

Paola Livorsi

# Songs of winter and war

for soprano, viola d'amore, bandoneon  
and dancer

2025



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Paola Livorsi

# *Songs of winter and war*

(2025)



note

|                                       |                                                 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| alterations follow conventional rules |                                                 |
| black and white circle                | half voiced, half unvoiced                      |
| white circle                          | unvoiced (whisper)                              |
| cross                                 | unpitched                                       |
| arrow                                 | slow transformation from a phoneme into another |
| NV                                    | non vibrato                                     |
| N                                     | normal                                          |
| ord.                                  | ordinary                                        |
| sim.                                  | simile, same                                    |
| V                                     | inspiring                                       |
| c.l.                                  | col legno                                       |
| c.l.b.                                | col legno battuto                               |
| c.l.t.                                | col legno tratto                                |

viola d'amore tuning

Ab - Db - Ab - Db - F - Ab - Db

Dedicated to Pia Freund. Written for Dialogia! festival 2025. Duration 31 min. ca.

testo

There will be winter, there will be – I don’t know what,  
Our bones will ache languorously with the sweet noise of dreams,  
You’ll reach the end of the days that are empty of me,  
And you’ll understand that time is just repeated space.

Who are you?

кто ты? Kto ty? (Russian)

хто ти? Chto ti? (Ukrainian)

من أنت؟  
Men an? (Arabic)

מי אתה?  
Mi ata? (Hebrew)

تو کی هستی  
To ki hasti? (Farsi)

تۆ کێی  
To kit? (Kurdish)

He'll turn his face towards mine,  
Say, 'Good morning'

доброе утро доброе утро (Russian)

доброго

الخير  
Sax



organico

soprano  
viola d'amore  
bandoneon  
dancer

But his smile will be wry,  
And he'll have a red stripe across his shoulder  
Where his gun-belt had been, and I'll realize I'm a captive  
Doomed to perish along with my assailant.

Look, he lights a cigarette: a flash, his profile!

Смотри, он зажигает сигарету: вспышка, его профиль!  
smotrì, on jazgráye sigarétu: spishka, ego prófil'! (Rus.)

Дивіться, він запалює сигарету: спалах, його профіль!  
devítsa, vin zapàlye sigarétu: spàlach, jeho prófil! (Ukr.)

תראו, הוא מדליק סיגריה: הבזק, הפרופיל שלו!  
tirh'ù, hu madlik sigarhià: hav zik, a profil she-lù! (Heb.)

انظر، إنه يشعل سيجارة: وميض، ملفه الشخصي!  
inbùn, innà u-yù zan lù jizàra: wamì, mùlfihi jarh'zi! (Ar.)

спалах!  
spalach! (A flash! Ukr.)

یهک فه‌لاش  
yek fàlash! (A flash! Kurd.)

This will be you in thirty years.

Who are you?  
Of which war, taught to click your triggers in the dark?  
It's much more difficult to learn about identities:  
That the one you kill is an incarnation of you.

The bullets are chiming, my boy,  
Transporting your soul like the most beautiful music!

мій хлопчик!  
mì chópchek! (my boy! Ukr.)

мой мальчик!  
moi málcik (Rus.)

Each cartridge is a seal on a zinc coffin.  
But save the last one for yourself –  
Each murder is a step towards your own grave,  
Each murder a suicide.

Cain, Cain, what are you without your brother?

Каїн, Каїн, хто ти без свого брата?  
Kaïn, Kaïn, chto ty bez suoovo brata? (Ukr.)

Каин, Каин, что ты без своего брата?  
Kàin, Kàin, kto ty biz zuivo brata? (Rus.)

كاين، كاين، ماذا تكون بدون أخيك؟  
Kàeyin, Kàeyin, mèvata kunu vidùna arhì? (Ar.)

קין, קין, מה אתה בלי אחיך?  
Kín, Kín, ma' ata bilih' chaych? (Heb.)

قابيل، قابيل، بدون برادرت چه هستی؟  
Ghabil, Ghabil, bedon bararat chech npasti? (Far.)

قابيل، قابيل، تۆ چیت بېښى براڭگېت؟  
Qabil, Qabil, bê braket git? (Kur.)

Fom Oksana Zabuzhko, *A Kingdom of Fallen Statues* (1996), transl. Lisa Sapinkopf.

pronunciation

ch p  
c



/ slides towards u)  
may not be phonetically correct

# I

## Comme une graine...

*senza tempo*

*The dancer starts to move in silence, slowly the bandoneon fades in.*

bandoneon

repeat x times  
(with the dancer)  
slowly add the pitch,

*p*

band.

repeat x times,

*p*

*a tempo* ♩ = 60 ca.

band.

(continue from before)

*mp* sempre

band.

*mp*

*mp* sempre

sopr.

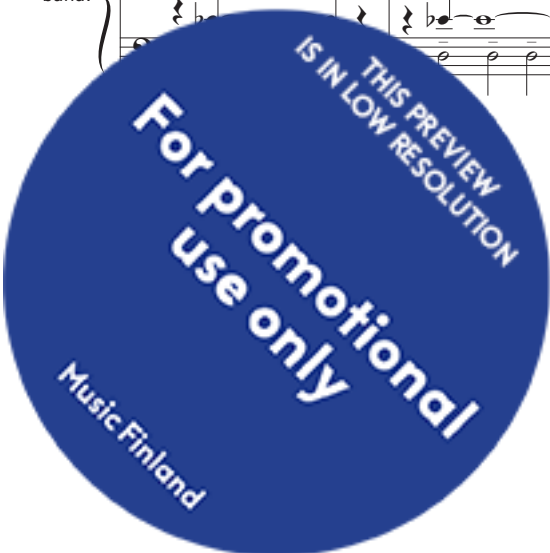
*p* sempre NV

There There will be

There There will be

band.

