



The inner fire is the most important thing mankind possesses. ---Edith Södergran

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Edith Södergrans modern poems innovated the future of Baltic Sea and Finland

Maria Lindqvist, PhD

Ruisrock at the Baltic Sea

Founded in 1970, Ruisrock is one of Europe's longest-running annual rock festivals, offering a unique weekend experience on the scenic island of Ruissalo in Turku, Finland. Combining international stars, top Finnish acts, high-quality food and drink, and a wealth of surprises and unforgettable moments each year, Ruisrock has become a cornerstone of Finland's summer cultural scene.

The 2026 edition of Ruisrock upholds its legacy of boundary-pushing programming, presenting an impressive lineup that ranges from pop and rock to indie, electronic, and hip hop. The festival's expansive grounds feature stages hidden in forest clearings and a legendary main stage set directly on the sandy shore. This coastal backdrop creates a rare festival atmosphere, where visitors can listen to live music while wading in the Baltic Sea or lounging on the beach beneath the midnight sun.

The inaugural Ruisrock took place over three days on the island of Ruissalo in Turku, from 21 to 23 August 1970. As the newspaper Helsingin Sanomat reported, "the most popular performer on the final day of the festival was Konsta Jylhä."

At the time, radio offered young people only a modest selection of music. You would sit next to your cassette recorder, finger poised on the 'Record' button, waiting for the youth charity music programme Nuorten sävellahja 22001, which aired every Saturday from four to five, or for Lista on Sunday afternoons, a 45-minute show featuring the audience's most voted-for songs.

A determined group of students persuaded the organisers of the Turku Music Festival that younger audiences needed their own pop and rock event. They argued that Finland's first rock festival should take place at the scenic Saaronniemi campsite on the island of Ruissalo. Thus, alongside the Turku Music Festival, the Turku International Pop & Rock Festival was born – the event that would later become known as Ruisrock.



Over the last five decades, Ruisrock's ticket prices have shifted from a nominal equivalent of a few euros in 1970 to over €200 for a weekend pass by 2026. The evolution reflects the transition from a modest 1970s pop-rock gathering into a massive, multi-day, commercially produced, international

1970–1980s: The Early Years

At the inaugural "Turku International Pop & Rock Festival" in 1970, a **3-day ticket** cost 16 Finnish marks (the equivalent of roughly €8–€25 in today's inflation-adjusted value). By 1989, a two-day weekend pass had reached 180 marks.

1990s–2000s: The Euro Transition

In 1991, a two-day pass was 240 marks (about €71). As the festival expanded and the euro was adopted, weekend tickets climbed steadily, crossing the €100 mark in the early 2000s and pushing steadily toward €150 by the 2010s

2010s–2024: Major Price Hikes

Between 2015 and 2024, inflation, production costs, and the booking of massive international headliners drove prices up significantly.

2025–2026: Pricing Plateau and Reversal

In 2025 and 2026, a "pain threshold" for festival-goers was reached, with tightening household economies forcing a strategic change in pricing.

Hangöregatta The story of the Hangö Regatta dates back to the 19th century. Hanko was no random choice for a major sailing event; its location is roughly midway between Helsinki and Turku. Traditionally, people from these two cities have competed fiercely and passionately against each other in all kinds of sports – and sailing was no exception.

Seeing an opportunity in this rivalry, Hanko station inspector C. Appelgren proposed Hanko as a meeting place to the then commodores of NJK and ASS, Baron Schulten and merchant Nordfors. The first encounter between Turku and Helsinki on the waters off Hanko took place in the summer of 1879.

The Hanko Sailing Club serves as the main organiser, with the Nyland Yacht Club previously acting as a co-organiser and, in more recent years, Hangöudd Sailing Club and Ekenäs Sailing Club sharing that role. Participating boats are berthed in the Eastern Harbour and, during the regatta, race across five different course areas.

In the past few years, the event has drawn around 300 boats, from dinghies to keelboats competing in both inshore and offshore races. Today, the largest classes include Six Metre, Folkboat, Laser and Optimist. The regatta is held on the first or second weekend of July, with races on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The unwanted “regatta tail” of partying and disorderly non-sailors has been a recurring subject in the press.

The scoop of the day

The latest updates

Alfons Håkans to become the new main partner of the classic Hangö Regatta

The specialised shipping company Alfons Håkans, active in the northern Baltic Sea and offering services such as port assistance, towing, icebreaking and salvage support for commercial vessels, has entered into a five-year cooperation agreement with Hanko Sailing Club (Hangö Segelförening r.f.).

The collaboration covers title partnership for the Hangö Regatta and other racing events, as well as efforts to promote and develop the sport of sailing in Hanko.

For nearly eighty years, Alfons Håkans has operated as a family-owned maritime company. As Hanko is one of its key bases, the company now seeks to build closer ties with recreational boaters and competitive sailors through this new partnership.





Baltic Jazz

Baltic Jazz is a jazz festival held every July in Taalintehdas on Kimito Island. Launched in 1987 as a small local happening, it has since evolved into one of Finland's major jazz festivals. It forms part of the Archipelago Sea Jazz series, which also includes Korpo Sea Jazz, Turku Sea Jazz and Åland Sea Jazz. Since 1999, the event has been organised by Intresseförening för jazzmusik i Dalsbruk rf.

In 2008, Baltic Jazz drew approximately 10,000 visitors.

