



TAMPERE MAJA - CULTURE AND INFORMATION CENTRE IN TARTU

Tampere Maja in Tartu is the City of Tampere's centre of culture, information and guest house, situated at Jaani 4, just 100 metres from the University at the heart of the historic city.



The building itself dates partly from the 18th century, though most of it consists of a log house built in the 19th century and modernized and taken into use in September 1997. The name of the house itself has its own nuance: Tampere Talo (Tampere Hall) in Tampere means the largest congress and concert centre in Scandinavia. So Tampere Maja (Tampere Cottage) can be seen as a smaller version of it in Tartu.

Tampere Maja has two double rooms for accommodation, a sauna, a meeting room and an exhibition and multipurpose hall, which all can be hired. Besides, there are two lodgings for students from Tampere who study at Tartu University, a travel agency and some business premises.

Tampere Maja is part of the wide twin town cooperation between the cities of Tampere and Tartu, which started directly after the regained independence of Estonia. The cooperation is moving from mainly concrete material assistance to more reciprocal activities, not only in the sphere of culture. In addition to the official forms of cooperation, joint

activities between different citizen organizations and even friendship relations between families are increasing more and more.

The first weeks of use have shown the necessity of Tampere Maja. The accommodation capacity has been almost fully booked, the meeting room and other premises have been in frequent use and the student lodgers have settled down. The staff of the house looks forward to the future with confidence.

The existence of Tampere Maja is proof of the established twin town relations between the cities of Tampere and Tartu, which will only be strengthened by the activities of the house.

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VILJANDI FOLK MUSIC FESTIVALS

The Folk Music Festival is one of the largest and most visited cultural events in Viljandi that has already taken place every July since 1993. This folk music party lasts for three days and nights in the ruins of Viljandi Order Castle and at many cosy places in the old town. It is one of the summer top events which always turns out to be merry and popular.

In 1993, on the initiative of young folk musicians, a company of young folk musicians was founded as well, and its aim was to introduce folk music to young people at seminars, concerts, festivals and camp sites.

People dealing with folk music all over

Estonia come to this Folk Music Festival. Within the years the festival has gradually become international - in 1996 102 performers from eight foreign countries participated in the festivities in addition to our own musicians. All in all the folk musicians from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Belgium, Ireland, Hungary, Germany, Spain, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia have taken part in the festival.

Besides the concerts during the festival days, anyone can take an instrument in hand at beer yards or somewhere else and play alone or together with friends, paint in the open air, drink beer, etc. At the market of

musical instruments one can buy and sell or just let the instruments be repaired. At the same time folk music workshops are arranged, the most popular being Irish, Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish folk music.

The organizer of the festival is "Viljandi Folk Music Festival" with Ando Kiviberg, Marek Rätsep, and Ants Johanson. All young and talented folk musicians all over Estonia and elsewhere in the world are invited to the festivals.

Viljandi Folk Music Festival has been supported by Estonian Fund for Culture, Viljandi Town Government, Union of Viljandi Local Municipalities and Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia. The next festival will be arranged on July 25 - 26, 1998.