

= Tarja Turunen =

Tarja Soile Susanna Turunen @-@ Cabuli (born August 17 , 1977) , generally known as Tarja Turunen or simply Tarja , is a Finnish singer @-@ songwriter . She is a full lyric soprano and has a vocal range of three octaves .

Turunen studied singing at Sibelius Academy and Hochschule für Musik Karlsruhe . She is well known as a professional classical lied singer but best known as the former lead vocalist of the Finnish symphonic metal band Nightwish , which she founded with Tuomas Holopainen and Emppu Vuorinen in 1996 . Their combination of hard and fast guitar riffs with Turunen 's dramatic , " operatic " lead vocals quickly achieved critical and commercial popularity . Their symphonic metal style , soon dubbed " opera metal " , inspired many other metal bands and performers .

Turunen was dismissed from the band on October 21 , 2005 (just after the performance of the band 's End of an Era concert) for personal reasons . She started her solo career in 2006 with the release of a Christmas album called *Henkäys ikuisuudesta* . In 2007 , Turunen released *My Winter Storm* , an album featuring various styles including symphonic metal , and started the Storm World Tour . Turunen released her third album , *What Lies Beneath* , in 2010 . She performed several concerts in Europe , playing in metal festivals including the Graspop Metal Meeting and the Wacken Open Air , before starting the What Lies Beneath World Tour , which lasted until April 8 , 2012 . Her first live DVD *Act I* was filmed during this tour on March 30 and 31 , 2012 in Rosario , Argentina . *Act I* was released on August 24 , 2012 . Turunen started the *Colours in the Dark* World Tour on October 17 , 2013 to promote her new album *Colours in the Dark* . Her second live DVD was filmed during the events of *Beauty and the Beat* and was released on May 30 . On September 11 , 2015 , Tarja Turunen released her first classical studio album , *Ave Maria ? En Plein Air* . On 5 August 2016 the album *The Shadow Self* is scheduled to be released , with a prequel album *The Brightest Void* scheduled for release on June 3 .

= = Life and career = =

= = = 1977 ? 1995 : Early life = = =

Tarja Turunen was born in the small village of Puhos , near Kitee , Finland . She has an older brother , Timo , and a younger brother , Toni . Her mother Ritva Sisko Marjatta (Hakkarainen) worked in the town administration , and her father Teuvo Turunen is a carpenter . Her talent for music was first noted when she sang the song " *Enkeli taivaan* " (the Finnish version of " *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* ") in the Kitee church hall at age three . She joined the church choir and started taking vocal lessons . At age six , she started playing piano .

At comprehensive school , Turunen performed as a singer for several projects . Her first piano teacher Kirsti Nortia @-@ Holopainen , " Tarja was in a school that had some very musical people . Even then she got to perform a lot . I think she sang in every school function there was . " Her music teacher , Plamen Dimov , later explained that , " If you gave Tarja just one note , she immediately got it . With the others , you 'd have to practice three , four , five times " . At school she had a tough time , since some girls bullied her because they envied her voice . To solve that problem , Dimov organized projects outside school . At fifteen , Turunen had her first major appearance as a soloist at a church concert in front of a thousand listeners . In 1993 she attended the Senior Secondary School of Art and Music in Savonlinna .

For several years Turunen performed various songs including soul music by Whitney Houston and Aretha Franklin . Later she listened to songs from the classical crossover singer Sarah Brightman , especially the song " *The Phantom of the Opera* " , and decided to focus on that genre of music . At eighteen , she moved to Kuopio to study at the Sibelius Academy .

= = = 1996 ? 2005 : With Nightwish = = =

In December 1996 , former classmate Tuomas Holopainen invited Turunen to join his new acoustic mood music project , and she immediately agreed . At the recording session for the first demo Holopainen discovered that due to her classical singing lessons , Turunen 's voice had become much more powerful than he recalled from their school days . At the following band practices , Emppu Vuorinen used an electric guitar instead of an acoustic guitar because he felt that it gave a better accompaniment to her voice . Holopainen later explained that the band members had gradually realised that Turunen 's voice had become too dramatic for acoustic mood music and eventually came to the conclusion that the music had to be massive too . Hence Holopainen decided to form Nightwish as a metal band .

Nightwish recorded a second demo with " more bombastic , dramatic " songs in September 1997 . Holopainen used this material to convince the Finnish label Spinefarm Records to publish the band 's debut album , Angels Fall First . The success of the first album came as a surprise to the label . As the album hit the top 40 of the Finnish charts , Nightwish started their tour The First Tour of the Angels . That same year , Turunen performed at the Savonlinna Opera Festival for the first time , singing songs from Wagner and Verdi .

