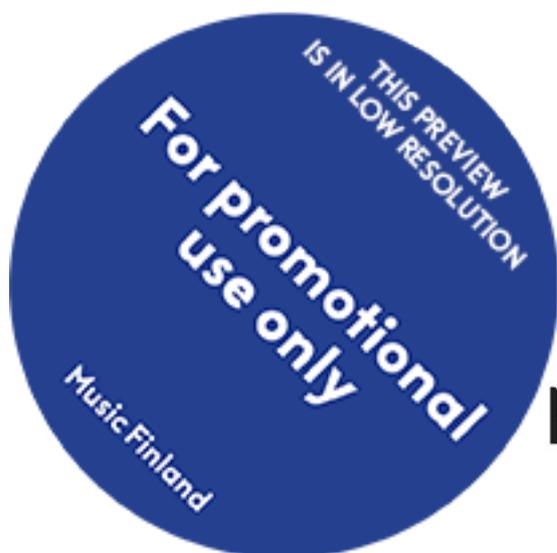


Leevi Räsänen

the two childhoods

for string quartet

2022



Music Finland

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Leevi Räsänen

t h e t w o c h i l d h o o d s

for string quartet



Leevi Räsänen

the two childhoods

for string quartet

valkoista sumua

white fog

leviävä muste

trickling ink

mitä en muista, ei tarvitse unohtaa *which I don't remember, I needn't forget*

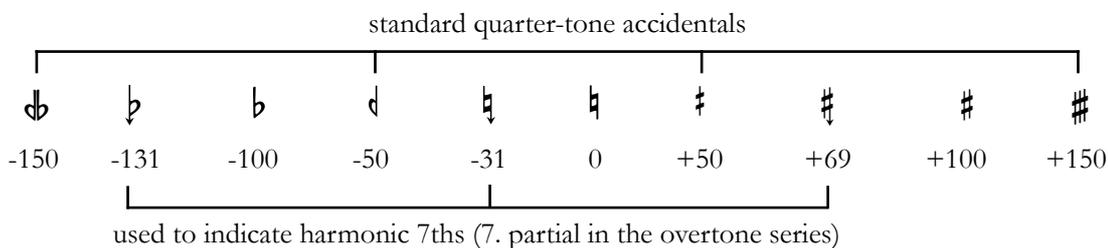
Although the piece includes subheadings in the middle of the piece, it is in one movement. The whole piece should be performed without pause.

Vaikka teos sisältää väliotsikoita, se on yksiosainen. Teos esitetään pysähdyksettä.



PERFORMANCE INSTRUCTIONS

The following microtonal notation is used (deviations marked in cents, 100 cents = 1 semitone):



The piece contains some harmonies that are based on the natural overtone series. All pitches tuned according to the overtone series are marked as in the example below. Only the seventh and eleventh partials are used.

Example

(-31c, as if 7th overtone to G sharp)

For pitches based on the seventh partial, an accidental with a downwards arrow is used. The pitch is lowered by 31 cents (approx. 1/6th tone). For ease of intonation, the fundamental of the harmonic series is provided.

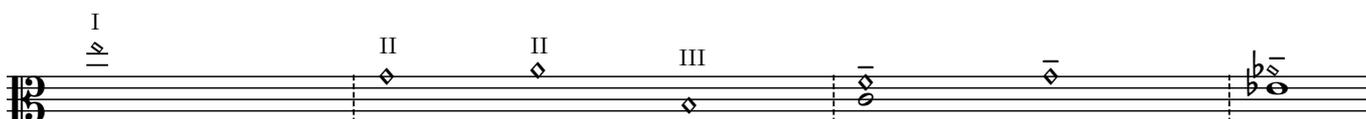


For pitches based on the eleventh partial, standard quarter tone accidentals are used.

In the example above, the notation would refer to an F♯ that is 31 cents lower than a 12 equal temperament F♯. This F♯ is the same pitch class as the 7. partial of the overtone series of G♯.

HARMONICS

Example: viola, bars 14-17



The piece contains a lot of natural and artificial harmonics on all instruments. Natural harmonics are notated either with a diamond notehead on the touched node or with a circle on top of a regular notehead at sounding pitch. String designation is always indicated with roman numerals.

