



Finland in Songs – concert song translations into English
Summer concerts at the Burgher's House, 2025



Helsinki
Helsingfors

Kalevalainen vieraan tervehdys (Lyrics: Kalevala – Music: Ilmari Hannikainen)

Kalevala Greeting to a Guest

1. Let the beams be raised high, without lowering the hat.
Let the thresholds lower, without touching the heel of the shoe.
Let the doorposts be avoided, let the doors open freely
when a guest comes to the house, when a great man steps in!
2. Rarely do we meet together, do we get to know each other,
in these meadows of Väinölä, on the hills of Kalevala.
Welcome upon your arrival here, our great and mighty guest,
for the joy of our festive moment, in honor of the renowned day!

Käen kukkuessa (Lyrics: Larin Kyösti – Music: Emil Kauppi)

As the Cuckoo Sings

1. A girl walked along the fence, singing along the cattle paths,
picking white-headed flowers, goutweed for a wreath for her waist.
Cuckoo, cuckoo, that's how the golden-chested one sang, the girl crept under the spruce.
Cuckoo, cuckoo, my beloved thinks of me!
2. The cattle wandered through swamps and lands, all the bells rang in competition,
beneath the hill the alder horn of the neighboring shepherd echoed,
the woods told the tale resoundingly.
Cuckoo, cuckoo, that's how the summer cuckoo sang, the girl cried under the spruce.
Cuckoo, cuckoo, my beloved thinks of another!
3. Weaving through the bushes the boy seeks his dove, listening along the forest paths
he found his gold and walked curving, circling towards the spruce.
Cuckoo, cuckoo, a strong hand gently wrapped around the young maiden's body.
Cuckoo, cuckoo, the pines hummed the wedding song!

Koneitsan kirkonkellot (Musical arrangement: Martti Pokela)

Church bells of Konevitsa

Arvon mekin ansaitsemme eli Laulu Suomessa (Lyrics: Jaakko Juteini – Music: Finnish folk song)

Song in Finland

1. We too deserve esteem in the great land of Finland.
Though bread won't rush to our joy while men are lying idle.
The crop grows for the plowman, esteem for the one who fulfills his work.
Lallalalala...

2. The Finnish boy for his part is known as noble,
with his strength he clears cold wilderness into fields.
He is dear, peaceful, a man courageous in war,
Lallalalala...
3. In the cheeks of the Finnish girl, blood demands flowers.
Frost cannot affect these, nor do the cold snaps.
There is gentleness in nature, purity in the heart,
Lallalalala...
4. Paths of learning, learned ones are great in Finland.
New kantele of Väinämöinen are made here:
Enlightenment is tuned, good sense awakened,
Lallalalala...

Svanen (Lyrics: J. L. Runeberg – Music: F. A. Ehrström)

Swan

1. Through the evening's rosy glow flies the swan. It descends into the river's silver
and rows while singing. It sang: "Heavenly bliss is dear Finnish land,
its day goes to rest, nighttime forgets."
2. And a rich shadow it casts from lush birches, the bay's mirror is gold
and the waves are refreshing. Its greatest happiness is for the one who loves there:
from there faith originates, it longs for there.
3. When the song echoes swiftly, over the shimmering waves, and the swan
rowed to its beloved's side and sang thus: "Though your life is a dream,
so short is enough, you love on Finnish waves, you sang for Finland."

Oi, maamme (Lyrics: J. L. Runeberg, translation into Finnish. Paavo Cajander – Music: Fredrik Pacius)

Our Land

1. Oh our land, Finland, birthplace, the word rings golden!
No valley, no hill, no water, shore, more dear than this Northern homeland,
precious land of our fathers.
2. Your blossom from its shell will one day burst forth; still our love will rise,
your hope, joy, in its repetition, and one day your song, birthplace,
will achieve the highest echo!

Maakuntalaulu: Karjalaisten laulu (Lyrics and music: P. J. Hannikainen)

Song of the Karelians

1. In our sweet Finland is there a land more beloved than our beautiful Karelia, the wide homeland of song. Its rapids roar as a melody, lake waves splash, forests sigh with tunes, eternal pines hum.
2. We have no riches, nor is our land fertile, but there's an abundance of song growing without sowing. It is not affected by eastern frost, nor northern cold snaps, it doesn't fall by rowing, nor is it struck by hail.
3. When oppression tests our Finland with harsh grip, then our poor Karelia plays Finland's sorrows. And when the dawn of a happy day again breaks for Finland, then the great sound of joy resounds from Karelia.