*mp* sempre



sopr. <sup>16</sup>

w[u] [i] - in - ter

band.

sopr. <sup>21</sup>

There There

band. <sup>21</sup>

sopr. <sup>25</sup>

will be [a] [i]

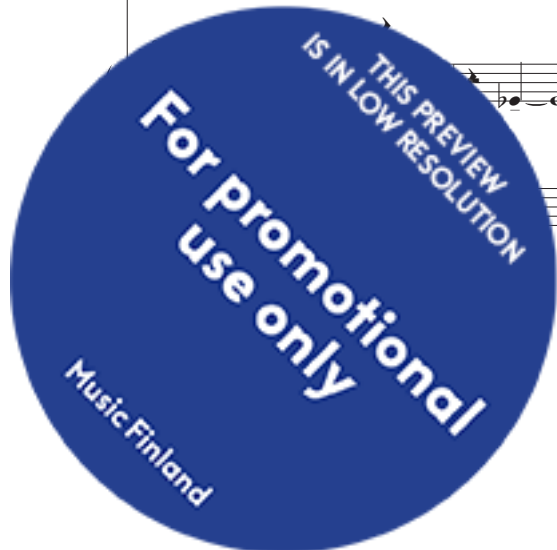
*poco cresc.*

band. <sup>25</sup>

sopr. <sup>30</sup>

*mp* don't know [u] what *pp*

band.



sopr. *mp*  
34 don't know [u] what

band.

sopr. *p*  
38 what what *pp*

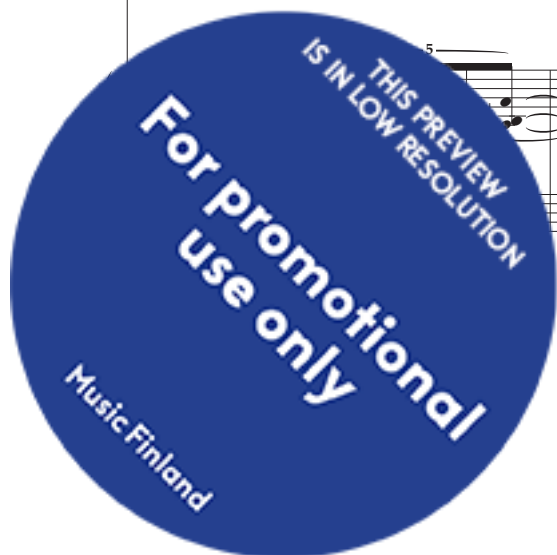
band.

sopr. *poco più mosso*  
43 *mp appassionato*  
our bones

band. *mf*

sopr. *mp*  
48 will will ache lan -

band. *mf*  
trem.



