

# iiro rantala

## my finnish calendar

ACT



**iilo rantala  
my finnish calendar**

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- 01 January 4:03
- 02 February 4:17
- 03 March 3:27
- 04 April 3:33
- 05 May 4:55
- 06 June 3:58
- 07 July 4:21
- 08 August 3:14
- 09 September 5:33
- 10 October 3:56
- 11 November 4:14
- 12 December 4:03

Music composed by Iiro Rantala

Backing tracks recorded by Mikko Renfors

Iiro Rantala / piano

Produced by Siggi Loch

Recorded by Klaus Scheuermann at the ACT Art Collection Berlin, November 30, 2018

Mixed and mastered by Klaus Scheuermann

Iiro Rantala played on the "Alfred Brendel" Steinway D-524780, tuned by Thomas Hübsch

Cover art by Mimmo Paladino, used with the kind permission of the artist

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Photos by Aleksi Hornborg

## **My Finnish Calendar**

### **Liner notes by Iiro Rantala**

#### **January**

Month of regret. Finns regret that they spent too much money on Christmas, ate too much and definitely drank too much on Christmas and New Year. Many Finns are cleaning their system and have an alcohol-free month of January. That doesn't make them happier people.

#### **February**

When the snow arrives the Finns are at their best. All kinds of snow activities make them happy. Skiing, skating, making snowmen. The real pros have their alcohol-free month in February, because it's the shortest month.

#### **March**

Finns are bored with the winter. It's been cold and dark for some time now. Many birthdays in March, though. These are the ones who have been conceived during the white nights of June. In March the Finns are dreaming of a trip to Paris, where spring is already happening.



## April

April is a paradox. Increasing light and temperature ought to make Finns happy but there's a peak in the suicide statistics every year in April. Maybe it's the light which makes the Finns want to end their days. If you have a Finnish friend please give him/her a call in April and ask how they're doing. That could make a difference.

## May

A summer planning month. The summer is short and needs to be planned well. Finns love to go to the summer music festivals. Middle-aged Finns are trying to find their favorite artists from their youth but unfortunately they are already either dead or in rehab. But middle-aged Finns buy a ticket anyway. They find themselves digging some 20-year-old Norwegian millionaire EDM-artist who doesn't even play anything. He's performing with a lap top, right hand fist in the air.

## June

June is called *Kesäkuu* in Finnish. *Kesä* is a summer and *kuu* is a month. But it isn't. Because of climate change, June is actually very cold and uber rainy. The kids start their summer break and demand constant entertainment. Parents are working until the end of June and try to cope with the situation. Swimming in cold water, cabin life, rain that never stops. Everybody tries to book a short trip to Greece but they are sold out. June is a month of fake happiness.



### **July**

In July Finland is closed. Everybody has to have their summer vacation in July. Nothing moves in the cities because Finns love their summer cabins with the sauna by the lake and they prefer to be there either alone or with the family. Its easier to get sex from a Finn than an invitation to the cabin, the holy place.

### **August**

The best summer weather is actually in August. But in Scandinavia the kids have to return to school and the parents to the office. That is creating a vibe called "The Swedish mood". It means that at first sight, everything looks *jättebra* but when you start digging a little bit, all the shit is starting to come out. Never start digging into the lives of Swedes. You'll never know what kind of darkness you'll run into.

### **September**

Even the Finns get a little bit romantic in September. Nature is extremely beautiful, the trees are dropping their leaves and everything seems to be dying. Maybe this encourages the Finns to find romance, which may lead to a new life. A little storm is possible in September too.



