

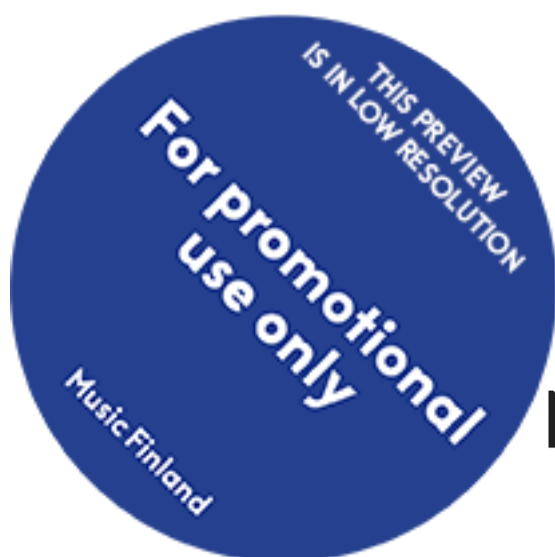
Minna Leinoen

Love moves like a trace

(Milka Luhtaniemi)

for baritone and piano

2026



Music Finland

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Minna Leinonen

Love moves like a trace

(2026)

for baritone and piano

Poem Milka Luhtaniemi



Love moves like a trace was first performed in the Nordic Song Festival Trollhättan Sweden 6th August 2026 by baritone Petteri Salomaa and pianist Niilo Ruotsala.

The work was composed with the support from the Finnish Cultural Foundation.

Love moves like a trace was commissioned by the Nordic Song Festival 2026 and is dedicated to Petteri Salomaa and Niilo Ruotsala.

Duration 6–7 minutes



PERFORMANCE NOTES

<i>p – mp</i>	Interpretation between the given dynamics ad libitum, valid until the next change of dynamics.
blu-tack	Use blu-tack roughly the size of a single grape for one string. Find the octave harmonics on the string where the sounding colour is dark, otherwordly, hollow and sonorous. The fundament and the octave harmonics are both audible.
quasi parlando	Like speaking, reciting the text with given pitches
gliss on strings	With nailplates (or with plectrum), approximate pitches
grace notes	Always before the beat
l.h.	Left hand
r.h.	Right hand
ord.	Ordinario singing or playing technique
Pedal ad lib.	When pedalling is not specified, use the pedal according to the nature of textures so that the surface is smooth.
Pedal III	Sostenuto pedal
Pizz.	Pluck the string with fingernail or fingertip in balance with normally played keys
silent keys	press the indicated keys down silently and attach them into sostenuto pedal.
sotto voce	Less resonant voice with given pitch
una corda	una corda can be used ad libitum
rubber mallets	Use soft rubber mallets to achieve distinctive pitches and soft, nostalgic sound (the sound should not be metallic). Always stand when playing with both mallets for the best accuracy. Keep a loose but steady grip and let the string vibrate on strings so that the mallets lift off the string immediately after the hit. See picture below.

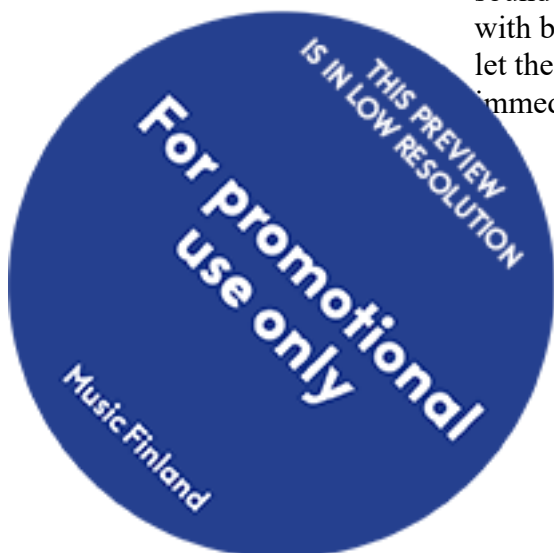




Photo: With rubber mallets

About the lied

On a broader scale, the song explores the nature of love, which is ever-changing. On a personal level, it is a love story of my grandparents, who left their homes in different parts of the country to flee the war from the areas which were ceded. During their travels they met each other, fell in love and had a family. They never returned to their childhood homes.

These stories continue, everything changes when people are forced to leave their homes. In every circumstance love has its way to create new traces.