sopr. *mf* *p* *mp*

guo - rous - ous - ly with the sweet

band. *mp* *mf* *mf*

sopr. *mf* *mp* *poco* *a*

noi - se of dreams - you'll

band. *p* *mf*

sopr. *poco crescendo* *f*

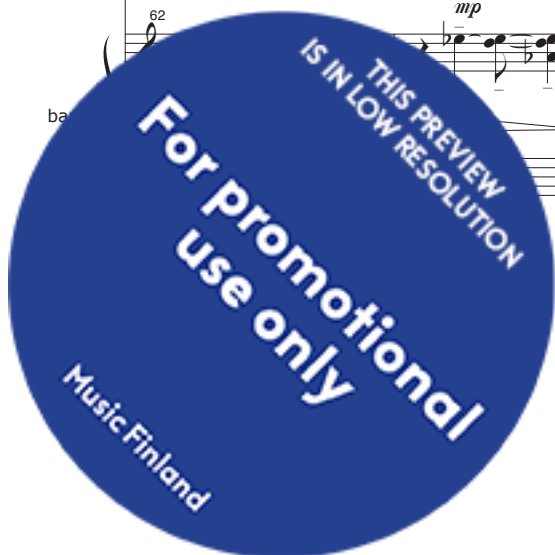
reach the end

band. *f*

sopr. *poco a poco diminuendo* *mp* NV

of the days that are emp - ty

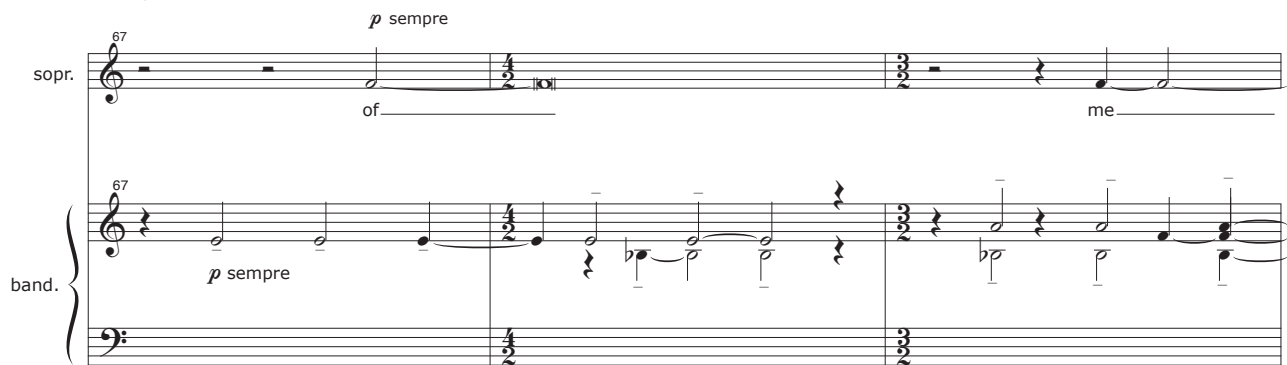
band. *mp* *pp*



Tempo I

sopr. *p* sempre  
of me

band. *p* sempre



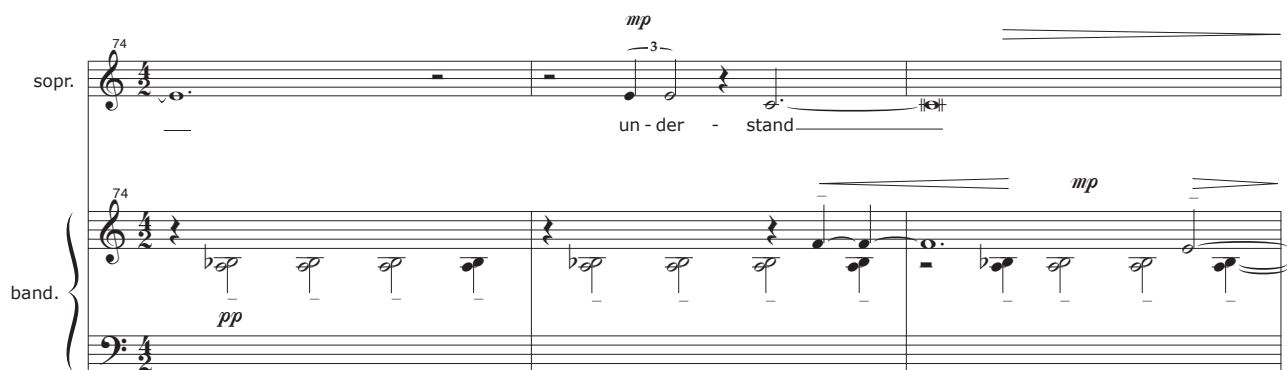
sopr. *pp*  
and you'll

band. *pp*



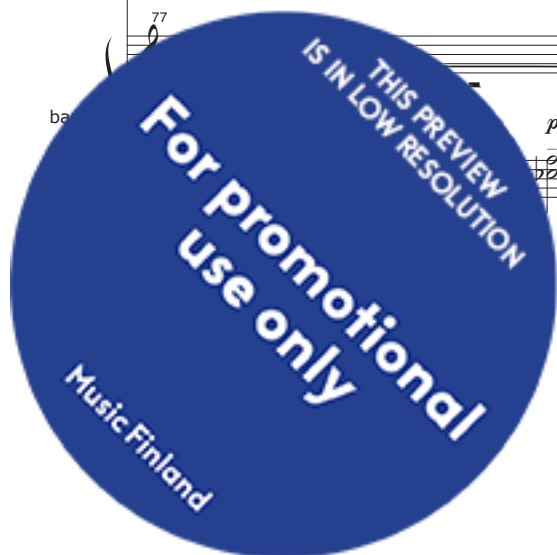
sopr. *mp*  
un - der - stand

band. *pp* *mp*



sopr. *pp*  
that

band. *pp*



*p* sempre NV

79

sopr.

time \_\_\_\_\_ is just \_\_\_\_\_

band.

*p* sempre

84

sopr.

re - pea - ted \_\_\_\_\_

band.

89

sopr.

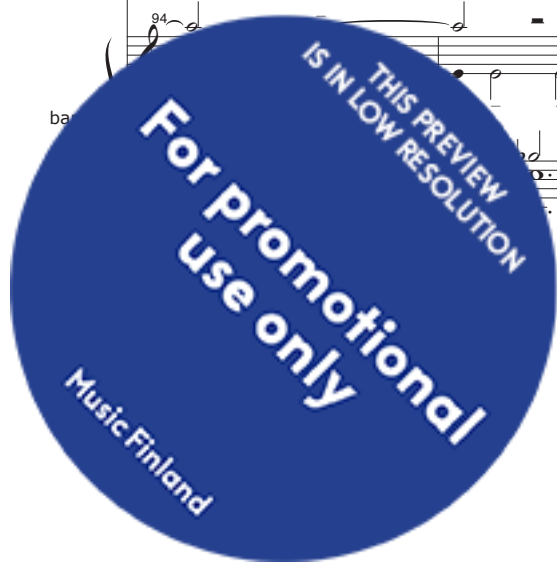
band.

94 (NV)

sopr.

space \_\_\_\_\_

band.



98

sopr. space

band.

103

sopr. [s] space [s]

band.

108

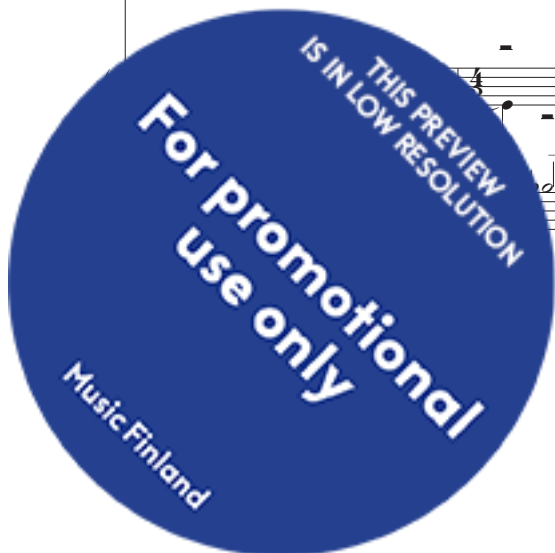
sopr. *pp* space [s]

band.

113

sopr.

senza rall. perdendosi 9'40"



## II Who?

*senza tempo*  
*with the dancer*

bandoneon

repeat x times  
(with the dancer)  
slowly add the pitch ,

*p*

band.

repeat x times ,

*p*

$\text{♩} = 56$  *misterioso*

sp v

spoken voices

viola

who? —

vla

*pp*

band.

*pp* sempre

*mf*

Who? —

who? —

dancer (to vla)

surprised, terrified

chto — ti?

viola (to dancer)

curious

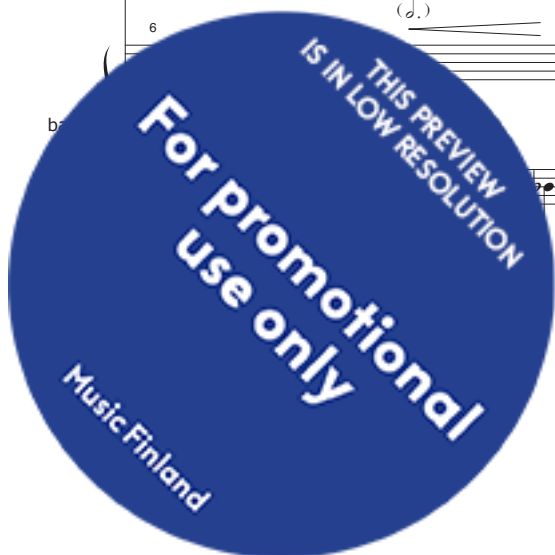
kto ty?

