

# Koivunsoitto

*for Harp*



*James Albany Hoyle*



# Koivunsoitto

*for Harp*

2024

*James Albany Hoyle*

*The Royal Philharmonic Society commissioned James Albany Hoyle  
as one of its 2024 Composers to write this work for Presteigne Festival,  
with support from the Susan Bradshaw Composers' Fund.*

**First performance**

23 August 2024  
Presteigne Festival  
Anne Denholm, harp

*Duration: c. 6 minutes*

## Programme Note

*Koivunsoitto* is a Finnish word which roughly translates as  
'The Sounding of the Birch'.

In the *Kalevala*, the Finnish mythological epic poem compiled by Elias Lönnrot in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and mostly derived from Karelian folklore, the main character is Väinämöinen, an old and wise bard with magical powers who deploys his magic through the act of singing.

In one of the *Kalevala*'s many tales, Väinämöinen fashions the first *kantele* (a traditional Finnish zither) from the jawbone of a great pike. The instrument's sound magically draws people and creatures towards it in revelry.

Väinämöinen later loses his kantele during a sea storm. He tries desperately to retrieve it from the seabed, but to no avail. Lamenting his loss in a forest and wishing to sing again, Väinämöinen fashions a new kantele from a birch tree, which itself is weeping as it has been mistreated. Väinämöinen is overjoyed with his new birch kantele, which proves to have the same magical powers as the original. At the end of the *Kalevala*, Väinämöinen departs the northlands and gifts his birch kantele, along with his magical powers of song, to the people of Karelia.

## Performance Instructions

The following strings should be tuned  
down by 1/6 tone, i.e. 33 cents flat:



The Royal Philharmonic Society commissioned James Albany Hoyle as one of its 2024 Composers to write this work for Presteigne Festival, with support from the Susan Bradshaw Composers' Fund.

# Koivunsoitto

James Albany Hoyle

Con Moto, ♩ = 92–100



*f*, cantabile, ma con moto

20 (8<sup>va</sup> →)

*p* *mp*

25 (8<sup>va</sup> →)

*f* *p* *(p)* *ord.*  
LH: p.d.l.t.  
*sfz* *mp* *mf*

30 (8<sup>va</sup> →)

*p* *mf*

35 (8<sup>va</sup> →)

*p* *mf* *mp* *f* *mp*

40 (8<sup>va</sup> →)

*(p)*  
*mf* *mp* *mf* *f*



45 (8<sup>va</sup> →) B<sup>#</sup>

*f, sonore* *p*

49 (8<sup>va</sup> →) E<sup>#</sup> G<sup>#</sup>

*f* *p*

54 (8<sup>va</sup> →) A<sup>b</sup> C<sup>#</sup> F<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup>

LH: p.d.l.t. *sfz*

58 (8<sup>va</sup> →) C<sup>#</sup>

*mf* (LH: p.d.l.t.) *p*

*f, cantabile*

63 (8<sup>va</sup> →)

*mf* (LH: p.d.l.t.) *mf, dim. poco a poco*

*f, cantabile* *p*



86

Measures 86-87 of the piano score. Measure 86 features a treble staff with a triplet of eighth notes (p), a quarter note (p), a half note (pp), and a triplet of eighth notes (f). The bass staff has a whole rest. Measure 87 features a treble staff with a quarter note (p), a half note (f), a quarter note (p), and a triplet of eighth notes (f). The bass staff has a whole rest.

88

Measures 88-90 of the piano score. Measure 88 features a treble staff with a quarter note (p), a half note (pp), and a triplet of eighth notes (f). The bass staff has a whole rest. Measure 89 features a treble staff with a quarter note (p), a half note (mf), a quarter note (p), and a triplet of eighth notes (f). The bass staff has a whole rest. Measure 90 features a treble staff with a quarter note (p), a half note (mp), and a triplet of eighth notes (pp). The bass staff has a whole rest.

91

Measures 91-92 of the piano score. Measure 91 features a treble staff with a quarter note (f), a half note (p), a quarter note (p), and a triplet of eighth notes (pp). The bass staff has a whole rest. Measure 92 features a treble staff with a quarter note (p), a half note (f), a quarter note (p), and a triplet of eighth notes (pp). The bass staff has a whole rest.

poco accel. ....

93

Measures 93-95 of the piano score. Measure 93 features a treble staff with a quarter note (p), a half note (f), a quarter note (pp), and a triplet of eighth notes (mp). The bass staff has a whole rest. Measure 94 features a treble staff with a quarter note (p), a half note (f), a quarter note (p), and a triplet of eighth notes (pp). The bass staff has a whole rest. Measure 95 features a treble staff with a quarter note (mp), a half note (mp), and a triplet of eighth notes (f). The bass staff has a whole rest.

♩ = 40 poco accel.

96

*mp* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

♩ = 44 poco accel.

99

*f* *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *ff*

♩ = 50 poco accel. .... ♩ = ca. 54

102

*ff, appassionato*

105

*sfz*

108

*mf* *ff* *mf* *p* *f*

(LH)

Mechanical, clock-like

(♩ = 54) accel.....

111 *8<sup>va</sup> sempre →*

*pp, focussed* *ff* *pp, cresc.*

(8<sup>va</sup> →) (accel.).....

(♩ = ca. 66) (accel.).....

115

*p* *ff* *p, cresc.*

(8<sup>va</sup> →) (accel.).....

(♩ = ca. 84) (accel.).....

Tempo I, ♩ = 92-100

119

*mf* *ff* *mf* *f*



139

ord.

p.d.l.t.

(LH: p.d.l.t. *sempre*)

8<sup>va</sup>

8<sup>ba</sup>

143

(8)<sup>-</sup> *loco*

*f*

8<sup>va</sup> *sempre* →

3

147

(8<sup>va</sup> →)

151

(8<sup>va</sup> →)

155

(8<sup>va</sup> →)

159 (8<sup>va</sup> →) rit. poco a poco.....

*f*, dim. poco a poco

163 (8<sup>va</sup> →) (rit.).....

(dim. poco a poco)

167 (8<sup>va</sup> →) (rit.)..... (♩ = 72-80) (rit.).....

(dim. poco a poco) (mp) (dim.)

172 (8<sup>va</sup> →) (rit.)..... ← ♩ = ♩ → (♩ = c. 60) rit. poco a poco..... ♩ = ca. 54 (8<sup>va</sup>)---7

(dim.) *p* *pp*

177 loco poco rit. al fine... p.d.l.t.

*f* *ff* *pp*

loco 8<sup>ba</sup> 8<sup>ba</sup>