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Minna Canth (1844 –1897) was a Finnish writer and social activist who fought tirelessly for the equality of the poor, women and girls' rights. She was the first Finnish-language newspaper writer woman, a major opinion-maker and mediator of European ideas. Her birthday (19.3.) is marked every year as a celebration of social equality throughout Finland.



Jean Sibelius (1865 –1957) was a Finnish composer and violinist of the late Romantic and early-modern periods. He is widely recognized as Finland's greatest composer and, through his music, he is often credited with having helped the country to develop a national identity during its struggle for independence from Russia. His "Finlandia" hymn is now considered the unofficial national anthem of Finland.



Tove Jansson (1914 –2001) was a Finnish author, novelist, painter, illustrator and comic strip author. During the 1930s she studied in Stockholm, Helsinki and Paris and made several trips to other European countries. She drew from these for her short stories and articles, which she also illustrated, and which were also published in magazines and newspapers. During this period, Jansson also designed many book covers and postcards. She is principally known as the author of the Moomin books. She created the beloved mythical creatures in reaction to the anguish of war.



Martti Ahtisaari (1937-) is a Finnish politician, the tenth president of Finland (1994-2000), a Nobel Peace Prize laureate (2008), and a United Nations diplomat and mediator noted for his international peace work. He was the president of Finland when Finland joined the European Union (1995) and he strongly supported Finland's entry into the EU.

Source: Wikipedia