The festival places a special emphasis on musicians from around the Baltic Sea. Most performers have come from Finland, Sweden, the Baltic states and Russia. Antti Sarpila has served as artistic director since the early 2000s.

Baltic Jazz is an archipelago festival accessible both by car and by boat, with more than 20 concerts taking place over the Baltic Jazz weekend.

3–5 July 2026

Baltic Jazz is a charming, family-friendly festival set in the historic ironworks surroundings of Taalintehdas on Kimito Island. Various strands of classic jazz and swing flow effortlessly together with other jazz styles. The programme features both world-class international ensembles and notable local acts.

23–25 July 2026

Korpo Sea Jazz is a daring, contemporary and at times experimental jazz festival, built around leading names in Finnish jazz today. This intimate archipelago event invites you to leave the city behind and immerse yourself in the beauty of the Archipelago Sea. Here, the audience is pampered by both the music and the sun.

29 July–1 August 2026

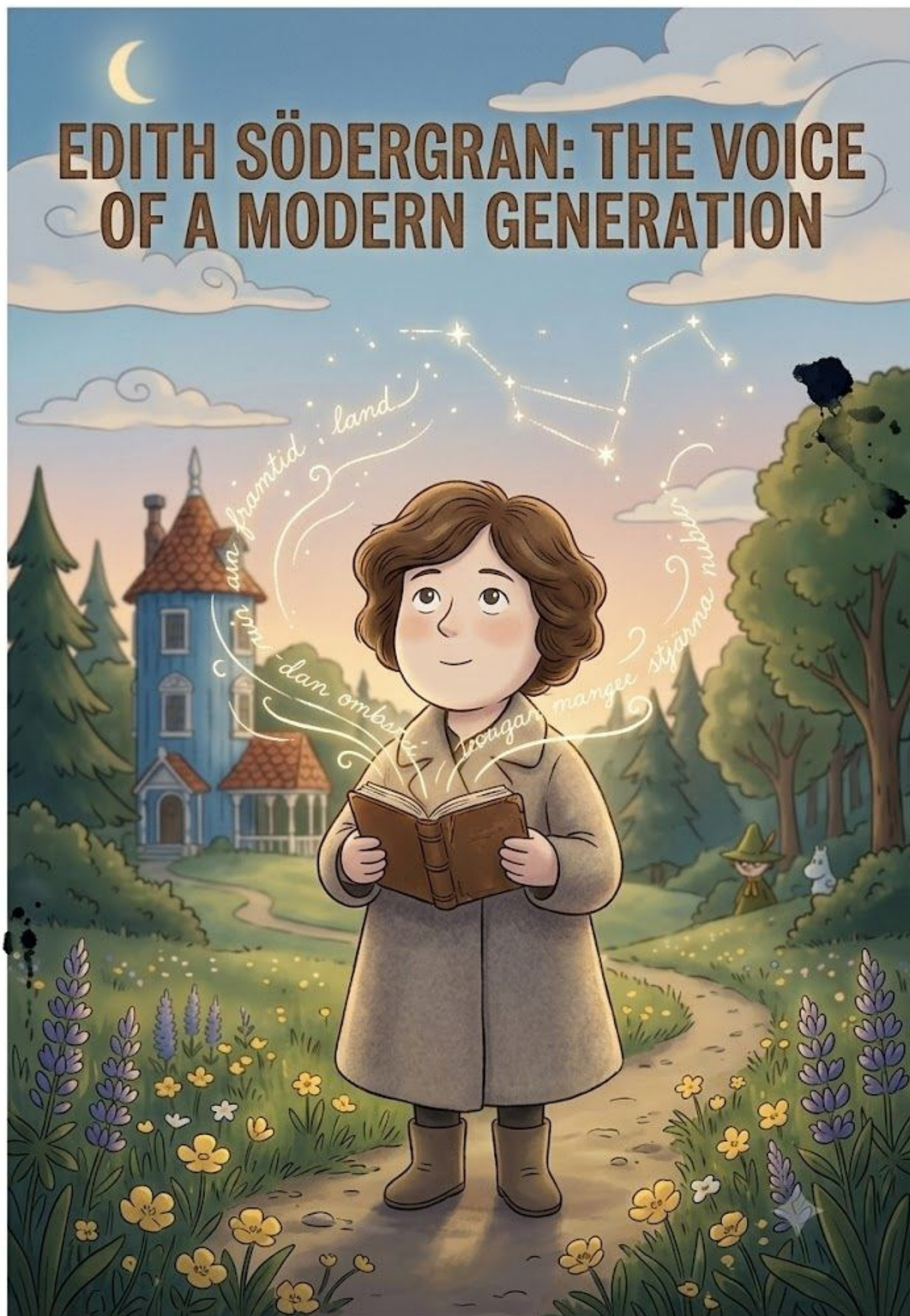
Turku Sea Jazz is a fresh urban festival that brings audiences to the banks of the Aura River to enjoy international jazz stars, top Finnish line-ups and a carefully curated culinary offering. It is youthful and outward-looking, reaching toward the archipelago. It is rooted in Turku, yet it reaches toward the wider world.

21–23 August 2026

Åland Sea Jazz is a high-quality Scandinavian boutique festival in Mariehamn, serving up first-rate Nordic jazz in a delightful maritime setting. It is intimate and atmospheric. It may be small, but it is truly grand in spirit.



EDITH SÖDERGRAN: THE VOICE OF A MODERN GENERATION



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