Pertti Jalava

Tumma

The Dark One
For mixed choir

2020



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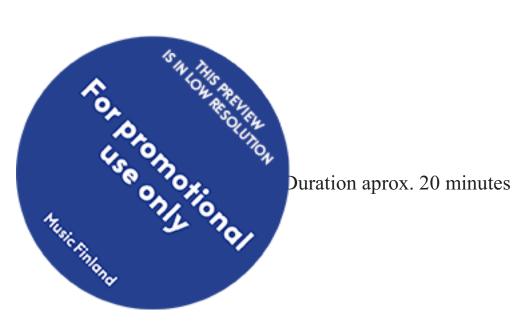
Pertti Jalava

Tumma

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Tumma

Poem by Eino Leino (from Helkavirsiä 1903)

Lyrics modified by the composer from the translation by Keith Bosley (Whitsongs 1978)

- I The Dark Maammo's Berry
- II The Kin Spoke
- III The Mother Knew Her Dark One
- IV Papa Woke in the Tomb
- V A Word Strayed from Tuonela
- VI The Boy Returned from Tuonela

Meanings of the Finnish words in the lyrics:

Tumma dark

Maammo an ancient word meaning mother

Words from Finnish mythology:

Lempo a sort of demon

Tursas malevolent sea monster

Kalma goddess of death.

Tuonela the realm of the dead or the Underworld in Finnish mythology. Vento a human-shaped spirit. "Ventovieras" means perfectly strange.

Ahti the god of water and sea.

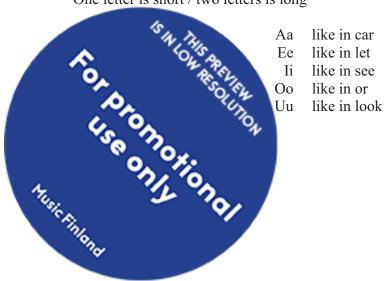
Vellamo the wife of Ahti, goddess of the sea

Forest virgin a delightfully beautiful maiden from the front, gauze-dressed and long-haired,

but the back of the creature was hollow, or just a wooden beech.

One forest virgin is "Sinipiika", which was in the original poem in Finnish.

I've used in the vocalise parts Finnish vowels. This is how they are pronounced: One letter is short / two letters is long



Tumma Eino Leino from Helkavirsiä 1903

Lyrics modified by Pertti Jalava from translation **The Dark One** by Keith Bosley from Whitsongs 1978

I The dark maammo's berry

That was dark maammo's berry affrighted at birth, he saw horrors everywhere and beheld evil spirits, no good ones at all.

His mother set him herding.
From the forest the herd-boy
returned, came home a stranger,
spoke with hair standing on end:
"O mamma, do not
set me herding the cattle!
Lempo stood upon the marsh,
the demons neighed on the heath,
the devils ran after me,
the Earth-ghost rose from the earth."

Herding was not for the boy. He was set fishing.

The boy returned from the sea, came home looking wan, told with fingernails gone cold: "Horrible the forest folk, the sea folk more horrible! I saw Tursas come and the sea divide, the pale one sat on a rock, the Void gaped below."

The sea was not for the boy. He was set making a fire.

the Og

The boy returned from the fire, came home timidly, said with staring eyes:
"Frightful the sea's terrors are, the fire's terrors more frightful!
The snakes spat sparks, the lizards spouted out roll?"

KOLDIOMORIOMOI

He returned from the village, he did not dare to come home, he kept starting in the lanes, hid behind the fields; his mother found him standing at the back of the farmyard.

The boy fell upon her neck:
"O my mother who bore me!
It is better that I flee,
better I go from these lands,
go to Kalma's grove,
and flee to Tuonela's yards!
Grim things I've seen at home,
more ghastly in the village!
At the gate the Vento stood,
the Vento's son on the steps,
in the corner Mishap lurked,
the Bugbear loomed at the door."