Due to her commitment to the band , Turunen was not able to concentrate sufficiently on her schoolwork and her academic studies were interrupted . In 1998 , Nightwish published their second album , Oceanborn . This album lacked the earlier elements of folk and ambient music , and instead focused on fast , melodic keyboard and guitar lines and Turunen 's dramatic voice . In addition to the Oceanborn Europe Tour (1999) , Turunen sang solo in Waltari 's rock @-@ themed ballet Evankeliumi (also known as Evangelicum) in several sold @-@ out performances at the Finnish National Opera . In 2000 and 2001 , Nightwish recorded Wishmaster and Over the Hills and Far Away and toured Europe and South America (the Wishmaster World Tour) . During the Wishmaster World Tour , Turunen met Argentine businessman Marcelo Cabuli whom she married in 2003 .

Turunen enrolled in 2000 at the German music university Hochschule für Musik Karlsruhe to gain a professional qualification as a soloist with further specialization in art song . In addition to the good reputation of the university , Turunen chose to go to Karlsruhe because some people at the Finnish university did not take her seriously as a classical singer due to her commitment in a metal band . While there , she recorded vocals for Nightwish 's 2002 album Century Child and for Beto Vázquez Infinity . As with the other albums , Holopainen wrote the pieces and sent Turunen the lyrics and a demo recording of the prerecorded instrumental tracks by mail . Using the demo , Turunen designed her vocal lines and the choral passages .

In 2002 , Turunen toured South America , performing in the classical Lied concert Noche Escandinava (Scandinavian Night) to sold @-@ out houses . Following this and an exhausting world tour in support of Century Child (the World Tour of the Century) , Nightwish took a hiatus and Turunen returned to Karlsruhe to finish her studies . After the hiatus Nightwish recorded the album Once ; it was released on May 10 , 2004 . The album has sold platinum in Finland and Germany and was the best selling album in all of Europe in July 2004 . The band performed in the supporting Once Upon a Tour throughout 2004 and 2005 .

For Christmas 2004 , Turunen released her first solo single , titled " Yhden enkelin unelma " (One Angel 's Dream) , which sold gold in her native country of Finland . At Christmas 2005 it made a reentry at position one in the Finnish Charts . In spring 2005 she prepared the duet " Leaving You for Me " , a collaboration with Martin Kesici , accompanied by a video .

= = = 2005 : Breakup = = =

The first change in the line up of Nightwish was in September 2001 , when bassist Sami Vänskä was fired because Holopainen was no longer able to continue working with him . In the following years the relationship between Holopainen and Turunen 's husband and manager Marcelo Cabuli deteriorated . This had an impact on the relationship between Holopainen and Turunen as well . At a band meeting after the concert in Oberhausen in December 2004 Turunen announced to the band members that she wanted to leave the band , but agreed to record one more album and to

participate in the subsequent tour , planned for 2006 / 2007 . According to her husband , Turunen had further agreed not to make her decision public and to release her first solo album after the new studio album from Nightwish . After the last concert of the Once Upon a Tour on October 21 , 2005 (which was released on video as End of an Era) , Holopainen gave Turunen a letter signed by himself and the other band members informing her that the band did not want to work with her any more . The open letter was simultaneously published on the band 's website . The media closely covered her very public separation from Nightwish , and due to references in the letter to diva @-@ like behaviour and to greed , even Turunen 's character became the subject of media discussions .

To you , unfortunately , business , money , and things that have nothing to do with those emotions have become much more important .

Turunen responded through an open letter on her website and through some interviews in which she explained her view . She was upset that after nine years of working together , Holopainen had announced the separation via an open letter . Because of the continuing media interest , Marcelo Cabuli posted a message addressing the situation on the website in February 2006 . He asked that anyone who had questions should email him . In June 2006 , Cabuli posted a lengthy reply to many of the questions he had received . He answered questions related to the greed accusation by explaining that the band had agreed on the distribution of earnings in a contract at the formation of Nightwish . Based on that contract , every band member got a fixed share of 20 % of the band 's income . Marcelo Cabuli stated that , unlike others , Turunen had never fought for additional songwriter royalties .

For sure in her case , money is not coming first in her book of life . [...] If we would check which band member earns a lot more money than any other one in the band , you should be surprised .

Despite the circumstances of the separation , Holopainen 's appreciation of Turunen as an artist remained . He explained that he did not search for a similarly trained singer as a successor for Turunen because he considers her to be extraordinarily good in her genre and therefore irreplaceable . Turunen said in an interview that she is very proud of her career with Nightwish . She considers the remaining band members extremely talented and wishes all the best for them and their subsequent lead singer Anette Olzon .

