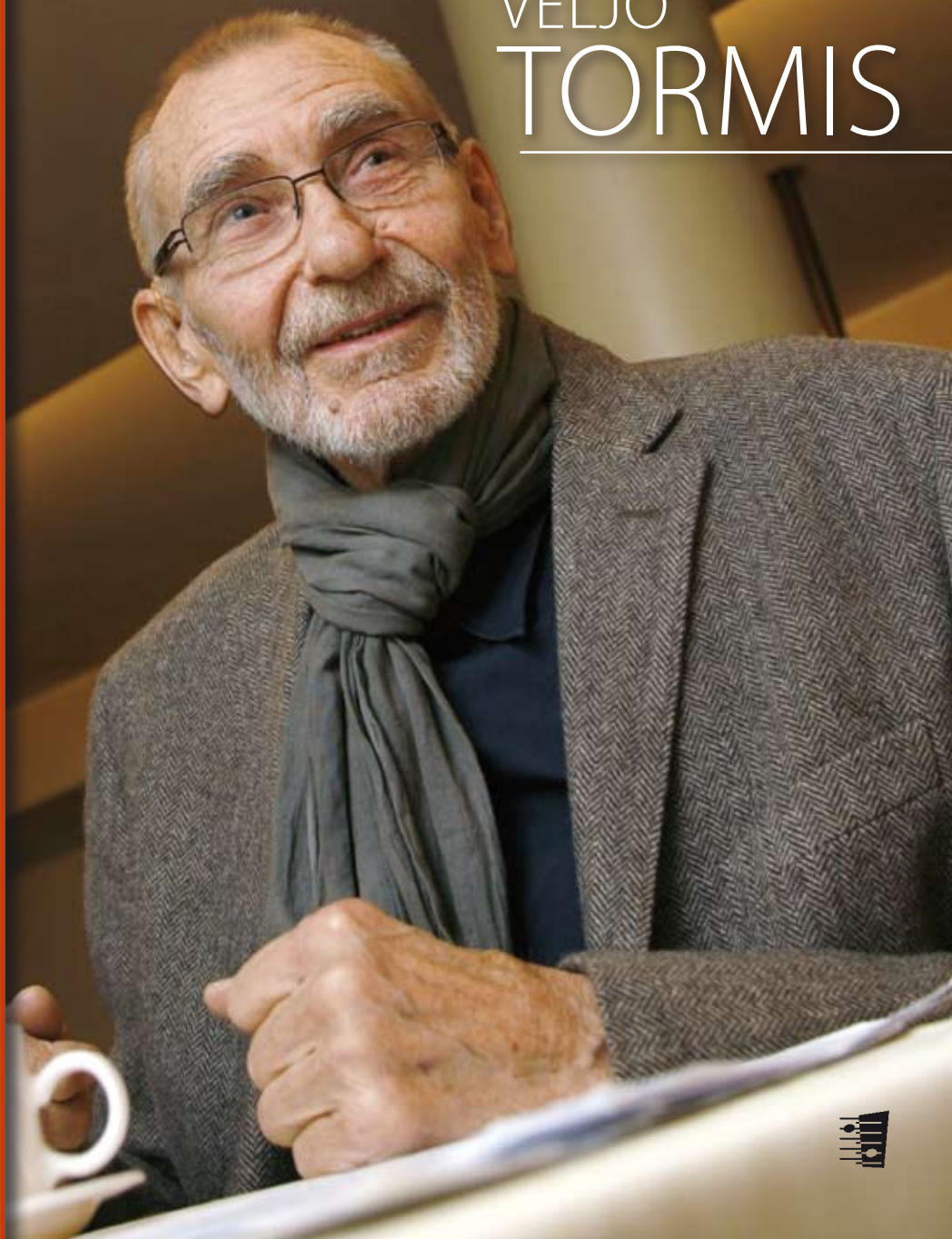
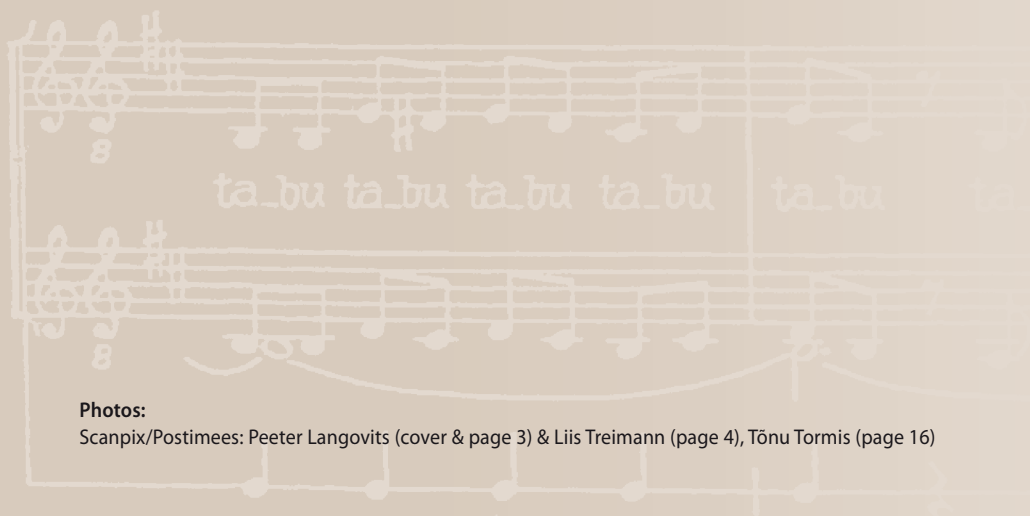