III The mother knew her dark one

The mother knew her dark one, she knew the doom-laden one was frightened at birth; she wept, wept, did not reject, she uttered, tenderly said: "You go, then, poor boy, go to the spruces of death, to the thicket of the dead, behind the house papa built, to the kind one's resting-place, where holy trees stand, where dim fir trees speak of those been, those gone, in eternal night's sorrow."

IV Papa woke in the tomb Papa woke in the tomb.

"Why do you weep, pearl of the clan?"

"For this I weep, my father: the forest does not like me."

"Appease the grove with a song, as your fathers did before."

"For this I weep, my father: the sea is not place for me."

"Stay Ahti with offerings, as your fathers did before."

"For this I weep, my father: fire is not friend to me."

"Bind fire with irons, as your fathers did before."

V A word strayed from Tuonela Still pearl of the clan wept. "Why do you weep, O my joy?"

Pain burst into the open:
'O my father, take me too
with you to Kalma's mansions,
for I am mamma's dark child,
affrighted at birth,
I see horrors everywhere,
but most in the life of men.'

From beneath the turf a voice rose, a word strayed from Tuonela: "Your fathers took fright before and yet they lived out their time. Desolate life's morning is, death's evening more desolate.

Rooms are small in Tuonela, underground chambers narrow, no moon beams and no sun shines, alone you'll sit, alone step, the worm sifts the wall-timber, you yourself will sift yourself in perpetual regret that is bitter, hard to bear.'