Between 1997 and 2005 she had toured the world with Nightwish , playing on all the continents except Africa and Antarctica . She performed live for more than 500 @ , @ 000 people .

= = = 2005 ? present : Independent career = = =

At the end of 2005 , Turunen performed several classical concerts in Finland , Germany , Spain , and Romania . Since she expected to participate in another Nightwish album , several concerts and the release of her Christmas album *Henkäys ikuisuudesta* (officially translated as *Breath from Heaven*) were the only activities scheduled for 2006 . Turunen again played at the Savonlinna Opera Festival in July 2006 , this time as the main act ; she sang alongside Finnish tenor Raimo Sirkiä , supported by the Kuopio Symphonic Orchestra . Turunen performed classical arias like " O mio babbino caro " by Puccini , " Libiamo ne ' lieti calici " by Verdi and some songs from Andrew Lloyd Webber ? " Don 't Cry for Me Argentina " and " Phantom of the Opera " ? among other songs . In November she performed at the charity concert " Tomorrow 's Child " with the Tapiola Choir as a benefit for the UNICEF Children 's Fund . On December 6 , 2006 , Turunen performed a big concert at the Sibelius Hall in Lahti , Finland ; it was broadcast live by the Finnish channel YLE TV2 for 450 @ , @ 000 viewers . She was nominated for the Finnish Emma Award as Best Soloist of 2006 . The following year , Turunen recorded vocals for the track " In the Picture " on the Nuclear Blast All @-@ stars album *Into the Light* .

In August 2006 she started to work on her next solo album , *My Winter Storm* , the beginning of her main solo project . It was the first time that Turunen had written songs . She was supported by some professional songwriters . The choir and orchestral arrangements were written by film music composer James Dooley . Turunen released *My Winter Storm* , an album featuring various styles , including symphonic metal with classical " operatic " lead vocals , in November 2007 . The album took the number one spot on the Finnish charts , and went platinum in Finland double platinum in

Russia and gold in Germany .

She was nominated for an Echo as best newcomer and an Emma for best Finnish artist . On November 25 , 2007 , Turunen embarked on the Storm World Tour to promote My Winter Storm . She performed 95 concerts throughout Europe , North and South America and ended the tour in October 2009 at the O2 Academy Islington in London . In December 2008 , the EP The Seer was released in the UK and the new extended edition of My Winter Storm released on January 2 , 2009 .

She also contributed three songs to the Finnish charity Christmas album Maailman kauneimmat joululaulut (Finnish for " The World 's Most Beautiful Christmas Songs ") released on November 18 , 2009 . In December 2009 she recorded her vocal part for the song " The Good Die Young " , a duet with Klaus Meine which is included on the final Scorpions album Sting in the Tail .

Turunen recorded her third album , What Lies Beneath , in 2009 and 2010 ; it was released on September 1 , 2010 . The album combined metal with classical " operatic " elements in an out of the box approach . She started the What Lies Beneath World Tour performing in several festivals , including the Wacken Open Air and the Graspop Metal Meeting , with special concerts at Miskolc Opera Festival and at the Masters of Rock , when she performed accompanied by a full orchestra . The tour is scheduled to last until April 2012 . Also in 2010 she supported Alice Cooper on the German leg of his Theatre of Death Tour . On July 17 , 2011 , she sang again at the Savonlinna Opera Festival along with José Cura and accompanied by the Kuopio Symphony Orchestra .

On February 27 , 2012 during her What Lies Beneath World Tour concert in Brussels , Turunen announced that she will be working on a new album after completing the tour . During the concert she already presented 2 new songs .

In March 2012 , Turunen won the title ' Europe 's best crossover performer ' with over 100 @. @ 000 votes .

In May 2013 , Turunen announced the title of her 4th solo album , Colours in the Dark , in which was released on August 30 ? on May 31 the song " Never Enough " was released as a teaser . Later this year , in September , it was revealed that Turunen would appear as guest vocalist on the title track and video of Within Temptation 's EP Paradise , released on September 27 .

In January 2014 , Turunen revealed through her blog that she would soon return to the studio and record vocals for a couple of songs for her Outlanders project together with Torsten Stenzel & Walter Giardino . One song has already been recorded and played for the public in Finland two years back .