*sfz*

*p*

*sfz* *p*

*sfz* *p*



11

dancer (to bandoneon) *curious* *3* (d.)

viola (to dancer) *threatening* *3* o *3*

sp v to kit? — to ki ha - sti?

11

vla *p* *sfz* *p* *f* *sfz*

to dancer *with sufficiency*

11

band. kto ty? — *sfz* *p* *sfz* *sfz*

16

dancer (to viola) *p* *desperate* (d.) (d.)

sp v min'ant? —

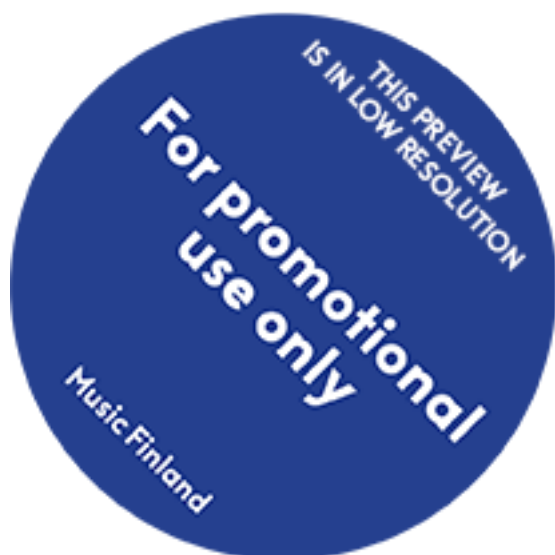
16

vla *pp*

16

band. *p* *sfz* *pp* *bandoneon (to oneself)* o (d.) o (d.) 1'37"

mi — a - ta?



*In a dimly lit room*

♩ = 55 *monotono con tenerezza*

4

sopr. *mp* *sim.*

He'll turn his face he'll turn his face he'll turn

4

vla *mp* *sim.*

band. *mp* *sim.*

8

sopr. *his face— he'll turn his face— he'll turn his face he'll*

vla

band.



12

sopr. *turn his face to - wards mine to - wards mine to - wards mine*

vla

band.

*p mf p mf*

*sfz p*

16

sopr. *to - wards mine say good mor - ning do*

vla

band.

*mp mp*

*as if in one breath, as a lament*

*mp espr.*

*sfz p*

*7*

*7*

20

sopr. *bre u tro do - bro - vo ran*

vla

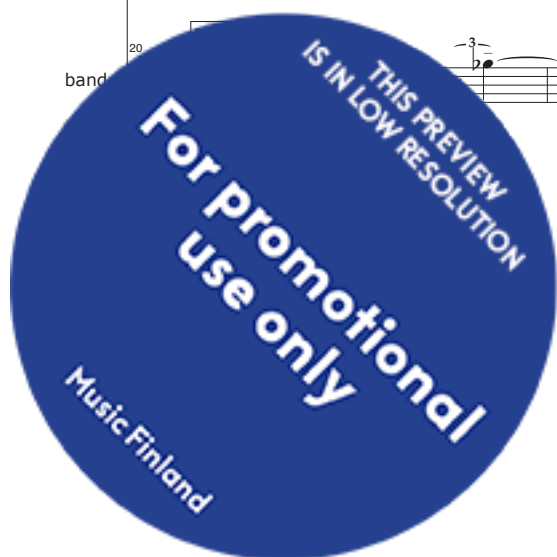
band.

*mf*

*as low as possible*

*7*

*mf*



23 *mf* *mp* *mf*

sopr. ko sa-bah al heir bo ker tov sob

vla 23 *mf* *p*

band. 23 *p* *mp*

sobbing

27 *V* *V* *3* *V* *3* *ord.*

sopr. be - ekh be - e - ekh be - e - ehk so - ob be ekh be - ekh be -

vla 27 *c.l.t. sempre* *3* *3* *3* *3* *mp*

band. *L.H.* *3* *pp*

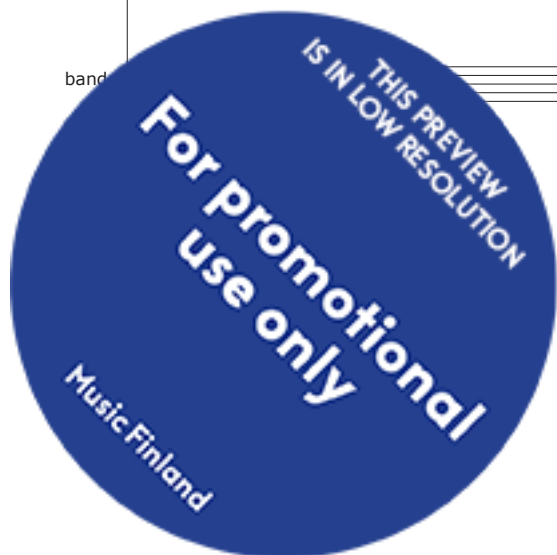
turning towards  
an other, tenderly

29 *f* *mp* *mp* *♩ = 55 scherzando* *p*

sopr. kheir slav roj bash! But but but

vla 29 *ord.* *f* *pp* *N* *c.l.b.* *N* *c.l.b.* *sim.* *3* *c.l.b.*

band. *p* *sempre*



*poco a poco crescendo mf dolce mp*

sopr. 34 but but his but his smile his

vla 34 *mf p* c.l.t.