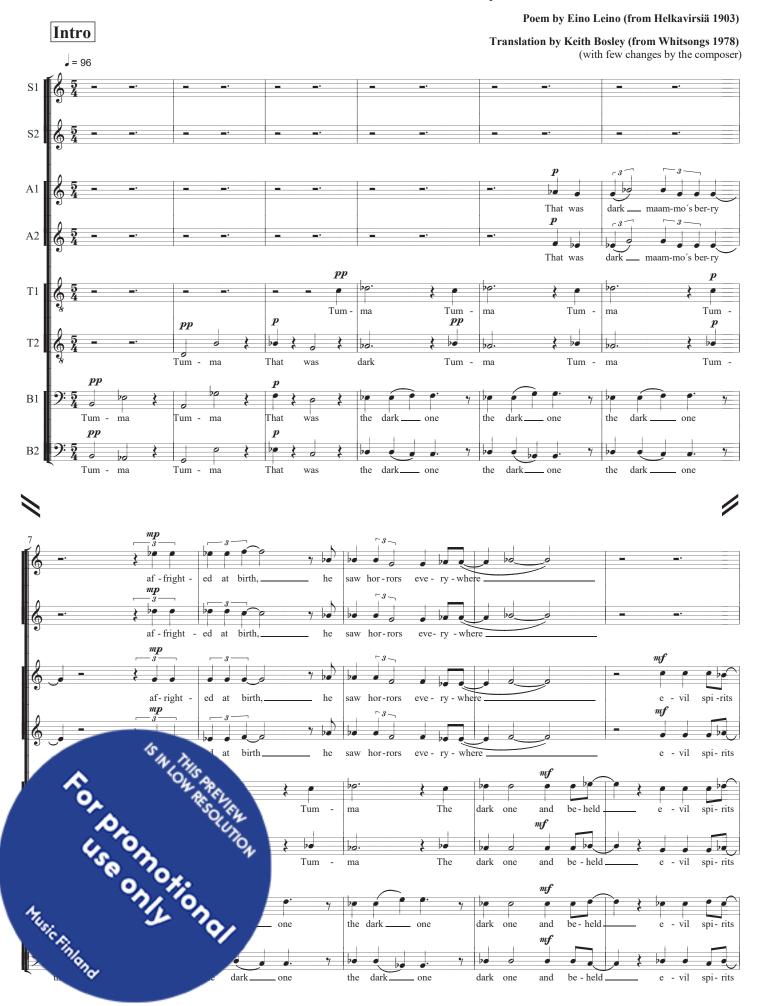
VI The boy returned from Tuonela

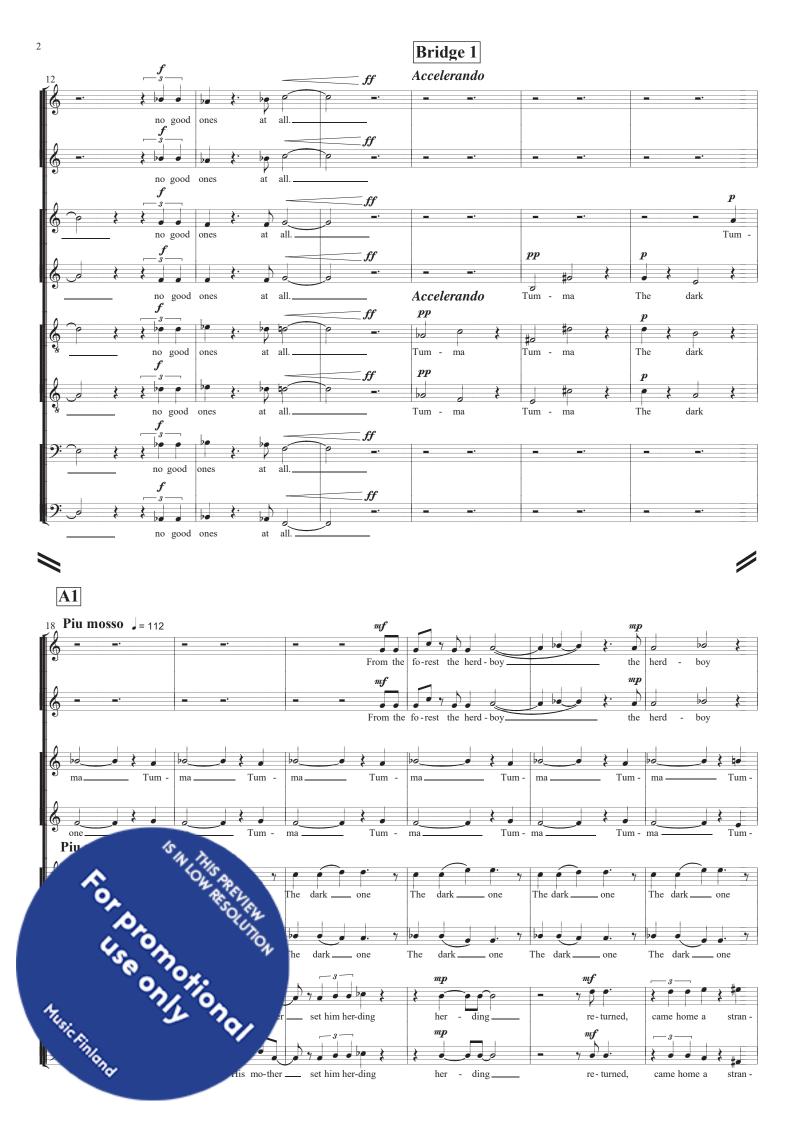
The boy returned from Tuonela, came, a quiet man, sat in his beloved house: he stirred the fire in the hearth, busied himself with farm work with smiling lips would murmur of forest virgins. of water spirit Vellamo: went to sea, to the forest, took a net and set a trap, and thus he lived all his life, not rejoicing or grieving, piling up the days, as much those coming as those passing, the better much as the worse: but the better ones on top.