All artificial harmonics used in the piece are 'touch 4' harmonics, which sound 2 octaves higher than the written pitch.

Artificial harmonics to ring clearly and sound bright, regardless of the written dynamic

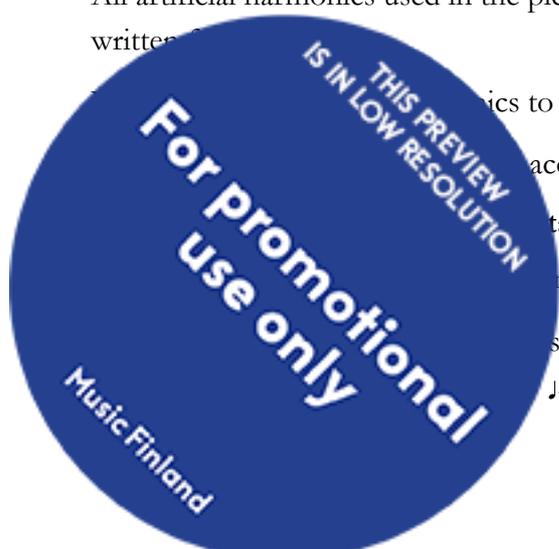
are accompanied by a dynamic swell ($\leftarrow \rightarrow$), aim for the full sound in the

first few notes. Stay there, listening, for a while, before starting the diminuendo. This is

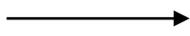
the intention of the music!

In sections utilizing only harmonics, the rhythm has been notated above the staff

(e.g. ♩), for example.



GENERAL NOTATION CONVENTIONS



Shift from one playing technique to other gradually.



Hairpins with a flared end indicate that the crescendo should increase towards the end of it and end with a burst of volume.

The piece includes two sections without metre (m. 1-27 and 55-65). In these sections, dashed barlines are used and the approximate durations of bars is marked in seconds. The durations can vary from performance to performance. It is important to strive to avoid a feeling of mechanicality. The performers are rather encouraged to try to feel and live the natural pacing of music together.

A suggestive durational notation is used in these sections, where the following noteheads    indicate relative duration from longest durational value to shortest, compared to the overall length of one bar.

Accordingly, rests  and  indicate shorter and longer relative durations of rests.



short fermata



longer fermata

TREMOLOS

Four different kinds of bowed tremolo are used in the piece.



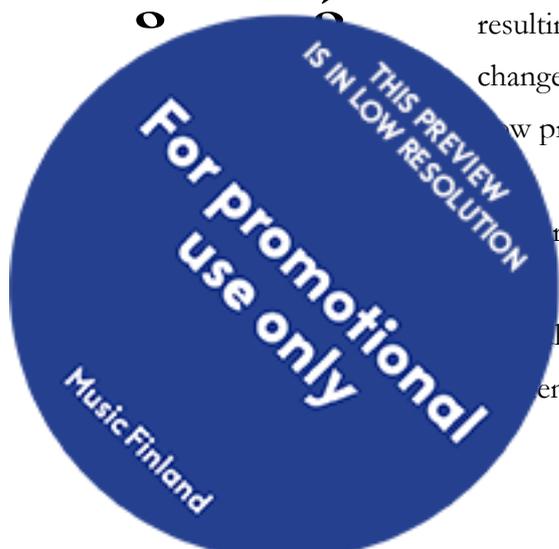
Circular bowing: move your bow along the string in a circular motion, ranging between ordinary position (do not go too near the bridge) and far over the fingerboard (*molto sul tasto*). The resulting sound is an intermittent swooshing sound with some pitch and some noise.



Bow pressure tremolo: add and reduce bow pressure noticeably for every note, resulting in a sound reminiscent of beating. The speed of bow pressure changes should be slightly slower than 4 notes per second. Do not increase bow pressure too much, try to avoid any creaks in the sound.

For tremolo, always unmeasured

For tremolo: speed up and slow down the tremolo constantly, sometimes evenly and sometimes gradually, making it lively.