band. 34 *poco a poco crescendo mf mp*

sopr. 38 smile will be wry his smile

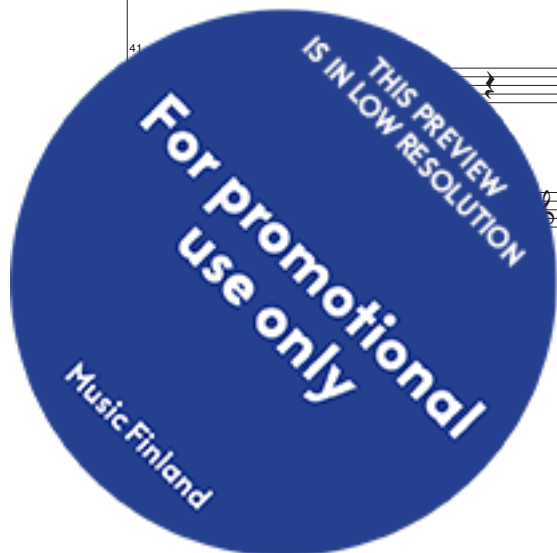
vla 38 *ord.* *mp*

band. 38 *p* *p sempre*

sopr. 41 *mp f mf p mf* will be wry, And will be wry, And

vla 41 *ord.* *f sfz* *mp* *mf* *mf* *c.l.t.* *ord.* *mf* *c.l.t.*

band. 41 *mf* *p* *mp*



44 *mf dolce* *mp*

sopr. his his smi - le will be wry And,

vla VII-VI c. *mf* *mp* *mp dolce* *mp*

band. *mp* *sfz* *p*

47 *poco* *a* *poco* *cre- scen- -do*

sopr. he he he he'll have he'll

vla *ord.* *mf* *mp* *poco* *a* *poco* *crescendo* *f*

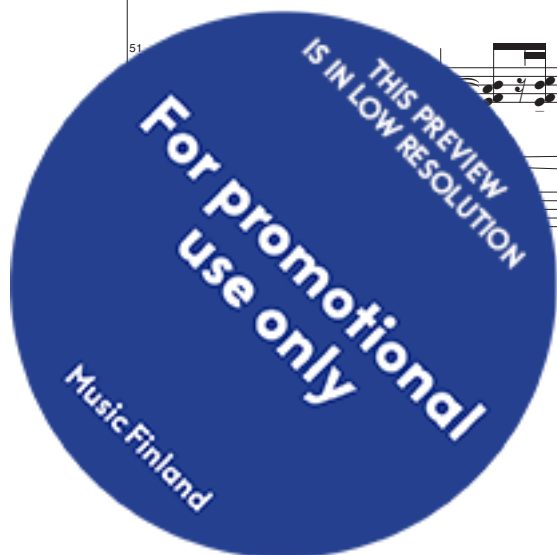
band. *mp* *poco* *a* *poco* *cresc.*

51 *f* *mf* surprised, in horror *mp*

sopr. have a red stripe a -

vla *sfz* *f* *mf* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

band. *sfz* *sfz*



54 *f* *incredulous, with contempt*

sopr. cross his shoul - der Where his gun - belt

vla *mp* *p* *mp* *ord.* *3:2* *ord.* *p* *mf*

band. *mp* *sfz* *sfz*

57 *mp* *NV* *ord. mf* *p* *NV*

sopr. — had been, where his gun belt — had been,

vla *p* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *pp*

62 *mf*

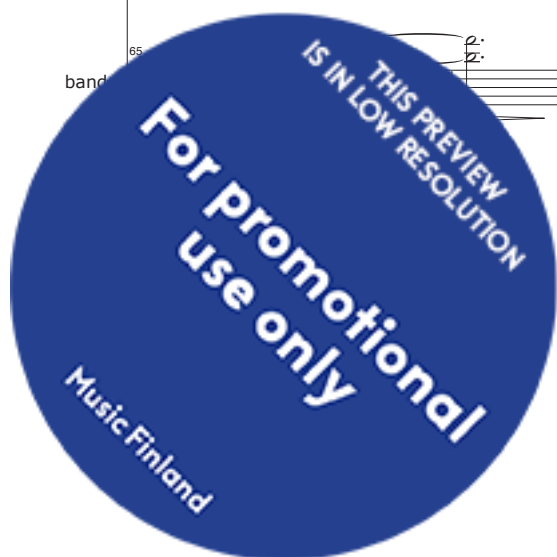
vla

$\text{♩} = 50$  *mp*

65 And I'll re - a - lize I'm

vla

band



69 *f* *mf*

sopr. a cap-tive Doomed\_ doomed\_

vla *p* *f* *sfz* *mf* *ord.* *mf* *3*

band. *mf* *p*

73 *mp* *p*

sopr. doomed\_ to\_ pe - rish

vla *p* *mp* *mp* *rall.* *3*

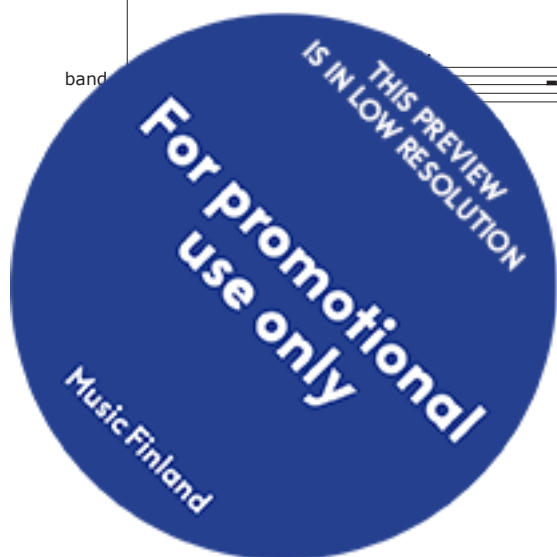
band. *mf*

77 *mp* *a tempo* *p* *pp* 6'47"

sopr. a - long with my\_ as - sail - lant

vla *pp*

band. *pp*



# IV A flash

♩ = 60 *Teso*

soprano

spoken voices

bandoneon

6

sp v

band.

10

sopr.

sp v

band.

