

RIFFARRICA

It's riffs and ancient folk songs - powerful riff folk
from Estonia!



info@riffarrica.ee

<http://riffarrica.ee/en>

+372 5167730

RIFFARRICA (formerly known as Duo Malva & Priks)

started in 2016. Kulno Malva and Kristjan Priks, both experienced folk musicians, joined forces to make vigorous and masculine folk music, drawing inspiration from centuries-old Estonian folk tale songs.

The combination of Kulno's rasping vocals and dynamic accordion grooves - alongside the sound of Kristjan's distinctive drum set - gave birth to a fresh and exciting sound: **"Folk with muscle"**, as Baltic Music News so accurately named it.



Band is
seeking for
cultural contacts
between
Estonia and
your country.

Let's play in your
town!

RIFFARRICA

[rif 'arrika]

Kulno Malva → accordion, Estonian bagpipe, vocals

Kristjan Priks → drums, vocals

Sten Arvi → sound engineer

The music is loud, sounding more like a rock concert than a traditional folk gig; it's more suited to venue stages and bigger rooms than small cafes, to give standing audiences a chance to move to the music.

The name

RIFFARRICA first comes up in The Cosmography of Aethicus Ister from 8th century. Lennart Meri uses the name in his book Hõbevalge, when referring to the northern coast of ancient Estonia.

For us, it's a symbol of ancient Estonia and a perfect combination of riffs and arrangements of Estonian traditional folk songs.

Songs

Riffarrica sing in the archaic language of Estonian folk songs (regilaul) that sounds like an encoded secret language. Sometimes tricky to grasp even for Estonians, this makes them all the more exciting to listen to.



Keeping all that in mind, it's no wonder that the song themes are a bit out of ordinary compared to the songs usually played on radio nowadays. For example:

- **Härg (Ox)** is a bloody song about killing an ox.
- **Tõbine naine (Sickly Woman)** is a cautionary tale for men – if you marry a young woman, then bear in mind that she'll start swelling at the waist soon!



Reviews

“Accordion, vocals and percussion create a sound that you’d never associate with just two musicians – with a little help from some electronic gadgets, the accordion starts to screech like a hard rock guitar or obtains a tonal ambience as rich as that of a grand piano. It helps to emphasise the strong groove which is an unmistakable trademark of the duo.”

Dani Heyvaert, Rootstime

“A massive sound avalanche, combining the intensity of punk and the melodious nature of post-metal, is achieved just by the alliance of drums and accordion... I don’t really think anything based on an accordion has ever sounded like that before.”

Margus Haav, Postimees

Albums



Released in March 2019

“Riffarrica”



Released in 2017

EP “Mässiv”

In early March 2019 Riffarrica presented their new album in concert, alongside legendary Estonian metal band Metsatöll.

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See more

Press reviews: <http://riffarrica.ee/en/press/>

Concert teaser: <http://bit.ly/2019-teaser>

Spotify: <http://bit.ly/Riffarrica>

Youtube: <http://bit.ly/YouTube-Channel-Riffarrica>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/riffarrica>

Contact: info@riffarrica.ee

Web: <http://riffarrica.ee/en/>



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