



IHME
CONTEMPORARY
ART FESTIVAL

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The eighth IHME festival reached over 25 000 people

"Don't let them off, let them play all year!"

Tram passenger speaking about the performers on the Tram Buskers' Tour

This spring's IHME Contemporary Art Festival reached over 25 000 people. More than 30 musicians took part in the festival's commissioned work *Tram Buskers' Tour*. They played on all of Helsinki's ten tram lines over the course of four days, producing over 300 hours of music in total. The performances by the street musicians, who were invited to Helsinki by artist **Kateřina ředá**, surprised altogether 24 000 tram passengers in the middle of their everyday journeys. Discussions that expanded on the themes of this piece continued in Helsinki's Old Student House during IHME Days debate sessions on 1–3 April. About 1 400 people took part in this event.

A total of nearly 600 pupils and teachers – 26 classes from 17 schools from different parts of Helsinki – travelled on a specially chartered tram. A total of almost 800 young people, students and teachers took part in the festival's IHME School education projects.

IHME Contemporary Art Festival would like to thank the audience, Helsinki City Transport, Helsinki Regional Transport Authority and our other partners. Electronic Festival publication will be released in autumn 2016, and the next IHME Festival will be held in March/April 2017. [You can get a taste of the atmosphere on the trams by watching this clip on IHME's YouTube channel >](#)

Tram Buskers' Tour gets a joyful reception

By and large, the commissioned work Tram Buskers' Tour was joyfully received by tram passengers.

"We got a lot of positive feedback about the event, especially through social media. There was virtually no negative feedback, which was surprising given the scope of the event", said Helsinki Regional Transport Authority's Director of Communications and Marketing **Mari Flink**. [More audience feedback from the event can be viewed here >](#)

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Press material and photographs can be accessed here: www.ihmefestival.fi > [for the media](#) (password: ihme)

IHME

Each year, IHME produces a work in public space by an international artist. The public is able to witness the initial stages of this unique creation. The artwork and the interpretations it evokes encourage independent thought and discussion. Art and science, past and present, meet in a multi-faceted programme of events. IHME is open to everyone who is interested in life and contemporary art.

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