## October

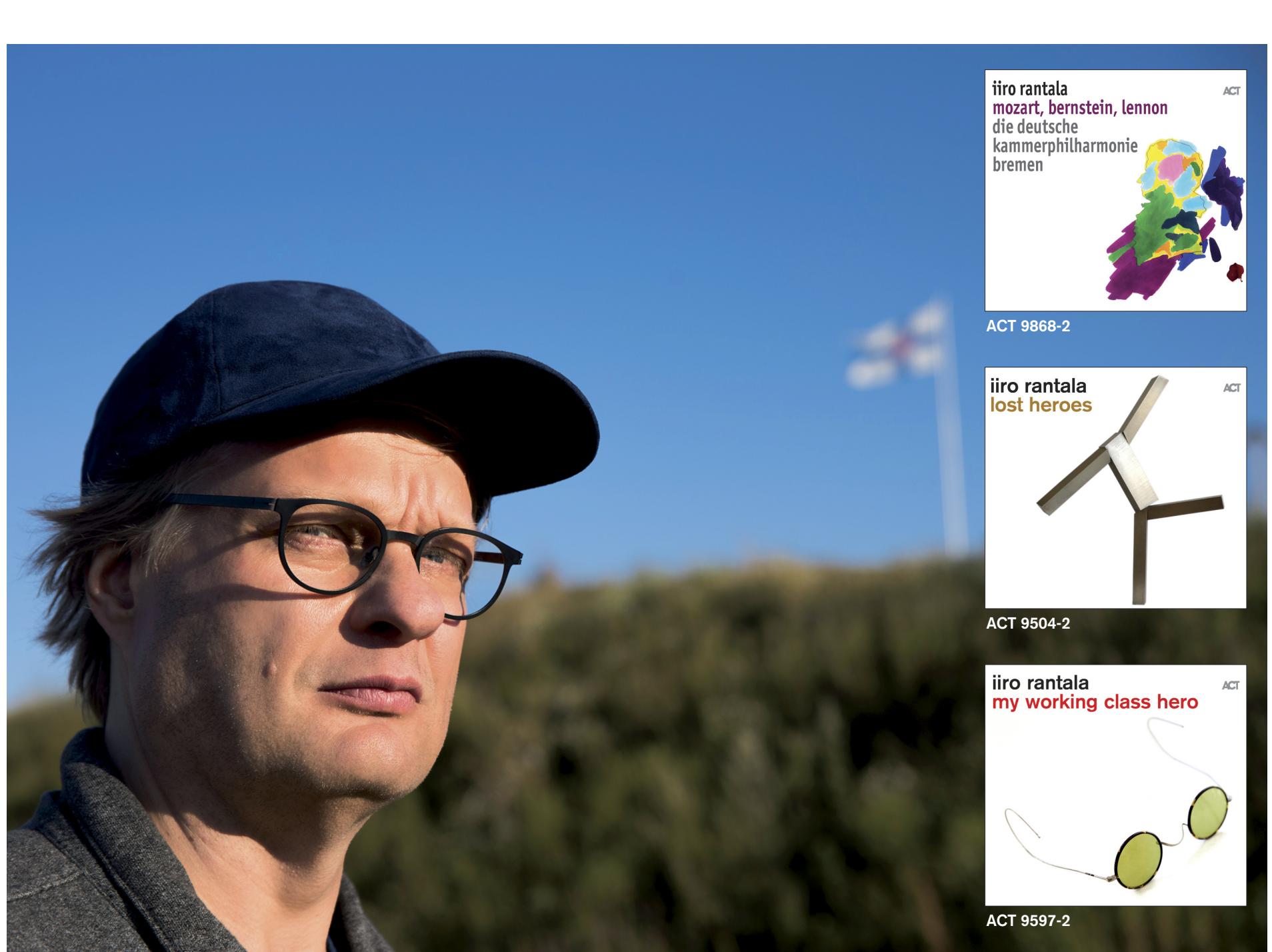
The energy is rising. Finns are gaining power in order to survive the winter. A big autumn storm is likely to happen in October.

## November

November is highly appreciated. Darkness fits the Finnish mentality extremely well. Nobody is even pretending to be in a good mood and every second Finn is suffering from a darkness depression. Many Finns find great beauty and solitude in the darkness, and hide in it.

## December

Everything that makes January the month of regret is built up in December. The Finns are hard-working and pedantic people. They want to complete all their work projects in December like there would be no next year. At the same time they are trying to organize anamazing Christmas for their families. There's a lot of pressure at Christmas time, since Finland is known as the capital of Christmas. Santa Claus is from Finland and that's a fact, no matter what the Swedes and Russians claim! In December the Finns are like a little mouse on a wheel. It cannot jump out. It keeps running and running and in the end it's totally exhausted.



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