The performers see something the audience does not

soprano (to dancer) suddenly

Look!

smo - tri

a

spoken, to dancer

de - vi - tsa

painfully

he lights

a ci - ga - rette

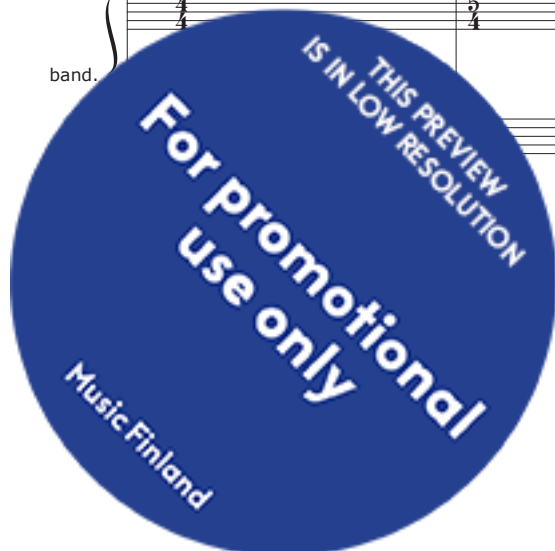
flash!

jaz - gra - ye

vin

za - pa - lye

*mf pp*



14

sopr. in - bùn ji - zà - ra!

sp v dancer tirh' è, hu si - garh - ià!

band. *sffz* *pp*

17

sopr. dancer yek fà - lash! sopr. painfully he lights a ci - ga - rette!

sp v viola spish - ka!

band. hav zik! hu ma - dlik si - garh - ià *sffz p*

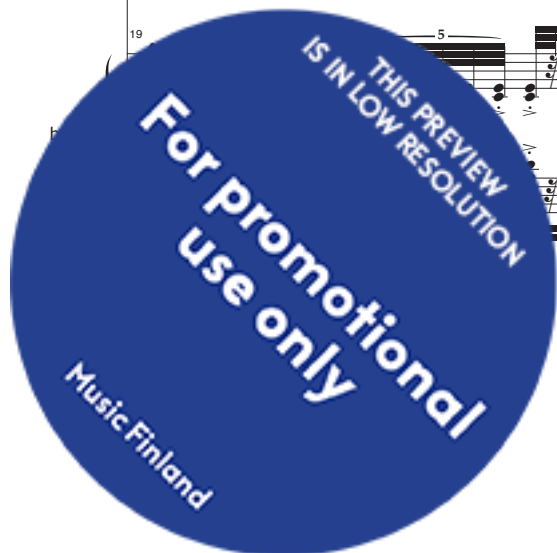
19

sopr. *f* spish - ka

sp v dancer *f* spà - lach! *f* alarmed a pro - fil she - lù!

19

mul - fi - hi jarh' - zì! *sffz p* *ff* *rhythmical*



21

sopr.

*mf* from a distance  
with contempt

viola

3

ye go' - prò - fiu

band.

*ff*

5

*ffz*

*pp*

23

*mf* matter-of-fact

attacca 2'

sopr.

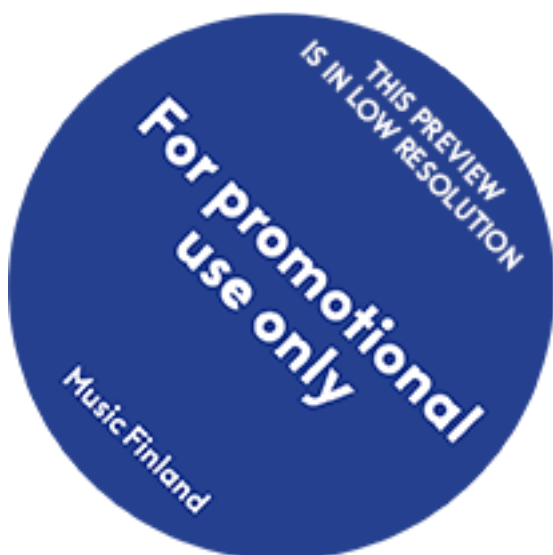
this will be you in thirty years.

vla

23

*p* sempre

band.



# V Identities

$\text{♩} = 66$  *interrogativo* *mp*

soprano

Who

8va (continua)

viola d'amore

IV-V *p* sempre *p*

4

sopr.

who who are you?

8va

vla

*p*

8

sopr.

who are you? Of which war

8va

vla

II

13

sopr.

taught taught taught taught to

*poco a poco crescendo sim.*

8va

vla

I

18

sopr.

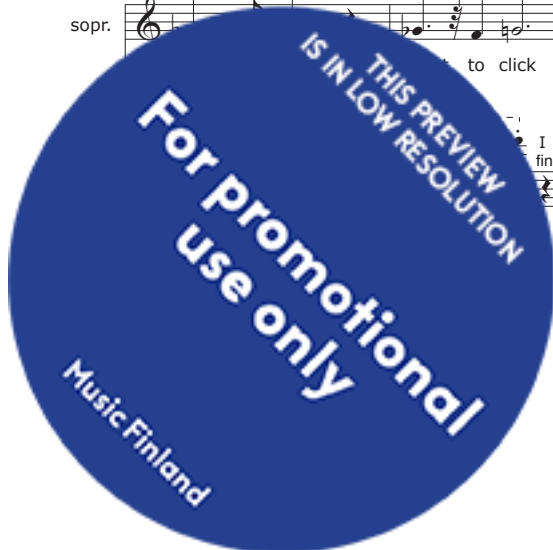
to click taught to click your triggers your

