



4-8 July, 1999 XVI Soroptimist International Convention,
Helsinki, Finland

Culture Tour

by *Elaine Moffat, Lower Hutt Club, New Zealand Region, SISWP*

A wonderful chance to do more out of the city into the luscious countryside. A chance to meet new people, to enjoy our sisterhood in the company of our "accompanying person". The culture? A succinct account of Helsinki's history absorbed the miles as we journeyed to the home and grave of Finland's illustrious son, Sibelius. A sturdy structure, the home allowed us to visualise the domestic life of this very famous composer.

Sibelius was obviously not married to a modern Soroptimist. His musically talented wife and daughters only played the piano when he was out for his daily walk. A sentry daughter would announce his impending return, the music stopped and he arrived back to an atmosphere of tranquility. I haven't found a Finnish sister who would accommodate these demands today!!

A visit to another home, now an art museum, and of course a delicious lunch followed.