Jean Sibelius: Koivu (Op. 75 number 4)

Birch tree

Kesäpäivä Kangasalla (Music: Gabriel Linsén – Lyrics: Z. Topelius, translation into Finnish. P. J. Hannikainen)

Summer Day in Kangasala

1. On the highest branch I am on Harjula's ridge. As far as the eye can see, I see lakes with bays. Look, Längelmävesi over there shimmers with silver belts, and Roine's lovely waves caress its shores, and Roine's lovely waves caress its shores.
2. I'm just a small bird and my wings are weak; but if I were a proud eagle, I would rise to fly and ascend to the heavens to God's throne, and with humble, devout spirit I would sing, praying, and with humble, devout spirit I would sing, praying:
3. Oh, holy Lord of heaven, gracious father! Ah, how beautiful is your land, how lovely your heaven. Let our lakes sparkle with the fire of our love!
Oh, Lord, grant us the passion to always love our land! Oh, Lord, grant us the passion to always love our land!

Sulle salaisuuden kertoa mä voisin (Lyrics: Eine Laine – Music: George de Godzinsky)

I Could Tell You a Secret

I am still waiting for my ideal: where could they be?
I still trust my happiness, it will come in time.
I could tell you a secret, I would like to whisper to you: I would wish you to be my only friend,
I would be tender only to you. Tell me, is there someone dearer to you?
Why do you always take love playfully?
Even though I beg for an answer from you, you smile silently.

Once longing will take hold of you, dearest friend.
Once even a cold heart will yield to love. Tell me, is there someone dearer to you?
Why do you always take love playfully?
Even though I beg for an answer from you, you smile silently, you smile silently.

On lautalla pienoinen kahvila (Lyrics: Tatu Pekkarinen – Music: Harry Bergström)

There is a Small Café on the Raft

1. There is a small café on the raft, rocking on the waves,
and there the path of the lumberjacks leads day and night.
There are two beautiful ones: Sanni and Marleena.
And the lumberjacks sing to them in chorus:
Oh, Sannikka, you're a water lily, like the flower of a white water lily,
oh, Marleena, you're chubby, and you've taken my heart's peace!
2. Names of the girls are etched on the shafts of the pike poles,
But many have been forgotten, perhaps carried away by the wind.
But the names of the two beautiful ones: Sanni and Marleena, remain in the boys' memory:
Oh, Sannikka, you're a water lily, like the flower of a white water lily,
oh, Marleena, you're chubby, and you've taken my heart's peace.

Karjalan kunnailta (Lyrics: Valter Juva – Music: Finnish folk song)

Already in Karelia the Trees are Leafing

1. Already in Karelia the trees are leafing, already in Karelia the birch groves are thickening,
the cuckoo is singing there and it's spring, my endless longing leads me there.
2. I know your hills and mountain ranges, and the smoke of your slash-and-burn fields
and sleeping nights, and the ancient trees of your dark forests and the shimmering mouths of
your straits and fjords.
3. There often my aimless journey went through forests and thickets. I stood on the hills with bare
head, where I saw the beauty of Karelia before me.
4. Already in Karelia the trees are leafing, already in Karelia the birch groves are thickening, the
cuckoo is singing there and it's spring, my endless longing leads me there.

Vesivehmaan jenkka (Lyrics: Usko Kemppi – Music: Yrjö Saarnio)

Vesivehmaa's Jenkka

1. Do you remember Vesivehmaa's jenka, boys? Rarely is there such fun as there was then.
The summer evening was warm, spirits high, when the jenkka rhythm played in Vesivehmaa.
2. Young and old alike went the same way, such speed has not been seen in these lands!
Even old Mrs. Vehnämäki jumped up and down, when the jenkka rhythm played in
Vesivehmaa!
3. Everyone said: "I like this so much! If only we could dance jenkka until morning!
The world is wonderful and all sorrows gone, when the jenkka rhythm plays in Vesivehmaa!"

Helsingin kesä (Music: Toivo Kärki - lyrics: Reijo Vires)

Summer in Helsinki

1. I feel it when I walk alone along the shore of the South Harbor.
It sparkles on the stones of the pier, and again the waves carry its glow.
There is something in Helsinki's summer, it's the charm of the white city,
I can feel it, but I can't explain, how words could interpret it!
2. When I see buyers and sellers at the market, I hear laughter and arguing there.
I feel it when I stay there for a moment, and I sense it also in the scent of the wind.
It's the charm of the white city, I can feel it, but I can't explain, how words could interpret it!
3. And when the day finally turns to evening, casting soft twilight in the parks,
it quiets the everyday hustle, and again covers the city with its veil.
It's the charm of the white city, I can feel it, but I can't explain, how words could interpret it!