Lyrics

Love moves like a trace (poem by Milka Luhtaniemi)

Moves like a trace



and the wind blows

ahead of the previous wind

still

it goes so still

and love moves like

a trace

and everything changing

just like this

leaves something to grow

covers the traces of grass

and the wind blows

ahead of the previous wind

and love moves like a

trace

still it goes so

still



Love moves like a trace

for baritone and piano

poem: Milka Luhtaniemi

Minna Leinonen
(2026)

Moderato ♩ = c. 90

Baritone Solo

Piano

prepare the strings with blu-tack (see front page)

8^{vb}

silent keys

hit the strings with two rubber mallets
r.h. r.h. sim.

mp

l.h. l.h.

Ped. III (sost. ped.)

4

r.h. r.h. sim.

l.h. l.h.

p

Pno.

7

mp

Pno.

10

p

mp

3

3

from one place

hit sim.

mp

13 *p* *mp* *quasi parlando*

Bar. *place* *to an - ot - her to the next* *to an - ot - her to the next*

Pno. *p*

16 *ord. (cantabile)* *mf*

Bar. *to an - ot - her to the next op-en space*

Pno. *mf*

19 *p-mp* *mp*

Bar. *like a mem-o-ry* *it comes back to*

Pno. *p* *put l.h. mallet aside* *ord. (on keys)*

8vb

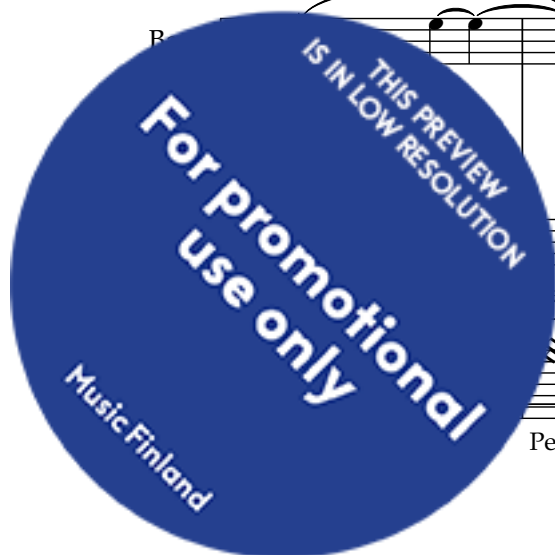
22 *mf*

Bar. *it does-n't end* *it comes back to*

Pno. *sim. with two rubber mallets* *r.h. r.h.* *l.h. l.h.*

take mallet in l.h.

Ped. III (sost. ped.)



26

Bar. *mind and the wind blows a - head of the pre - vi-ous*

Pno. *r.h. sim.*
l.h. sim.
mf

29

Bar. *wind a - head of the pre - vi-ous wind*

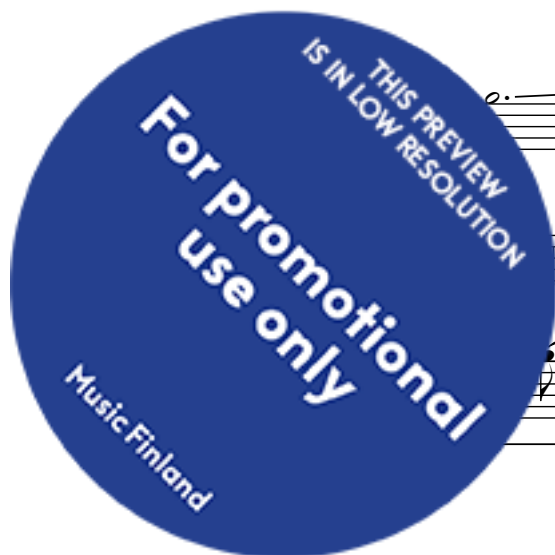
Pno. *(r.h. mallet)*
put l.h. mallet aside

32

Bar. *still it*

Pno. *ord.*
ppp
Amoroso, delicato
senza/poco vibrato possibile

still so



38

Bar. *ord.* *p-mp*

still _____ and love

put r.h. mallet aside

Pno.

con Ped.

41

Bar. *ord.* *p*

moves_ and

Pno. *p-pp*

44

Bar. *poco* *mp*

love moves_

Pno.

Ped.