In May 30 , 2014 , it was released the DVD Beauty and the Beat (Tarja album) , providing live footage from 3 concerts as part of the Beauty and the Beat World Tour . The DVD shows Tarja performing live with a symphonic orchestra , choir and Mike Terrana on drums , showing an amazing versatility from the singer who easily adapts her vocal techniques to suit a variety of repertoire , ranging from Antonín Dvořák 's " Song to the Moon " - from Rusalka (opera) , to Led Zeppelin 's classics such as Kashmir (song) , among others , and also including on the setlist , a live version of the rarely performed song - " Swanheart " - from the 1998 Nightwish album Oceanborn . On the same year , in July 4 , Left in the Dark (Tarja album) was released as an EP containing alternative versions from Tarja 's album Colours in the Dark (album) , as well as a studio version of Into the Sun (Tarja song) .

In October 17 , 2015 , Tarja performed two new songs from her forthcoming album . No Bitter End and Goldfinger which is a cover of a song from a movie with the same name .

After the success of Colours ... Tarja now revealed that she is going to release a new album in summer of 2016 . She explains that she has been working hard once again with Tim Palmer to create the heaviest sound so far of her career for her fourth Rock Album .. She also explained that the album will follow in the same footsteps as her other albums but with a new soul and growth . A teaser with a snippet of two songs was then released on her official youtube channel . On the 17th of February , 2016 , Tarja also revealed the first letter of the album name which is T.

= = Singing style = =

= = = Development = = =

Along with visiting the music school in Savonlinna , Turunen began serious classical vocal training at 17 . After school , she began studying music (with a specialization in church music) at the Sibelius Academy . Due to her commitment with Nightwish , she had to interrupt her academic studies .

From 2001 to 2003 she studied at the music academy Hochschule für Musik Karlsruhe , where she trained as a soloist with further specialization in art song . Turunen originally applied to train as a choir singer . At the audition she attracted the attention of professor Mitsuko Shirai , who encouraged Turunen to apply for soloist training .

As a classical singer , Turunen sings with classical vocal technique . She explained that in the early days of Nightwish , it was difficult to combine classical technique with the metal sound in a way that gave her liberty of action without damaging her vocal cords . Classical techniques helped her to play with her voice , so she decided not to pursue extra training in rock / pop singing .

Towards the turn of the millennium , the combination of hard and fast guitar riffs with classical female lead vocals attracted a great deal of attention in the metal scene . The new music style of Nightwish quickly achieved critical and commercial popularity ; this symphonic metal style was soon dubbed " opera metal " . Turunen does not see herself as an opera singer . She has sung excerpts from operas at the Savonlinna Opera Festival , but she stresses that singing opera cannot be performed as a side project . She would need special training to perfectly sing an entire opera without a microphone .

When asked how the association between the opera and metal genres may have arisen , Turunen said that despite the obvious differences , the two music styles have some similarities :

The scenes are very similar . There are many people who would never go to an opera and the same goes for metal . But the real fans are incredibly loyal . And both styles are bombastic and express strong emotions .

From the first Nightwish album *Angels Fall First* (1997) on , critics described Turunen 's vocals using adjectives such as angelic or valkyrian . The Valkyrie image was later fostered by the second video for the single " *Sleeping Sun* " in which Turunen walks on a battlefield as if she were guiding the dead warriors .

On the following albums the singing was technically more complex . On the Nightwish album *Oceanborn* (1998) , her classical vocal training was much more noticeable . For the song " *Passion and the Opera* " , Turunen performed a staccato coloratura reminiscent of the aria " *Hell 's vengeance boils in my heart* " , sung by the soprano role Queen of the Night in Mozart 's opera *The Magic Flute* . " *Sleeping Sun* " required a well @-@ trained breathing technique . Turunen explained in an interview that when they recorded *Oceanborn* , she had serious doubts , fearing that she was not yet advanced enough in her studies to have mastered the required techniques .

A challenge of a different kind was the cover version of Gary Moore 's " *Over the Hills and Far Away* " (2001) , as it required a deeper voice , far below the vocal range of an average soprano . In an interview with *Breakout* magazine , she reported that in the studio , the band members were shaken by a paroxysm of laughter as she tried to warm up for the vocal lines . As a side benefit of her efforts , Turunen gradually expanded her vocal range considerably into the lower range , which manifested even more on the following albums .

For the album *Century Child* (2002) , she experimented with a more " rock " sounding voice , where she maintained the classical singing technique , but , for example , sang with less vibrato . Turunen was not satisfied that she had successfully transitioned to this new style until the album *Once* (2004) .

