**PRESS RELEASE November 18, 2014**

**RUSK** – **Chamber music in Jakobstad** will be held on November 26–29, 2014. The theme of this year’s festival is “Networks” and the main venue is the Schauman Hall at Campus Allegro. The composer-in-residence for 2014 is **Daníel Bjarnason**, who comes from Iceland and whose career is really taking off in the United States; the New York Philharmonic, for example, is to perform his *Bow to String* one week before RUSK.

The partnership with Iceland will further include a simulcast concert streamed to both Finland and Iceland: in Reykjavik, **Kristín Þóra Haraldsdóttir** (viola) will perform new Icelandic music with the **Errata Collective**, while at the same time the closing concert of the RUSK festival will be held in Jakobstad. This concert will include remix music and electronic improvisations. The audience, in a club-like milieu, will be able to hear and see works being performed at both concert venues, projected onto a big screen.

“What is recreative in a three-dimensional network that challenges our linear way of examining a trend,” ask the festival’s Artistic Directors **Christoffer Sundqvist** and **Sebastian Fagerlund**.

What is the role of classical music today? Is the traditional genre classification still relevant?

The repertoire for the festival will to some extent seek to answer these questions. The sofa discussion on Saturday will address the same topic. There will also be a discussion on the theme *The Internet – social media – management – human contacts in a changing world*.

Taking part in the festival will be **Pekka Kuusisto** and **Cecilia Zilliacus** (violin), **Lise Berthaud** (BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist, viola), **Senja Rummukainen** (winner of the 2014 Turku Cello Concerto) and **Marjukka Puutio** (cello), **Niek de Groot** (double bass), **Bram van Sambeek** (bassoon), **Hervé Joulain** (French horn), **Oliver Triendl** (piano), **Albert Braun** (visual artist), and educational training teachers and students at Campus Allegro.

On Saturday, the Jakobstad Concert Society will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. Appearing at the jubilee concert will be the **Jakobstad**-**Pietarsaari Sinfonietta** conducted by **Anna-Maria Helsing**.

The chief organiser of the RUSK festival is the Pietarsaari-Jakobstad Sinfonietta in collaboration with the Ostrobothnian and Novia Universities of Applied Sciences.

*The musical world stands on the brink of sweeping change. Come and take part in the change, at RUSK!*