Tumma

1. The Dark Maammos Berry

Pertti Jalava (2020)



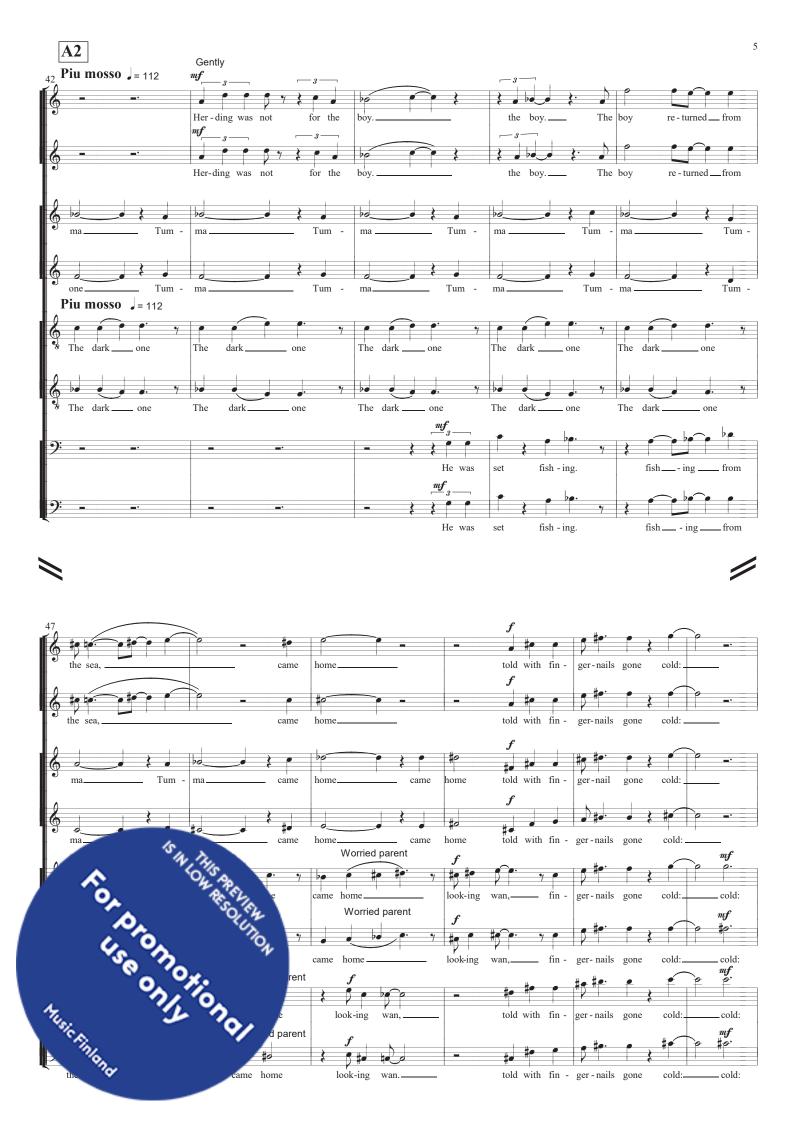


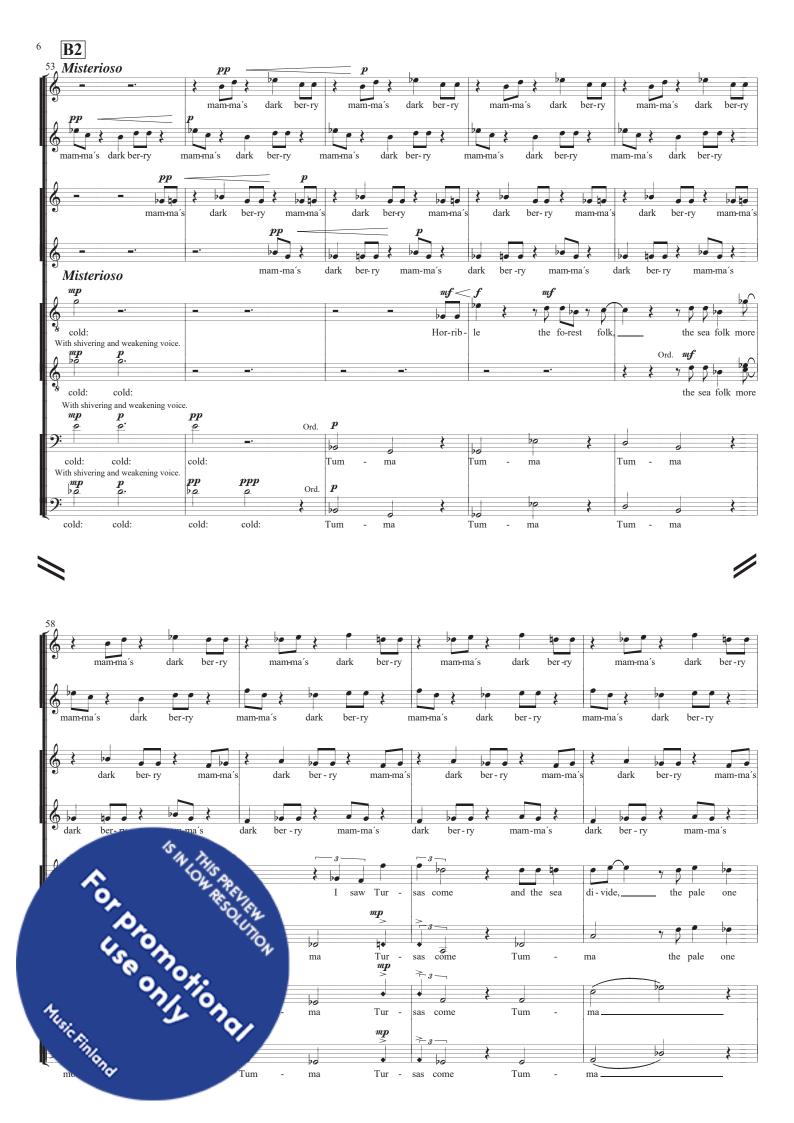