I feel very comfortable with *Once* because I have tried to change my singing style with Nightwish already since *Century Child* because Tuomas requested that , the songs requested that ... It has been hard work and I didn 't manage to do that on *Century Child* , I was not very happy with it . On *Once* it 's all very natural , how I 'm singing and what I 'm singing . But as I said , it has been really hard work because I 've been a classical singer for the last ten years so it was hard to start over

again and think of different styles . Of course I 'm always singing with my classical techniques , I never sing with my poor speaking voice ? I cannot do that anymore .

This deeper " rock " -sounding voice on Once ? as well as on the song " In the Picture " of the album Into the Light ? was welcomed by critics as a refreshing change .

Her first solo album My Winter Storm (2007) contains rock and metal songs as well as songs that resemble classical songs . Turunen uses both her classical singing voice and a rock @-@ sounding voice . In many songs she starts with a rock voice , and then switches for widely arching melodies into a distinctly classical singing voice .

Tarja 's classically trained voice flies bravely over orchestral sounds and brute guitars . Like a phoenix from the ashes [...] she lifts up again and again for widely arching melodies , sometimes spurred on by multi @-@ voiced female choirs .

In an interview , she explained that My Winter Storm was the first album where she had the chance to use her full vocal range .

Now that I can use the whole range of my voice , it feels very nice . I have never sung so low as I did on one of the songs on the new record and there 's a song on which I sang my highest notes ever ! I really have used a huge range on this album ? around three octaves ? because the moods are changing in every song and this reflects that .

In the album Colours in the Dark she used her speaking voice for the first time in many years .

= = = Register = = =

Turunen 's voice type is soprano . Over the course of her career , Turunen has developed a vocal range of three octaves .

Her range is apparent on her album My Winter Storm , where the lowest note sung is F3 in the song " The Seer " , while in another song , she aimed for D6 .

I sang a repertoire of a mezzo @-@ soprano for many years and because of that , still today , I have rarely quite low register for a lyrical soprano . Nowadays , I see myself as a light lyrical soprano .

= = Reception = =

Turunen 's voice is described by critics as remarkably powerful and emotional . Sometimes it is stated that her voice is too trained or operatic for metal music , but even critics who do not like classical voices admit that her voice suits the kind of metal songs she sings unusually well .

Until the end of their collaboration , Turunen 's singing was a trademark of Nightwish . She was known as the face and voice of Nightwish while bandleader Holopainen was the soul . Turunen was seen as a key to Nightwish 's success . She is respected by other musicians of the metal genre and is an influence on their work ; for instance , Simone Simons of Epica names her as her inspiration to study classical music and apply that vocal style to a metal band .

Turunen receives most of her media attention in Europe , especially in her home of Finland . In December 2003 , she was invited by Finnish president Tarja Halonen to celebrate the Finnish Independence Day at the Presidential Palace together with other Finnish celebrities . The event is televised annually live by the state @-@ owned broadcaster , the Finnish Broadcasting Company . In December 2007 , she performed different versions of the Finnish national anthem " Maamme " (Finnish : " Our country ") accompanied by the Tapiola Sinfonietta , to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Finnish independence . The concert was televised by the Finnish Broadcasting Company for 2 million Finnish viewers . On December 2013 , Turunen was the invited soloist at the Christmas Peace event in the Turku Cathedral , Finland , with the presence of Finnish president Sauli Niinistö . The concert aired on Yle TV1 at the Christmas Eve . During her solo career , Turunen has sold over 100 @, @ 000 certified records in Finland , which places her among the top 50 of best @-@ selling female soloists .

In Europe , her popularity is mainly limited to the hard rock and metal scene . She had a broader exposure on November 30 , 2007 , when she was invited to open the farewell fight of Regina

Halmich . Her performance of " I Walk Alone " was televised live by the German television station ZDF for 8 @. @ 8 million viewers . Turunen will be one of the star coaches in the fourth season of The Voice of Finland in the spring of 2015 on Nelonen . After the success of the 2015 edition of The Voice of Finland , Tarja was again chosen to be one of the star coaches for the 2016 edition .

= = Personal life = =

In 2003 Turunen married Argentine businessman Marcelo Cabuli ; they live in Buenos Aires with their daughter Naomi Eerika Alexia Cabuli Turunen (born 2012) . In an interview Tarja explained that in 2016 they had plans to move back to Europe due to her touring schedule and that their daughter was starting school in the coming year .

= = Discography = =

= = = Solo career = = =

= = = With Nightwish = = =

Angels Fall First (1997)

Oceanborn (1998)

Wishmaster (2000)

Over the Hills and Far Away (2001)

Century Child (2002)

Once (2004)