" performed with Estonian State Symphony Orchestra – indications of the way her work is esteemed and continues to across three solo albums and numerous collaborations.

Bartosik spent her first few years in Võrumaa in the south of Estonia, until various circumstances led her to live in Tallinn, the country's capital. But other places were calling her: she moved first to Finland and later to Sweden. After a degree in classical music from Estonia, she became the first accordion student in the traditional music degree program of The Royal College of Music in Stockholm and has a MA in music from the renowned Sibelius Academy in Helsinki. These days she largely divides her time between Sweden and Estonia, a true Baltoscandic.

Her first real international success came in 2105 with *Chatterbox*, a duo CD with English accordi-onist and clog dancer, Hannah James. The album was created in the wildness of the Welsh coun-tryside, which inspired the spontaneous and unusual, like recording in a cave. It paid off; The *Daily Telegraph* selected *Chatterbox* as one of its best folk albums of the year, and the instinctive, natural music rapport between Bartosik and James made them a sought-after duo for festivals and touring.

That led to Bartosik's lauded solo debut, *Storied Sounds*, released the following year. Incorporat-ing field recordings of birdsong, murmuring rivers, abrasive seagull cries and the growl of the city, *Storied Sounds* created a vivid context for music that moves between the robust, joyous, and wist-ful, and found praise in outlets like *Songlines*, *Northern Sky*, *fRoots*, *Folker*, and *Jazzthetik*. As a sign of how much she'd achieved Bartosik was nominated for three years in a row in the Best Mu-sician and Best Album categories of the Estonian Music Awards. She also received an honorary award for promoting South Estonian traditions, followed by a Live and Shine grant from the Est-onian Culture Capital. In 2017 she accompanied the Estonian President, Kersti Kaljulaid, on her state visit to Finland for Finland's centennial celebration.

Bartosik's second solo release, *Tempest in A Teapot*, appeared in 2019. It was a great leap for-ward, an intensely personal release that took her accordion playing into new melodic territory. Still rooted in her Estonian homeland, it reached across the world, a travelogue that infused more adventure into the music to create something fresh and vibrant. The critics certainly agreed: *Songlines* made it a Top of the World pick, and it received rave reviews in country after country. Bartosik spent the beginning of 2020 at the Arvo Pärt Center, creating the digital EP, *Fýri*, and taking advantage of the opportunity to work wall by wall with the iconic Estonian composer, Arvo Pärt.

But the abrupt rise of the Covid pandemic put paid to all plans, closing performances and curtail-ing collaborations. But the cultural stillness also offers a chance for reflection and experimenta-tion. It gave Bartosik time to pursue experiments incorporating effects pedals and software with

her accordion, and to pursue more composing. The break in life that Covid caused helped her understand that she needed to focus on what was important to her, to keep contact with nature all around. All that became the inspiration for the piece "Robertsfors," which she recorded alone in a tiny container studio. In turn, it was the seed for the album *Playscapes* (2023), created with rising Estonian producer Sander Mölder and technical engineer Siim Mäesalu. It builds on the foundation of her previous work, weaving in sounds she recorded in places as far-flung as London, Helsinki and Tokyo to create impressionistic landscapes, brought alive by her contemporary work on the accordion and understanding of ways to manipulate the sounds she creates. In March 2023 Tuulikki released an [official music video](#) for the song Reval: Pettäsaamisluгу from her last album. Tuulikki is a chosen artist for [Keychange programme](#) in 2022 and her creative work is supported by [The Swedish Arts Grants Committee](#).

## DISCOGRAPHY

2023 ["Playscapes" solo album limited exclusive vinyl & digital release](#)  
2022 [single "London" digital release](#)  
2022 [single "Reval:Pettäsaamisluгу" digital release](#)  
2022 [single "Robertsfors" digital release](#)  
2021 [EP "Fýri" solo album \(ER001\)](#)  
2019 ["Tempest in a teapot" solo album \(PWM32; NN132\)](#)  
2016 [EP "Primary reception" solo \(Crónica\)](#)  
2016 ["Storied Sounds" solo album \(RBRC31; CDNN091\)](#)  
2015 "Upa-upa ubinakõnõ" (Võro Instituut 2015) with Mari Kalkun and Pastacas  
2015 "Chatterbox" (RBRC25) with Hannah James  
2014 [Estonian Folk Orchestra "Imemaa/Wonderland" \(EFO001\)](#)  
2006 "Gubbdrag" (TUEMCD1) with Emma Reid

## MEDIA LINKS

Homepage [www.tuulikkibartosik.com](http://www.tuulikkibartosik.com)  
Bandcamp <https://tuulikkibartosik.bandcamp.com>  
Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/tuulikkibartosik>  
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bartosiktuulikki/>  
Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/tuulikkibartosik/>  
Spotify <https://spoti.fi/2THjNs7>  
Soundcloud [https://soundcloud.com/tuulikki\\_bartosik](https://soundcloud.com/tuulikki_bartosik)

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