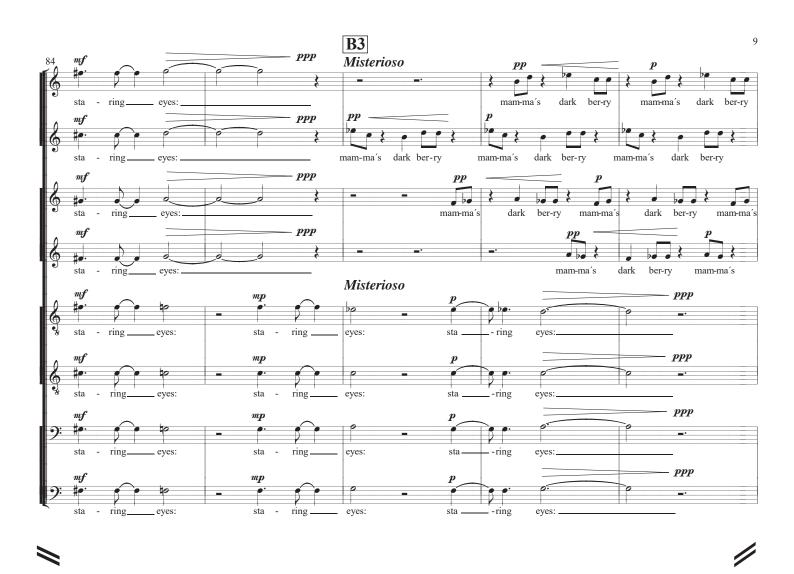














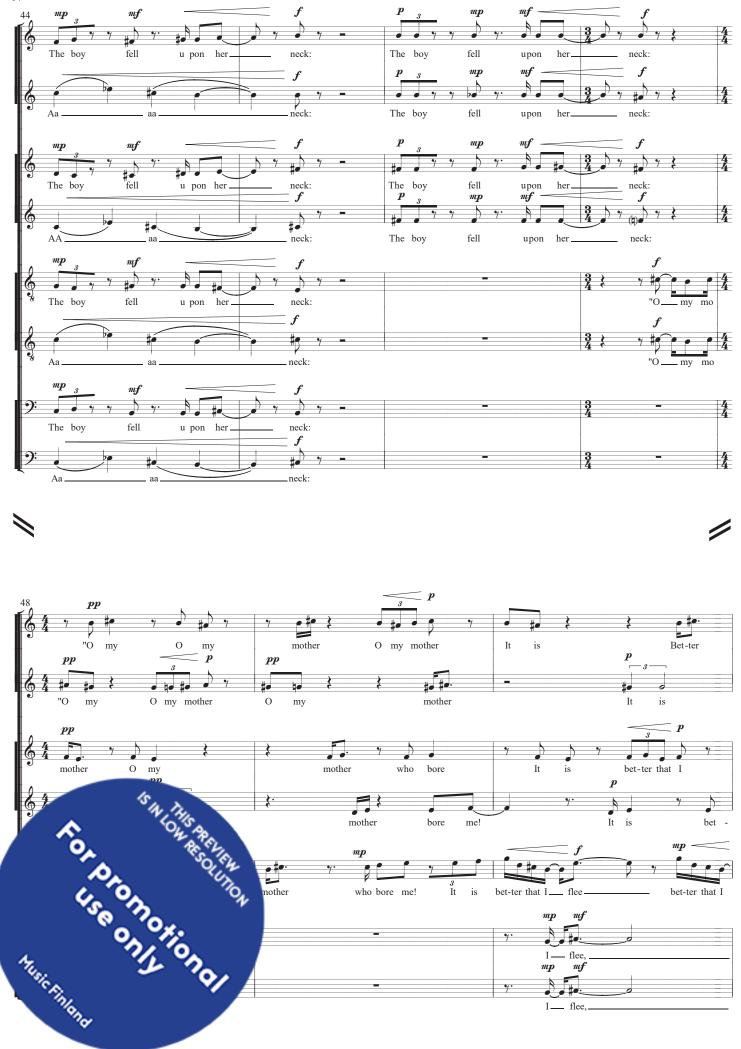


2. The Kin Spoke

















7th April 2020 Paimio, Finland



3. The Mother Knew Her Dark One







9th April 2020 Paimio, Finland

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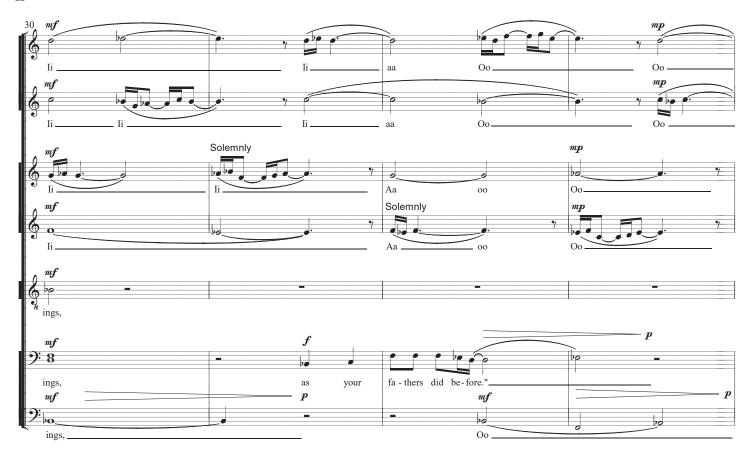