ABBREVIATIONS

non vib.	no vibrato at all
poco vib.	a shy, very subtle vibrato
con vib./vib. ord.	natural vibrato, context dependent
molto vib.	a very wide and audible vibrato
sul tasto	play slightly on top of the fingerboard
m.s.t.	molto sul tasto, play very far over the fingerboard
pos. ord.	cancels all instructions related to bow position
flaut./flautando	bow fast and with light pressure on the fingerboard, creating a flute-like sound
ord.	cancels all special playing techniques
<i>f</i> <i>possib.</i>	forte possibile: play with as much volume as you can given the current playing technique
<i>espress.</i>	espressivo

OTHER REMARKS

In the beginning of the piece, there is a visual aspect to it. Changing the string and repositioning the bow between bars (as part of the figurative "breathing together") can be slightly emphasized visually, but not overly exaggerated.

Passages with long slurs should be played molto legato and bowed as the musicians wish.

Further clarification for select bars:

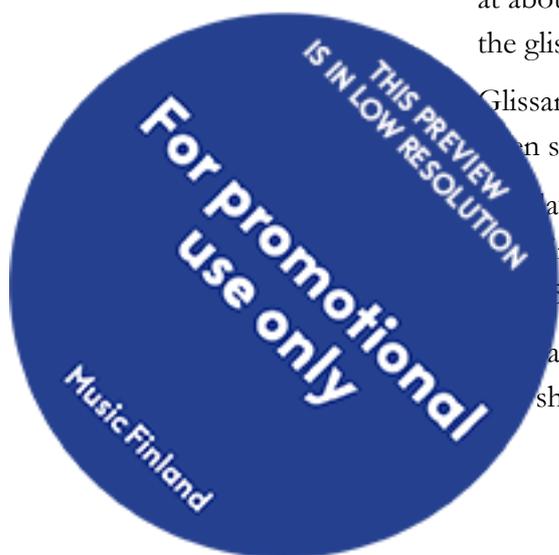
Violin 2 in m. 10

Continue the bow pressure tremolo for the whole bar and start the glissando at about halfway through the bar. Continue the bow pressure tremolo during the glissando and return to ordinary bowing in m. 11.

Glissando with harmonic pressure in the left hand from the harmonic node to the 5th string.

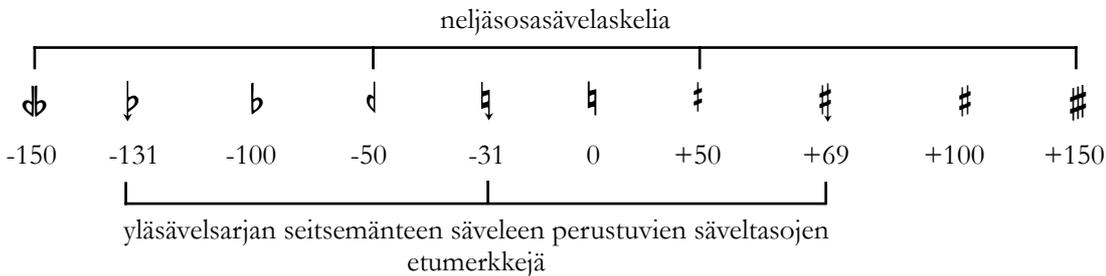
Violin 1 and Violin 2 players should end with a downbow and leave their hands frozen in the air, as if time had stopped. The movement should continue abruptly in m. 55 and m. 56 for cello.

Some durations are notated for all players. The melodic line in the cello should cue the individual notes in these bars.



ESITYSOHJEET

Teoksessa käytetään seuraavaa mikrotonaalista notaatiota (säveltasojen muutokset sentteinä (c), 100 c = 1 puolisävelaskel):



Teos sisältää joitakin yläsävelsarjaan perustuvia harmonioita ja säveltasoja. Siihen perustuvat säveltasot on notatoitu alla olevan esimerkin mukaisesti. Vain 7. ja 11. yläsäveltä on hyödynnetty.

Esimerkki Yläsävelsarjan seitsemänten säveleen perustuvien säveltasojen yhteydessä etumerkkiin on (-31c, as if 7th overtone to G sharp) liitetty alaspäin nuoli. Säveltasot on tasavireistä 31 senttiä (n. 1/6-sävelaskel) matalampi. Intonaation helpottamiseksi, myös kyseessä olevan yläsävelsarjan perussävel on merkitty.



Yläsävelsarjan 11. säveleen perustuvat säveltasot on notatoitu käyttäen neljäsosasävelaskelten etumerkkejä. Yllä olevassa esimerkissä notatoituna on 31c tasavireistä F#-säveltä matalampi F#. Tämä F# on sama sävelluokka kuin yläsävelsarjan, jonka pohjasävel on G#, 7. sävel.

