



# Kaustinen Fiddle Playing and related practices and expressions

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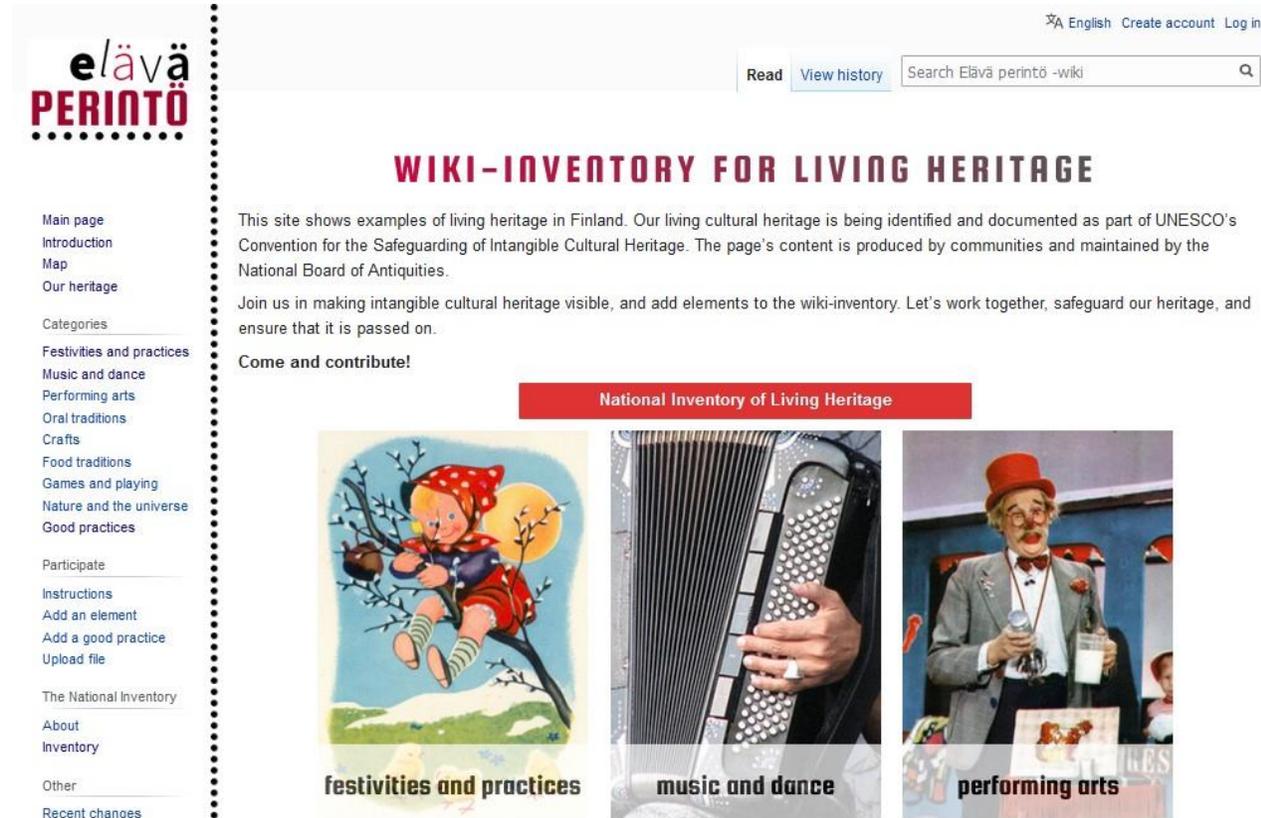
# Unesco ICH Convention in Finland

- Finland ratified Unesco ICH Convention 2013
- National Heritage Agency responsible for implementation
- First elements in Unesco ICH representative list:
  - Sauna tradition 2020
  - Kaustinen Fiddle Playing 2021
  - Nordic Clinker Boat Tradition 2021 (5 Nordic countries)
- First accredited NGO's:
  - Finnish Folk Music Institute 2018
  - Finnish Crafts Organization Taito 2020



# ”Unesco-route” in Finland

- Living heritage Wiki inventory, 200+ elements currently
- National inventory, application process every 2 years for elements in Wiki inventory, currently 64 elements
- application process for elements in National inventory for Finnish nomination for Unesco list : first time 2018, next time?



