

Press release

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## Accordionist Antti Paalanen Blends Genres and Brings People Together in Finland's Eurovision Selection with "Takatukka"



Photo: Miska Voinoff / Yle

Finnish accordionist and throat singer **Antti Paalanen**, who blends elements of folk music, techno, and rock, attends **Uuden musiikin kilpailu** (Finland's national selection for the Eurovision Song Contest) with his song "**Takatukka**."

Paalanen wants his song to bring joy and love into the world.

"The message of the "Takatukka" ("Mullet") somehow found my own youth and inner child," Paalanen reflects. "When I was young, I was a huge hair metal fan and got my first perm for my mullet already at the age of 12. There's a lot of depth in the lyrics – it really makes the soul bubble."

Antti Paalanen's fate as a wild accordionist was sealed by a happy accident: as a young man, he walked into a music store dreaming of an electric guitar, but his attention was captured by a beautiful, intriguing accordion. There was no turning back. For years now, Paalanen has been captivating live audiences around the world.

In recent months, Antti Paalanen has risen to massive popularity as a social media phenomenon through his original accordion covers of songs by artists such as Avicii and Rammstein. Altogether, the "*Antti's School of Accordion*" videos have amassed over 10 million views in just two months. The most popular clip is "**How Much Is The Fish?**", in which he reinterprets the Breton folk tune made famous by Scooter.

Antti Paalanen's musical brew has evolved organically. As a child, he was equally fascinated by local folk music heritage and by bands that hit his consciousness via MusicTV, such as Twisted Sister, W.A.S.P., and AC/DC. Next Antti immersed himself in folk music studies at the Sibelius Academy. During his doctoral studies, he composed new music for the diatonic accordion.

Along the way, he also adopted throat singing based on Mongolian traditions, a technique he uses in his deep, growling vocals. This recipe has already produced four solo albums, the latest being *Rujo* (2019), as well as numerous releases with various ensembles.

On tour, Antti has performed across Europe, North America, Hong Kong, and Japan. In France in particular, he now appears on festival main stages. On stage, Antti's one-man band creates a massive, pulsating combination of bass, harmony, melody, and beat. More often than not, his shows end with audiences left in a trance, singing Paalanen's hypnotic songs long after the playing has stopped.

Now, it's the audience's turn to sing "**Takatukka**".

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**ANTTI PAALANEN: *Takatukka***

Rockadillo Records

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EAN: 1998065892120

Music: Heidi Maria Paalanen, Saara Törmä, Lauri Halavaara, Antti Paalanen

Lyrics: Heidi Maria Paalanen, Saara Törmä

Production: Lauri Halavaara

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