VELJO
TORMIS



Allegro agitato ♩ = 168

Shaman
drum (*)



Photos:
Scanpix/Postimees: Peeter Langovits (cover & page 3) & Liis Treimann (page 4), Tõnu Tormis (page 16)

VELJO TORMIS (b. 1930) has composed almost exclusively for the voice: hundreds of songs, song cycles, large-scale compositions for choirs, some stage works, and only the occasional instrumental piece. His own explanation is that for him, music begins with words; he does not have “purely musical” ideas. He has emphasized that he cannot (or does not want to) write music for pleasure or entertainment; his music always has something to say about the world, nature, men and peoples. Tormis is a real master of choral sound and large-scale choral composition. His colourful, almost orchestral writing for voices is always remarkable, to say nothing of his skill at creating tensions with the cumulative, seemingly monotonous repetition of an ancient folk tune.

Tormis was the eldest son of music-loving farmer, amateur violinist and conductor **Riho Tormis**, the parish clerk at Vigala Church. The church choir practised at their home, his mother singing alto and Veljo often sitting next to her. The church choir sang all kinds of music, and like most Estonian choirs of that time took part in local social events and national song festivals. This early experience of choral music and his involvement with national ideas and feelings related to the Estonian choral movement were certainly important for the future composer. At the age of 12 Veljo



Tormis went to Tallinn to study music. A year later he was accepted for the organ class at the Conservatory. In 1951 he continued his composition studies at the Moscow Conservatory with Professor **Vissarion Shebalin**, graduating in 1956. Shebalin supported his student's interest in national style based on the use of folk music.

In Estonia, the years around 1960 were marked by the enthusiastic study of modern musical ideas made possible by the general intellectual liberation in the Soviet Union. The young composers **Arvo Pärt** and **Kuldar Sink** became the leaders of the local avant-garde, experimenting with serial techniques at a time when neoclassical models were more widespread. Modern composition techniques and an anti-romantic attitude to folk music made their breakthrough in the music of Tormis in 1959–1967. In 1958 he led a student expedition to the little Estonian island of Kihnu, where they attended a real traditional wedding with old folk songs and dances. This event proved so enchanting that it changed Tormis's attitude to the use of folk material. He then wrote the *Kihnu Island Wedding Songs* (1959), a cycle based on thorough study of Kihnu songs.

His acquaintance with the music of **Béla Bartók** and **Zoltán Kodály** during a visit to Hungary in 1962 was to have a great influence on Tormis. He has confessed that the choral compositions of Kodály were particularly close to him, and one of his most popular cycles, *Autumn Landscapes* (1964), was influenced by it. Some years later Tormis finished his first great cycle, *Estonian Calendar Songs* (1967), for men's and women's choir, drawing widely on the enchanting



Veljo Tormis at rehearsals with Metsätöll folk metal band and RAM

primeval power of ancient folk tunes. This was the starting point for “the real Tormis style”, as we know it, and several choral suites based on ancient folk songs of different peoples followed (*Livonian Heritage* in 1970, *Votic Wedding Songs* in 1971, and many others). No longer did Tormis use a folk tune as a melodic idea for motivic development; instead, the old rustic songs sounded in his compositions in their original manner. Around them he built truly symphonic choral textures and dramatic musical structures.

The scope of Tormis's search for archaic material widened in the 1970s from the nearest Balto-Finnic peoples to a variety of traditions, giving rise to such works as *North Russian Bylina* (1976), *Bulgarian Triptych* (1978) and *Latvian Bourdon Songs* (1982). Sometimes he wanted to use traditional material close to the singers (such as Latvian songs composed for a Latvian choir). But no less important was his deep conviction that the ancient song traditions of different peoples have much in common: they reflect a way of life that is closer to nature, its beliefs and morals.