HUILUÄÄNET

Esimerkki: alttoviulu, tahdit 4-17



Teos sisältää paljon keinotekoisia- ja luonnonhuiluääniä. Luonnonhuiluäänet on notatoitu joko timanttinuotinpäillä kosketetun säveltason kohdalle kirjoitettuna, tai normaalin nuotinpäen ylle liitetyllä ympyrällä soivalle korkeudelle kirjoitettuna. Kieli on merkitty aina roomalaisin numeroin.

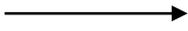
Kaikki teoksen keinotekoiset huiluäänet ovat kvarttiflageoletteja, jotka soivat 2 oktaavia kirjoitettua per...

ti ja selkeästi senhetkisestä dynamiikasta huolimatta. Kun huiluääneen liittyy syttymiseen ja hyvään sointiin noin notatoidun keston puolessa etteivät äänet ala sammua liian aikaisin: kunkin crescendo-diminuendo-tä pysyä hetki kuunnellen, ennen diminuendon aloittamista.

luuääniosioden tahdeissa rytmi on notatoitu erikseen sulkuihin viivaston ♩).



YLEISIÄ NOTAATIOITAPOJA



Siirry vähitellen soittotekniikasta toiseen.



Loppua kohden leventyvä crescendo: kiihdytä äänenvoimakkuuden kasvua terävästi loppua kohti.

Teoksessa on kaksi tahtilajitonta osiota (t. 1-27 ja 55-65). Näissä osioissa on käytetty katkoviivoitettuja tahtiviivoja ja tahtien arvioidut kestot on merkitty sekunteina. Kestot voivat vaihdella esitysten välillä. On tärkeää pyrkiä välttämään mekaanisuuden tuntua. Tarkoitus on, että esiintyjät tuntisivat ja eläisivät musiikin luontevalta tuntuvaan etenemistähtiä yhdessä.

Tahtilajittomissa osioissa on käytetty suhteellista rytmimotaatiota, jossa nuotinpäät  ilmaisevat suhteellisia kestoja järjestyksessä pisimmästä lyhimpään. Kestot tulee suhteuttaa sekunneissa ilmoitettuihin tahtien kestoihin. Vastaavasti, tauot  ja  merkitsevät lyhyempää ja pidempää suhteellista tauon kestoa.



lyhyempi fermaatti



pidempi fermaatti

TREMOLOT

Teoksessa esiintyy neljää erilaista tremoloa.



Circular bowing: liikuta jousa kielellä ympyränmuotoisin liikkein, liikkuen normaalista positiosta (älä mene liian lähelle tallaa) kauas otelaudan päälle (molto sul tasto). Syntyvä ääni on katkonainen ja suhiseva yhdistelmä säveltasollista ja säveltasotonta ääntä.



Tremolo jousen paineella: lisää ja vähennä jousen painetta kuuluvasti vuorotellen, hieman hitaammin kuin 4 vaihtelua sekunnissa. Syntyvä ääni muistuttaa sävelen huojuntaa. Älä kasvata painetta liikaa, pyri välttämään risevan äänen syntymistä.

Maali tremolo (Huom! Ei 32-osanuottitremolo!)

Sainainen tremolo: kiihdytä ja hidasta tremoloa koko ajan, joskus väkijäisesti ja joskus vähitellen, tehden äänestä hyvin eloisan.



LYHENTEITÄ

non vib.	ei vibratoa
poco vib.	hyvin ujo, hienovarainen ja kapea vibrato
con vib./vib. ord.	luonteva vibrato, riippuvainen musiikillisesta kontekstista
molto vib.	erittäin leveä ja selvästi kuuluva vibrato
sul tasto	soittaen otelaudan päältä
m.s.t.	molto sul tasto, soita hyvin pitkällä otelaudan päältä
pos. ord.	kumoo kaikki jousen position liittyvät ohjeet
flaut./flautando	soita kevyellä jousen paineella nopein liikkein otelaudan päällä, luoden huilua muistuttavan äänen
ord.	kumoo kaikki soittotekniset ohjeet
<i>f</i> <i>possib.</i>	forte possibile: soita niin suurella äänenvoimakkuudella kuin pystyt senhetkisen soittotekniikan huomioon ottaen
<i>espress.</i>	espressivo

MUITA HUOMIOITA

Teoksen alun visuaalisuus on tärkeä osa sitä. Kielen vaihtamisen ja jousen uuteen asentoon asettamisen visuaalisuutta tahtien välillä voi lievästi korostaa (osana kuvainnollista ”yhdessä hengittämistä”), mutta ei kuitenkaan niin paljoa että se veisi kaiken huomion.