Poco meno mosso
mp *sotto voce*

a trace

ppp *mp*

gliss. with nailplates

8vb

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A tempo, agitato espressivo

ord.
8va| 8va| 8va| 8va| 8va|

55

Pno.

mf

(8)-----|

3 3 3 3 3 3

58

Pno.

p

f

5

3

3

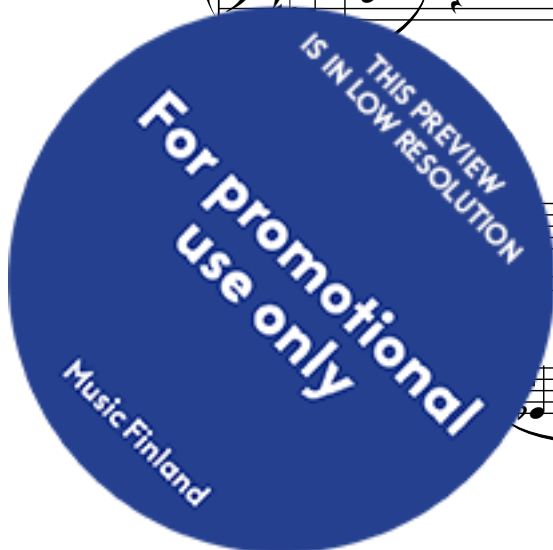
6

3

3

3

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, and then a half note G4. The piano accompaniment begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, and then a half note G4. The second system continues the vocal line with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, and then a half note G4. The piano accompaniment continues with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, and then a half note G4. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf* and *p*, and articulation markings like *tr* (trill). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 5/4.



63

Pno.

65

Pno.

67

Pno.

f

69

Pno.

ff

71 *poco rit.*

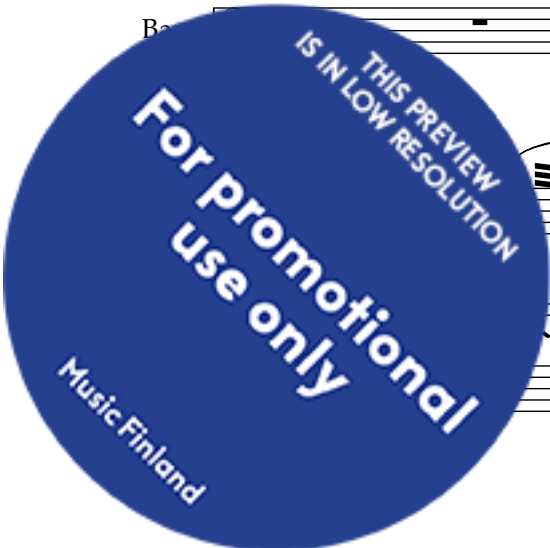
mp-mf

72

and

p

8^{vb}





Amoroso, delicato ♩ = c. 90

pp

86

Bar.

Pno.

l.v.

take mallet in r.h.

silent keys

r.h. with mallet

ppp

p

l.h. ord.

Ped. III

89

Bar.

Pno.

ppp-pp

pp-p

and

92

Bar.

Pno.

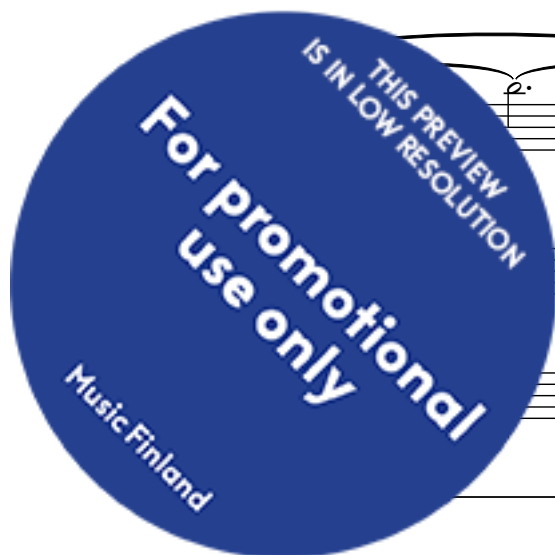
love and love moves

sotto voce

like a trace

silent keys

Ped. III



98

Bar.

pp senza/ poco vibrato ad lib. *p-pp*

still it

r.h. with mallet

Pno.

p-ppp

l.h. ord.

101

Bar.

goes so still so

Pno.

rit.

104

Red.

8th