The screenshot shows the website for 'Elävä Perintö' (Living Heritage). The header includes the logo 'elävä PERINTÖ' and navigation links for 'Main page', 'Introduction', 'Map', 'Our heritage', 'Categories', 'Participate', 'Instructions', 'The National Inventory', 'About Inventory', 'Other', and 'Recent changes'. The main content area features a search bar, a 'Read' button, and a 'View history' button. Below this is the title 'WIKI-INVENTORY FOR LIVING HERITAGE' and a paragraph explaining the site's purpose: 'This site shows examples of living heritage in Finland. Our living cultural heritage is being identified and documented as part of UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The page's content is produced by communities and maintained by the National Board of Antiquities.' A call to action reads: 'Join us in making intangible cultural heritage visible, and add elements to the wiki-inventory. Let's work together, safeguard our heritage, and ensure that it is passed on.' Below this is a red banner for 'National Inventory of Living Heritage' and three image thumbnails: 'festivities and practices' (a child in a red hat), 'music and dance' (a hand playing a stringed instrument), and 'performing arts' (a man in a top hat).

# Kaustinen Fiddle Playing history in one slide

- part of Scandinavian fiddle-led traditions since 18th century
- partly originates in central European court dance tunes, which peasants modified into their own
- Kaustinen famous for its music and players already in 19th century
- much of the music was wedding music
- in 20th century folk music traditions were vanishing, Kaustinen as an exception
- Konsta Jylhä's popularity and Kaustinen Folk Music Festival 1968 started a revival



Kaustinen Folk Music Festival 1970

# Elements of Kaustinen Fiddle Playing

- the (living!) repertoire of tunes
- typical instrumentation
- typical stylistic and technical traits

= recognizable "Kaustinen music"

- kantele tradition
- dance tradition
- costumes, instrument building



The "Finnish national instrument"  
kantele played on local style

"Purppuri" wedding dance



# Kaustinen Fiddle Playing today

- 200-? players and 200-? dancers in a municipality of 4300 and the neighbouring municipalities; dozens of groups, hundreds participating in organising events etc.
- tradition as a part of everyday life: private and public festivities and celebrations, concerts, group rehearsals, playing privately, playing at public at a café or a restaurant...



"Our own Kaustinen boys came to play us lunch time live music". A video clip on local gas station Facebook feed.

# Key factors in keeping Kaustinen tradition viable

- early awareness of changing contexts of the tradition, safeguarding "before it is too late"
- Kaustinen Folk Music Festival
- establishing Kaustinen as the "capital of Finnish Folk Music", creating institutions in 1970's-1990's
- Näppäri pedagogy since 1980's
- flexible attitudes towards renewal, change and crossing genre borders; a balance between conserving old and creating new



The great "Näppäri" concert with 200-400 children on stage together is one of Kaustinen Folk Music Festival's yearly highlights

# Additional information

- basic information: [www.kaustinenfiddleplaying.fi](http://www.kaustinenfiddleplaying.fi)
- Wiki inventory presentation: [https://wiki.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/wiki/Kaustinen\\_fiddle\\_playing](https://wiki.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/wiki/Kaustinen_fiddle_playing)
- Unesco list nomination: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/kaustinen-fiddle-playing-and-related-practices-and-expressions-01683>
- Unesco nomination video: <https://youtu.be/Jpg2MBKZjqs>
- Finnish Folk Music Institute: <https://kansanmusiikki-instituutti.fi/en/>
- Finnish Heritage Agency ICH pages: <https://www.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/en/>

Thank you!