Pitkin kaarin notatoidut osiot tulisi soittaa molto legato ja jousittaa kuten parhaaksi näette.

Lisähuomioita muutamista tahdeista:

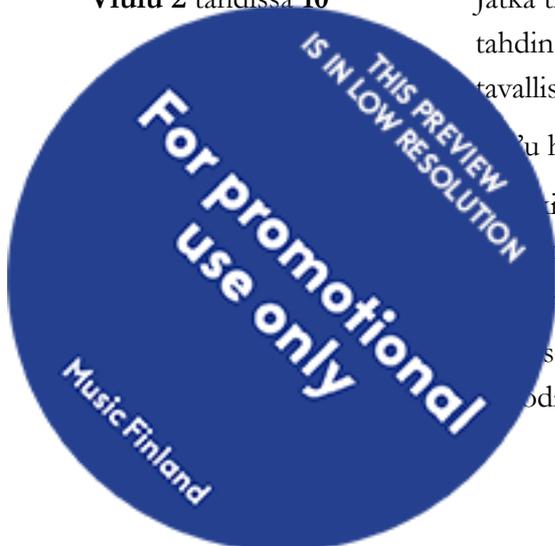
Viulu 2 tahdissa 10

Jatka tremoloa jousen paineella koko tahdin ajan. Aloita alaspäinen glissando tahdin puolivälin paikkeilla ja jatka jousen paineen tremoloa sen ajan. Palaa tavalliseen jousitukseen seuraavassa tahdissa glissandon loputtua.

huilua huiluäänestä vapaaseen kieleen kuten notatoitu.

tahtien tulisi päättää crescendo vetojouseen ja jättää jousikätensä tyneenä ilmaan, kuin aika olisi pysähtynyt. Liike jatkuu yhtäkkisesti tahdissa 55 (sellolla tahti 56).

tahtissa stemmoissa on notatoitu samat relatiiviset kestot. Sellon nouseva kromatiikka näyttää siirtymisen nuotinpästä toiseen.



composer's note

I love my home town, Enonkoski. Its plentiful mushroom forests and bilberry branches sagging under the weight of their berries, spruce branches bent from heavy snow to an arc, the sweet-savoury breeches on the lakeside and, above all, my childhood home and summer house. Some of the most memorable moments of my life spent in them. My memories of childhood places have grown extremely sweet. Yet because of everything I've experienced there, my childhood has withered into a queue of stuttering memories, flashes amid a gray and weighty mass. The vast majority of my mind has been wiped into lukewarm mumble that I wouldn't care to look back on.

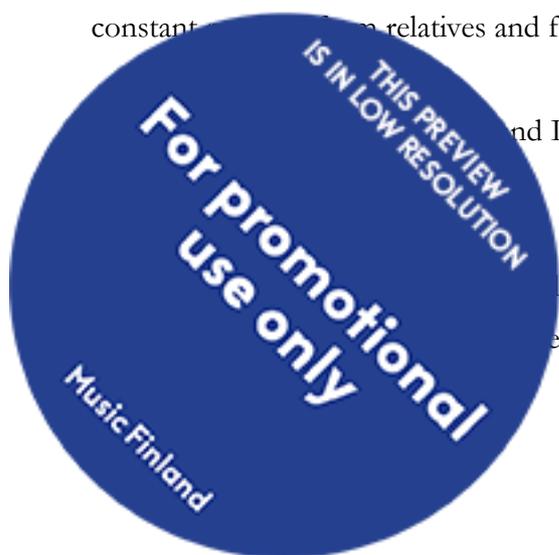
My time at the school of Enonkoski was blackened by a few nasty teachers and a large number of cruel fellow students who ultimately forced me to change schools. I wasn't left with options, I was only 11 years old at the time. My parents' love, sense of justice and determination opened me up to a fresh start in Savonlinna, where I knew little about the adversities that I would encounter after the first few years. I got sick with an eating disorder. Whether it was because of my new bullies or the even more deepened pursuit of perfection is hard to say, but this time around me there were a few important and good friends and a class that seemed to be on my side in large part. There, for the first time, I also had the support of adults.

