

RAJATON sings ABBA with LAHTI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

This phenomenal album was released in Finland on Nov. 1st by PLASTINKA RECORDS, and it went straight to the top of the Finnish album chart, selling gold in less than a week. The record is now released also in Canada, Sweden and Germany, and new licensing/distribution partners will be met in January in MIDEM. The success of the album shows that there is always a demand for the unforgettable songs of ABBA– especially when they are performed with this amount of touching exellency and musical efficiency.

Best of both worlds

Vocal ensemble Rajaton and Lahti Symphony Orchestra joined their forces in 2004 to recreate enriched versions of legendary ABBA hits. The resulting concert program “Thank You For The Music” has been performed in several sold out concerts in Finland and the USA, and more concerts are now scheduled for 2007 and 2008. The recording session was conducted by Jaakko Kuusisto and backed up by producer Leri Leskinen’s rhythm section. The pop-style production method made the original Abba beat kick throughout the record overcoming the ponderous quality that often burdens orchestral pop efforts. The album also includes three songs *a cappella* performed with only Rajaton’s voices as instruments. This album can be already described as timeless piece of music - all artists and musicians are ranked as international top, and the result serves right to Finnish musicianship as well as to the unforgettable hits of ABBA written by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus.

Rajaton

This is the seventh record by *a cappella* sextet Rajaton [pronounced *rah-yah-ton*], which has performed in 20 countries and sold nearly 200.000 albums since going professional in 2000. The six great voices of Rajaton provide a unique fusion of pop and world music with classical influences, bringing *a cappella* to a widening audience. Besides performing music composed by the group members, Rajaton continuously receives commissioned pieces from top Finnish and international composers. The group is distinguished by brilliance and ensemble virtuosity coupled with true warmth and richness of sound that can only be described as boundless (rajaton).

Lahti Symphony Orchestra

Over the past two decades, the Lahti Symphony Orchestra – under the direction of its chief conductor, Osmo Vänskä – has emerged as one of the most highly regarded orchestras in the world. It made its first major tour of Japan in 1999, prompting Japanese critics to name it as the best foreign orchestra to perform in Japan that year. Sibelius’ *Kullervo*, which the orchestra performed in Tokyo, was voted by Japanese critics as the best classical performance of 2003 in Japan, and in 2006 the American Classical Public Radio Network (CPRN) selected the Lahti Symphony Orchestra as one of the 30 greatest orchestras in the world.

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Audio and video samples in www.plastinka.fi