4. Papa Woke in the Tomb





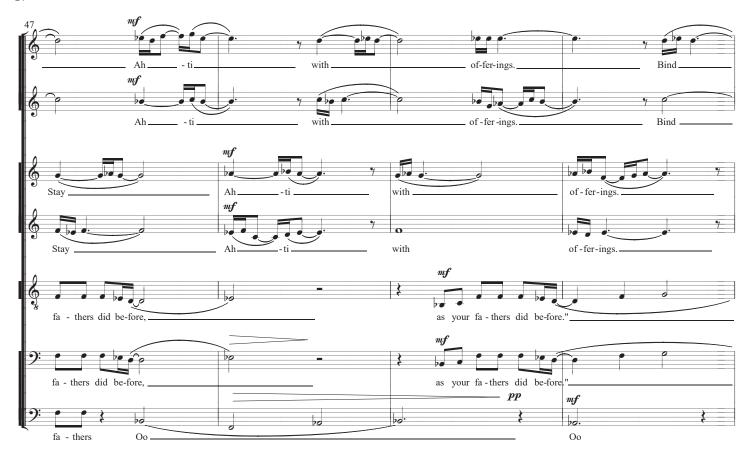




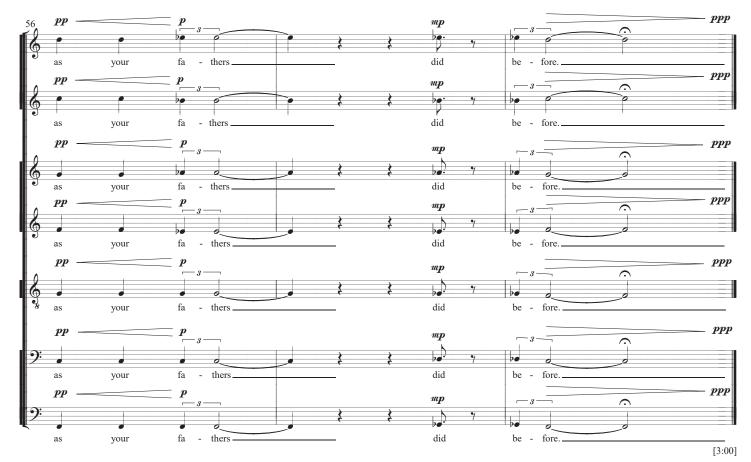












24th April 2020 Paimio, Finland



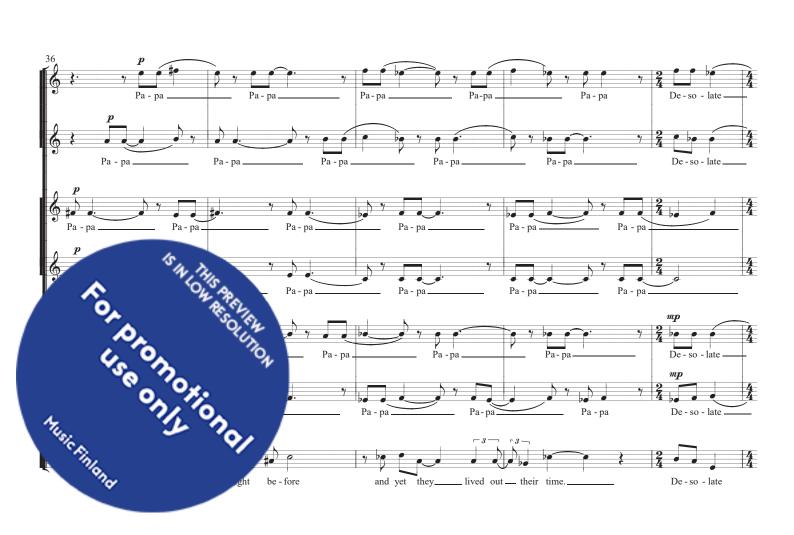
5. A Word Strayed From Tuonela

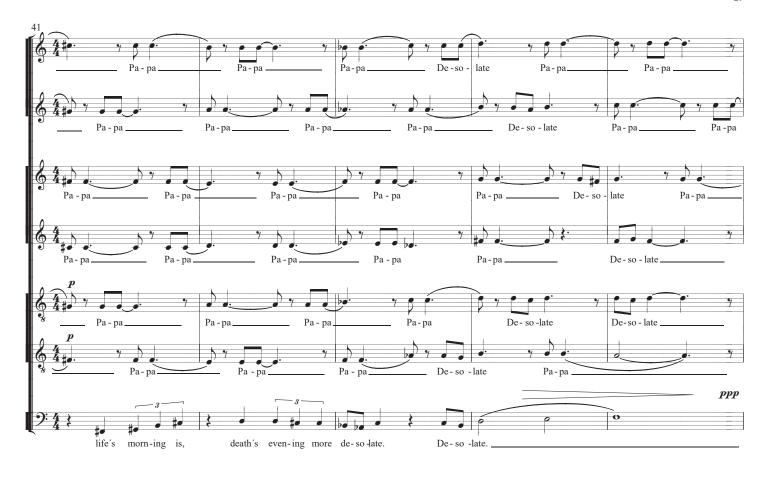
