It felt important to try to address memory-mush through my art, writing nostalgic music or something that would reflect my attempts at understanding my own history. I think I still don't really understand what happened in my childhood. When I come to look at my school years, I see myself most often through the eyes of those others. Even now, my worst nightmares have something to do with me being back in elementary school.

Art I remember. Every opera and theatre performance, concert or record I enjoyed listening to. Every piece I so tirelessly (and sometimes very exhaustedly...) played at the piano and the recitals where I performed despite the fact that my hands were sweating and my heart was slamming almost through the chest. The constant requests from relatives and family friends to play something, because the music brought joy.

and I'll take it with me wherever I am. This piece is my song from

Savonlinna-quartets with the kind funding of the Arts Council of
Center Finland.



written for TEMA and Savonlinna Quartets
with the kind funding of Arts Promotion Center Finland

the two childhoods

"laulu Enonkoskelta"

LEEVI RÄSÄNEN 2021-2022

valkoista sumua

white fog

★) always swell enough to reach a good and resonant sound, and stay on that "sweet spot" for a while before beginning to dim.

1 bar ≈ 4-7" ca. 9"

Violin 1: *ppp* < *mf* *airy, breathing together*; *p*; *limping*; *ca. 9"*

Violin 2: *ppp* < *mf* *airy, breathing together*; *p*; *limping*; *ca. 9"*

Viola: *ppp* < *mf* *airy, breathing together*; *p*; *limping*; *ca. 9"*

Violoncello: *ppp* < *mf* *airy, breathing together*; *p*; *limping*; *ca. 9"*

Annotations: (speed of the tremolo: slightly slower than 4 notes per second); *Bow*; *ord. II*; *as before: airy, breathing together*

6 1 bar ≈ 4-7"

Violin 1: *ff* *sharp, tangy*; *like rushes (kuin kaislikko)*; *sharp, tangy*; *ff*

Violin 2: *ff* *sharp, tangy*; *like rushes (kuin kaislikko)*; *sharp, tangy*; *ff*

Annotations: (slightly faster than 1 circle per second); *ord. III*; *ord. II*; *sharp, tangy*



18

I II (-31c, as if 7th overtone to F) non vib.

III II (non vib.)

II (non vib.) I

I II (-31c, as if 7th overtone to C)

ffp intentionally

ffp intentionally

vib.ord. *ffp* elegantly

vib.ord. *ffp* surprisingly aggressively

airy, breathing together

airy, breathing together

airy, breathing together

airy, breathing together

III IV

IV I

airy, breathing together

airy, breathing together

C

22 ca. 5" ca. 7" ca. 5" ca. 7" ca. 5" (-31c, as if 7th overtone to G sharp) non flaut. *attacca*

flautando (non vib.)

sighing

brightening

fluctu

(non vib.) II (non vib.) II

IV

non vib.



leviävä muste
trickling ink

D

28 $\text{♩} = 50$

non vib. → vib.ord.

mp cresc. poco a poco with more friction

II non vib. flautando non flaut. → vib.ord.

mp cresc. poco a poco with more friction

IV non vib. non flaut. → vib.ord.

mp cresc. poco a poco with more friction

I II (3) *gliss.* non vib. non vib. →

mf (trill) *p* cresc. poco a poco with ever increasing intensity *mf*

32

fiery

ff poco cold, hard and insisting

molto espressivo

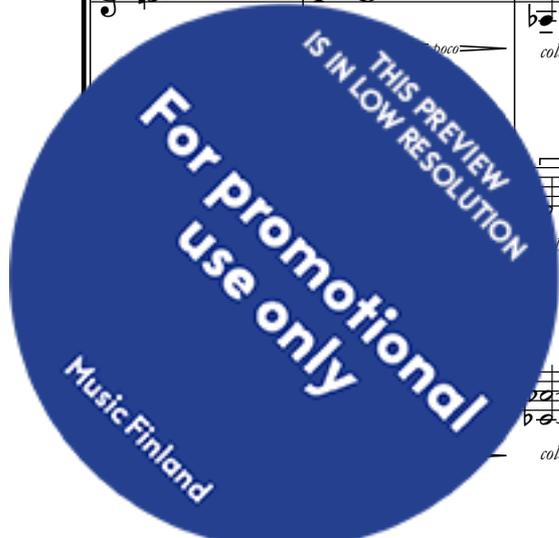
poco cold, hard and insisting

molto espress.