*f*

IV

III

*f sfz sfz f*



23

sopr. *mf* *f* NV *dolce* ord. 3- in the dark? in the dark? —

vla *sfz* *f* *pp* *p*

trig - gers — in the dark? in the dark? —

26  $\text{♩} = 60$  *inquieto* *mp*

sopr. It's — much —

vla

30 3- more — dif - fi - cult — to learn —

vla

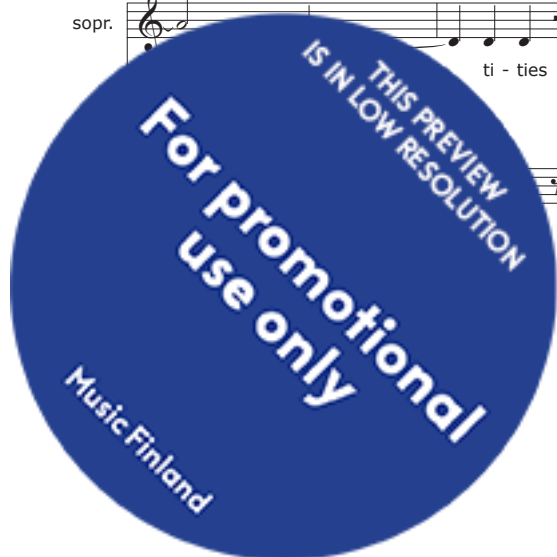
33 3- a - bout — i - a - bout — i -

vla *mp* *mf* \*

37 3- ti - ties That —

sopr. *mf*

vla *sim.* *mp* *mf*



41 *f* desperate

sopr. the one you kill

vla

*f*

44 *f* NV *ff* ord. *p*

sopr. is is an in

vla

*p* *sfz* *f* *sfz* *ffz*

49

sopr. car na tion of

vla

*p* *mp*

53 *mp* NV

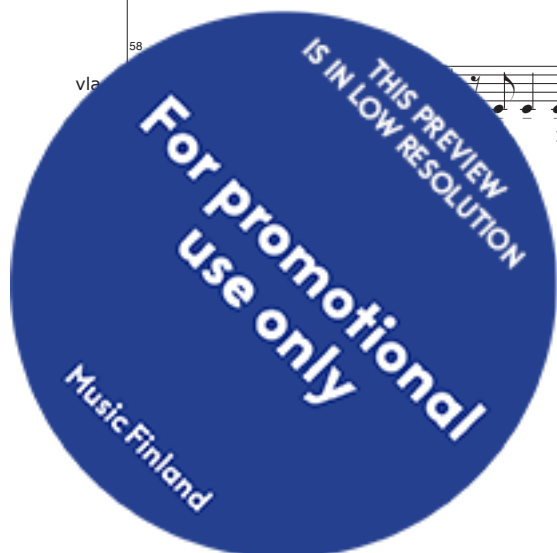
sopr. you of you

vla

58 *mp* tender 5'30"

sopr. of you my boy

vla



# VI Stray bullets

♩ = 60 *Concitato*

spoken voices

pitchless hissing sound  
longitudinal bow

L.H. mute strings

viola d'amore

R.H.

bandoneon

*p* *mf*

5

sopr. my boy!

*f* feeling pity

sp v

dancer

scared *f* the bul-lets are chi-ming!

5

vla

band.

*sfz* *mp*

9

viola *f*

sopr.

mi khop - chek! trans -

9

vla

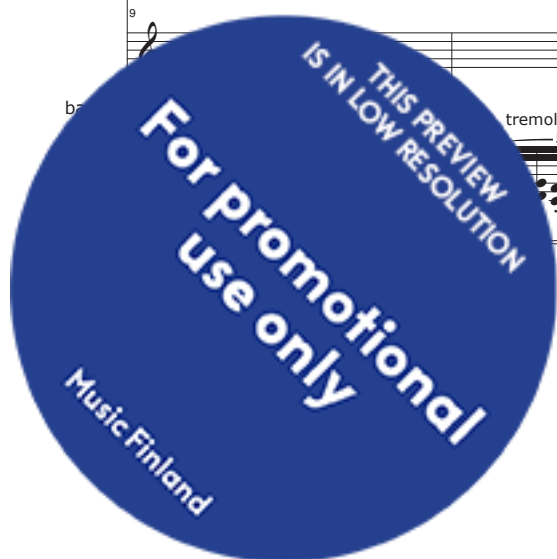
9

band. feeling pity *f* (o)

tremolo vibrato

moi mal - chek!

*sfz*



13

sp v

por - ting your soul

3

vla

13

band.

ord.

3

mp

tremolo vibrato

5

dancer  
(dancing to silence, as if hearing beautiful music)

slowly, dreaming

*mp*

dur. 1'20"

10"-20" ad lib.

16

sp v

like the most beautiful music!

16

vla

as high  
as possible

band.

5

5

*sffz*



VII  
A step  
(Hommage à Schubert)

$\text{♩} = 54$  Calmo

soprano

viola d'amore

bandoneon

*mp* sempre

*mp* sempre

5 *mp* sempre \*\*

sopr.

Each cart-ridge— each— cart-ridge—

vla

band.

8

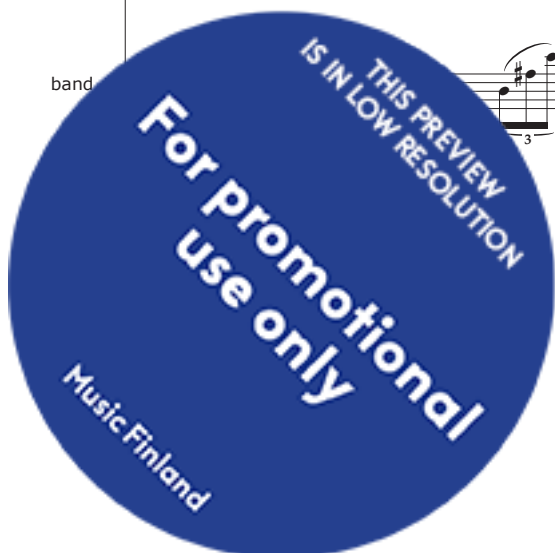
sopr.

is— is—

vla

band.

The musical score is for a piece titled 'VII A step (Hommage à Schubert)'. It is in 5/4 time with a tempo of 54 beats per minute, marked 'Calmo'. The score is for three parts: Soprano, Viola d'amore, and Bandoneon. The Soprano part has lyrics: 'Each cart-ridge— each— cart-ridge—' and 'is— is—'. The Viola d'amore and Bandoneon parts feature triplets and other musical notations. Dynamic markings include 'mp' (mezzo-piano) and 'sempre'.



