Fredrik Pacius arr. Robert Kajanus

Maamme

for Symphony Orchestra in B-flat major



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MAAMME

(The Finnish National Anthem)

for Symphony Orchestra

Fredrik Pacius arr. Robert Kajanus

TEOSTO ry

Tor oromonional Suomalaisen Musiikin Tiedotuskeskus Finnish Music Information Centre

Ausic Finland

Fredrik Pacius (arr. Kajanus): Maamme

Instrumentation

flauto I-II oboe I-II clarinetto I-II in Bb fagotto I-II

corni I-IV in F tromba I-II in C trombone I-III Tuba

timpani tamburo piccola piatti grand cassa

archi

durata 3'

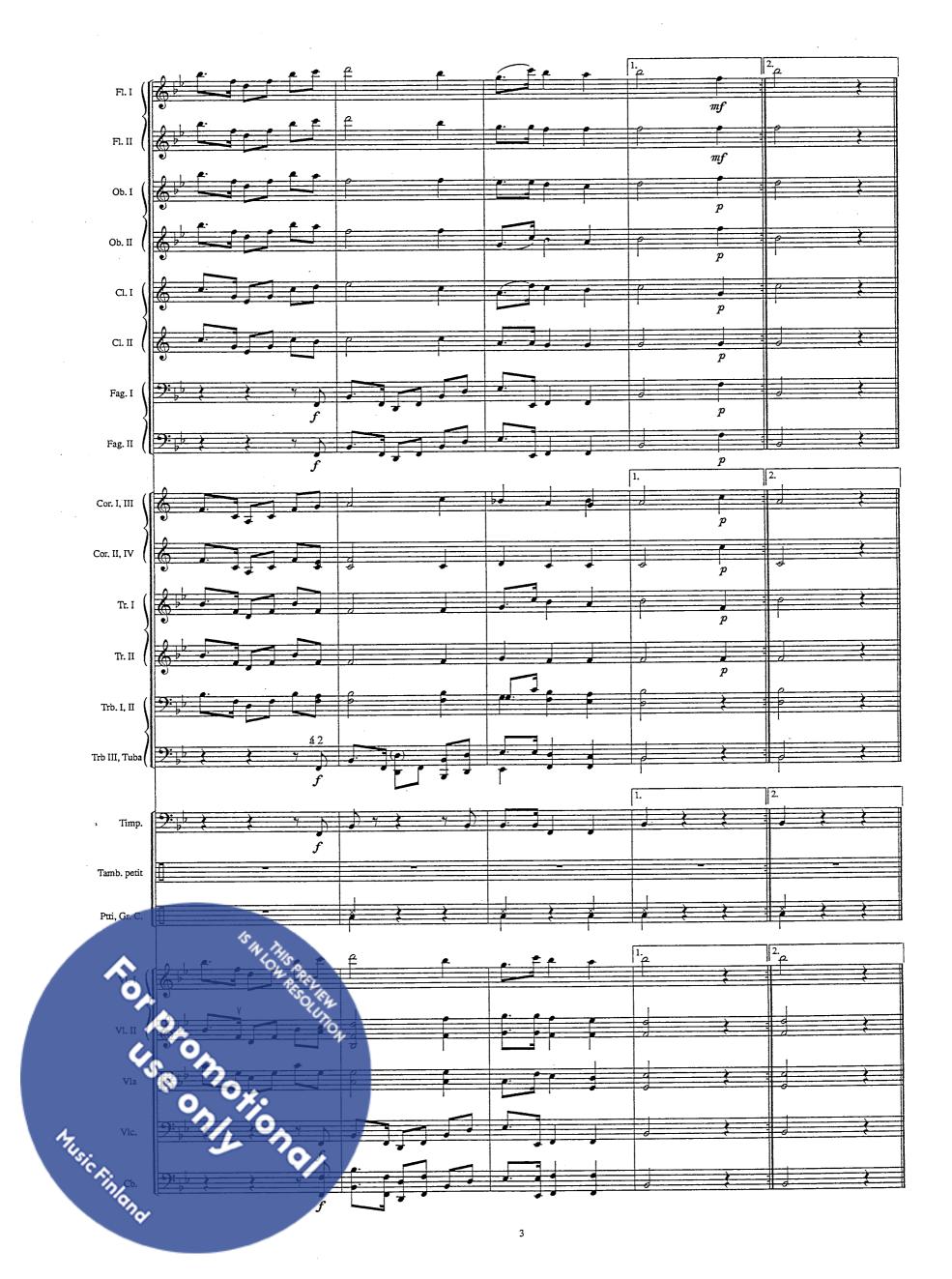
In 1835, a young and talented German musician, Fredrik Pacius (1809–1891) arrived in Helsinki. Besides serving the university as a music teacher, he was also to become the driving force behind the musical life of the metropolis. He was the heart and soul of the Finnish musical scene, conducting, composing, arranging, and performing as a soloist. It is not without reason that Pacius has been called the 'Father of Finnish music'. *Maamme* (Our Land) was written by him to the text by Johan Ludvig Runeberg (1804–1877) and was first performed in 1848. When Finland became independent in 1917, *Maamme* was chosen as the Finnish national anthem.

Robert Kajanus (1856—33) was the great leader of Finnish orchestral activity and musical life during a momentous and in history. He was the founder of the Helsinki Orchestral Society and achieved international fame as the conductor of this orchestra. As a composer he blaze the trail for national in Finnish music.

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Maamme (Our Land)

The national anthem of Finland, *Maamme* is composed by *Fredrik Pacius* to the lyrics of *J.L. Runeberg*. The following story is being told about the first performance of this song:

In the 'Day of Flora', on the 13th of May in 1848 *Maamme* was performed for the first time in Helsinki. Pacius had only a few days for the composing before the festivity. During these days he had to compose it, rehearse it and even arrange the melody for a brass band.

The field of Kumlähde was chosen for the celebration of the traditional Flora Day. On their way to this field the procession of the students stopped on the bridge Pitkäsilta ('Long Bridge'), where the brass band of the Guards waited for them. The band played *Maamme* and the students joined in the singing. The audience became so enthusiastic about it that the song had to be sung another and the third time, when Pacius himself stand up and conducted. On the festival field Fredrik Cygnaeus hold his famous speech for the fatherland. After the speech *Maamme* was sung again and again.

Since that festivity *Maamme* has been the national anthem of Finland. The historians have, however, afterwards disagreed the very moment of the first performance of the piece.

Runeberg wrote the lyrics of *Maamme* in autumn 1846. After having tried himself to compose the song he sent it to F.A. Ehrström, a famous composer that time. His version, however, never was a great success.