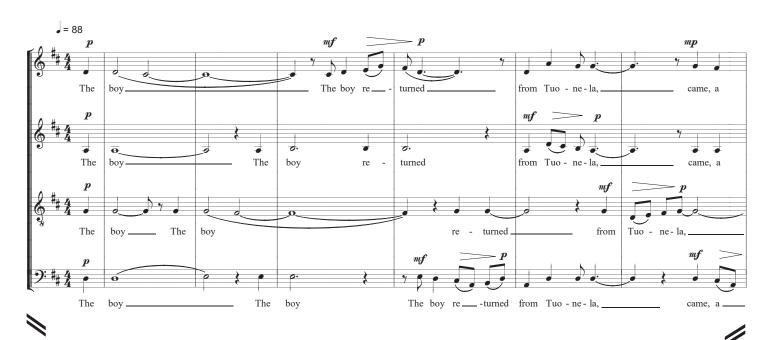


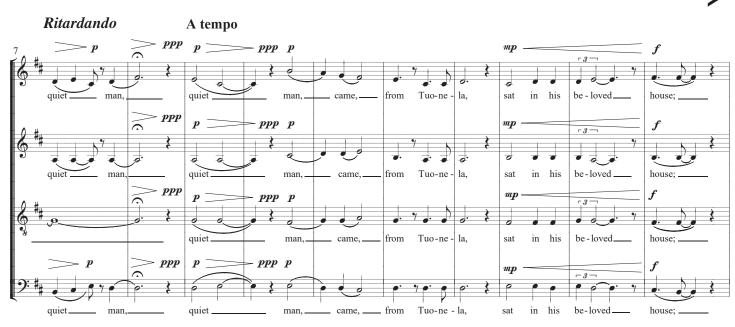


9th May 2020 Paimio, Finland



6. The Boy Returned from Tuonela

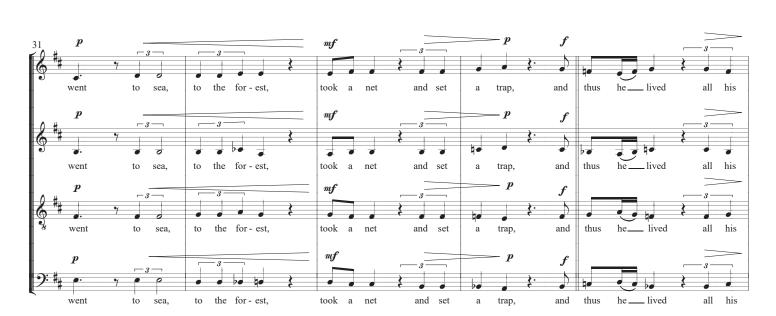






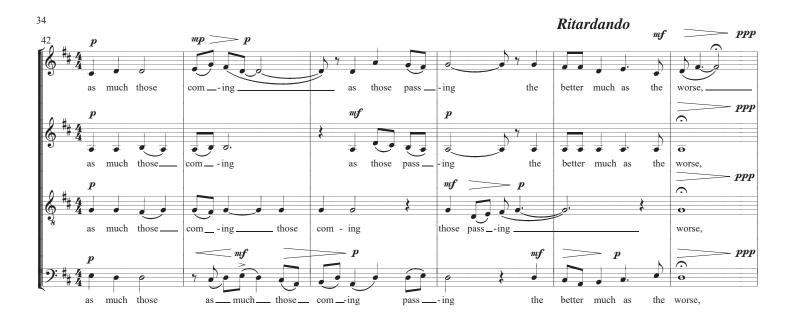














23:45, 14th May 2020 Paimio, Finland

[2:40]