12

sopr.  a seal on

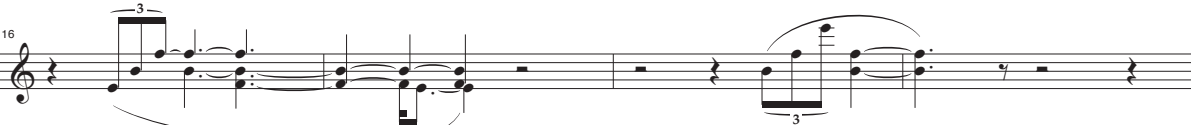
vla 

band. 

16

sopr.  a zinc cof - fin

vla 

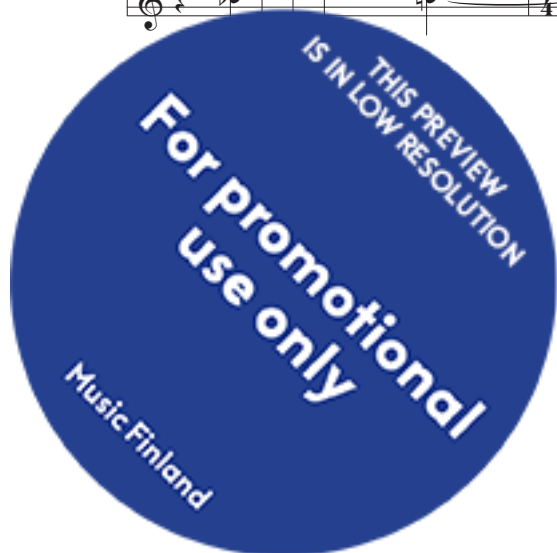
band. 

20

sopr.  but

vla 

band. 



23 *mf*

sopr. *save* *the last*

vla *mp*

band. *p*

27 *f* *mp*

sopr. *one* *for* *your-self*

vla *f* *mp*

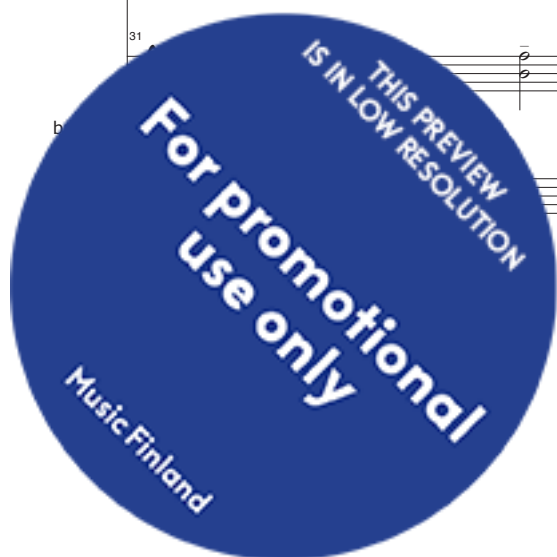
band. *f* *p*

31 *mp*

sopr. *Each mur-der*

vla *mp* *sim.*

band. *p*



36

sopr. *is a step*

vla *p*

band. *p*

39 *p* *3* *mp* *3*

sopr. *to - wards yours to - wards yours*

vla *mp* *mp* *mp*

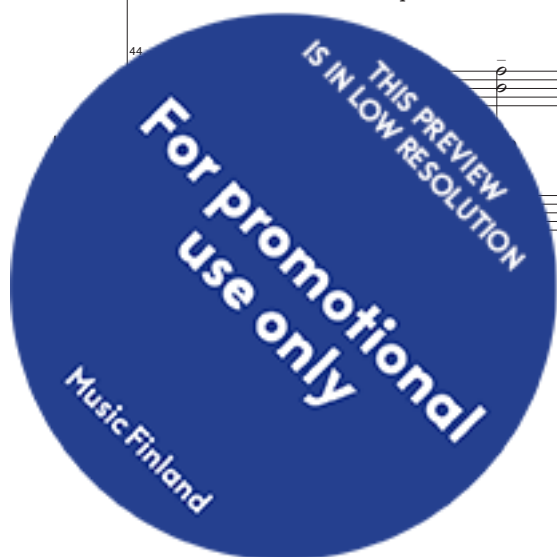
band. *mp* *mp* *mp*

44 *p* *mf* *3*

sopr. *grave each mur - der*

vla *p* *mp*

band. *p*



49 *p* *mp*

sopr. — each mur - der —

vla *p*

band. *p*

53

sopr. —

vla *p* *p* *pp*

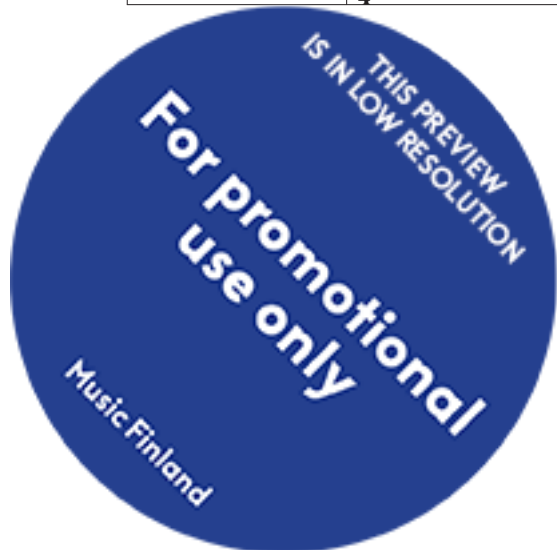
band. *mp* *p* *pp*

58 *mp* *mf* (o.)

sopr. a su-i-cide Cain!

vla *mp* (o.) *mf* dancer Ka-in Ka-in! Ka-ye-yin

band. *mf* (o.) *sfz* Kin!



64 **dancer** *mf* 3 descending prosody

sopr. mé - va - ta ku -nu vidùna arh'i?

64 **viola** *mf* \* **sopr.** *mf*

vla chto ty bez suovo brata? ma ata bilih' chaych?

64 **viola** *mp*

band. **band.** *mf* \* *mp*

band. kto t(e) biz zuivo brata? bê braket git?

**sopr.** *mp*

Looking at listeners

67 5'

sopr. what are you without your brother?

67

vla

67

band.

Helsinki, 5.10.2025

\* = start together but continue at different speeds