molto

vib.ord. dolce

cold, hard and insisting



mitä en muista, ei tarvitse unohtaa

which I don't remember, I needn't forget

G Come prima, 1 bar ≈ 4-7"

55

ppp *introverted, fragile* mf *breathing together* p *breathing together*

ppp *introverted, fragile* mf *breathing together* p *breathing together*

ppp *introverted, fragile* mf *breathing together* p *breathing together*

gliss.

59

espress. poco vib. *sentimental, nostalgic* ca. 5-9" ca. 4-7" *non vib.*

mp *sentimental, nostalgic* mf *sentimental, nostalgic* p

espress. poco vib. *sentimental, nostalgic* non vib.

p mf p

p mf p

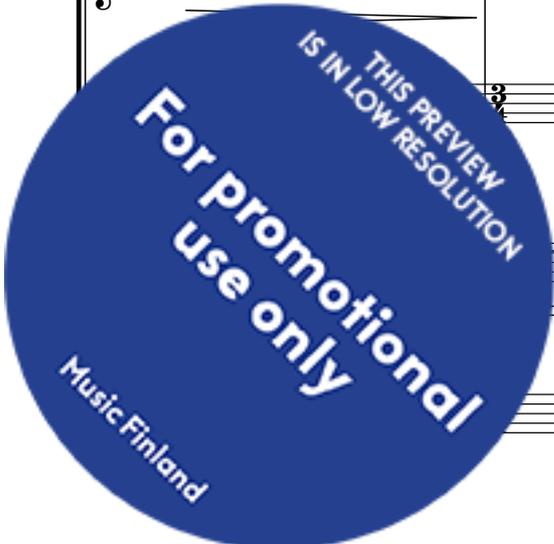
p mf p

66

vib.ord. *hopefully, espress.* p *precisely, with a certain heaviness*

p *precisely, with a certain heaviness*

p *precisely, with a certain heaviness*



83

non vib. → vib. → non vib. ord.

poco flaut.

mf *f*

non vib. → vib. → non vib.

mf *f* *f*

non vib. → vib. → non vib.

mf *f*

non vib. → vib. → non vib.

mf *f* *f*

88

L

ord. 3

al ff *dim. poco a poco* *f* *mf*

91

(ord.)

sul tasto flautando

f *mf* *p* *f*

ord. → non vib.

p *f*

ord. → non vib.

p *f*

sul tasto flautando

mf *mp*



93

3 (mp) sul tasto flautando non vib. p

(vib.) p

sul tasto flautando

p

1 bar = 6-10"

95

individual notes to be cued by cello
sul tasto flautando → ord.

(-31c, as if 7th overtone to H) M 50

pp with care, listening to every tone

with a matte surface, velvety, soft still

individual notes to be cued by cello
sul tasto flautando → ord.

pp with care, listening to every tone

with a matte surface, velvety, soft still

individual notes to be cued by cello
sul tasto flautando → ord.

pp with care, listening to every tone

with a matte surface, velvety, soft still

individual notes to be cued by cello
sul tasto flautando → ord.

pp with care, listening to every tone

with a matte surface, velvety, soft still

all notes need not be the same length
flautando sul tasto → ord.

pp with care, listening to every tone

with a matte surface, velvety, soft still

102

N

mp electric

f < dramatically

mp electric

mp electric

mp electric

mp electric



107 O

non vib. → vib. → non vib.

f *fff* *fff* *fff*

dramatically

111

with care *p*

p *breathing together*

breathing together

p *breathing together*

p *evenly, with a matte surface*

III

I II III

115 P

gliss. *mf warmly* *pp* *empty and raw*

pp *empty and raw*

pp empty and metallic

pp empty and metallic

III

I

(-31c, as if 7th overtone to E flat)