Tormis has often encouraged foreign choirs to sing his compositions in translation, as he insists that the singers and audience should understand what the song is about. However, words do have their musical aspect; music follows the rhythms and accents of verse prosody. Singable translations of texts have therefore been made under his careful supervision and some compositions have versions in different languages. In the 1990s, Tormis composed several works using English and Latin translations of the Finnish epic the Kalevala. These include *Kullervo's Message* (1994, commissioned for The Hilliard Ensemble and using W. F. Kirby's English translation as the original text for the composition) and *Incantatio maris aestuosi* (1996, based on the Latin version by Tuomo Pekkanen). An interesting work is *The Bishop and the Pagan* (*Piispa ja pakana*, 1992), commissioned for The King's Singers, the text of which combines a medieval sequence telling the story (in Latin) of an English priest killed in Finland, a Finnish folk song reflecting the same event (in Finnish) and comments (in English).

In 1980, one of Tormis's greatest works, the ballet-cantata *Estonian Ballads*, was premiered at the Estonian National Opera. It is scored for chorus, soloists and orchestra, and the stories of the ballads are represented by dancers in abstract and modern style. This was a difficult period for the Estonians, for the political climate in the Soviet Union had become harsher during the late 1970s. As a reaction, Tormis wrote several song cycles that almost brought him the aura of a dissident. He has always been outspoken, though in musical terms, about what he thinks about life around him. Some of his most serious compositions are also related to the new turning point in Estonian history,

the re-establishment of independence in 1991 – *A Vision of Estonia*. It may be that the meanings and musical symbols embedded in these songs can be fully grasped only by people who have some experience of that life, but the message of Tormis's music in general has demonstrated its power regardless of language or time.

The 1990s were an extremely productive decade for Tormis, bringing numerous international commissions due to the explosive spread of his music, particularly after the 1990 symposium of the International Federation for Choral Music in Tallinn (including a special concert of Tormis's music) and the 1992 tour of the World Youth Choir in Spain (when **Tõnu Kaljuste** conducted the *Curse upon Iron* to great acclaim). After his 70th birthday in 2000 Tormis officially announced that with *The Singer's Closing Words*, based on the epilogue to the *Kalevala*, he had finished his creative career and would retire. He has, however, been amazingly active during the past decade or so and devoted all his energy to editing earlier compositions, supervising performances and recordings of his music all over the world, and teaching the style of singing old folk songs at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre and the Viljandi Culture Academy. It is true that he has not composed any new works, but the number of transcriptions of earlier compositions is steadily growing. In 2009 Tormis composed a series of pieces for string orchestra called *Reminiscentiae* that are arrangements of earlier choral compositions from different periods and now form a cycle of orchestral music lasting nearly an hour. *Reminiscentiae* was premiered in summer 2010 for Tormis's 80th birthday. He says it is like gazing from the top of a mountain back over the road he has travelled during his long creative life.

Urve Lippus

Professor of musicology,

Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre

SELECTED WORKS BY VELJO TORMIS

All works are published by Fennica Gehrman unless otherwise mentioned

MIXED CHORUS

A. Series, cycles

Kihnu Island Wedding Songs / Kihnu pulmalaulud (1959)

Text: trad., in Estonian, German, English
Eres Edition

Three Songs from the Epic / Kolm laulu eeposest (1960)

Text: Kalevipoeg, in Estonian, English, German
Carus-Verlag

Thirteen Estonian Lyric Folk Songs / Kolmteist eesti lüüriolist rahvalaulu (1972)

Text: trad., in Estonian
Carus-Verlag

Three Estonian Game Songs / Kolm eesti mängulaulu (1972)

Text: trad., in Estonian, English

Three Setu Work Songs / Kolm setu töölaulu (1976)

Text: trad., in Estonian
Carus-Verlag

Dialectical Aphorisms / Dialektilisi aforisme (1978)

A cycle of miniatures for mixed or men's chorus
Text: Juhan Liiv, in Estonian
SP Muusikaprojekt

Reflections with Hando Runnel / Mõtisklusi Hando Runneliga (1981)

(also for men's chorus)
Text: Hando Runnel, in Estonian
SP Muusikaprojekt

Four Game Songs from Sangaste / Neli Sangaste mängulaulu (1981)

Text: trad., in Estonian
Carus-Verlag

Latvian Bourdon Songs / Lāti burdoonlaulud (1982)

Text: trad., in Latvian, Estonian
SP Muusikaprojekt

Five Estonian Folk Dances / Viis eesti rahvatantsu (1982)

Chorus sings while dancing (also for women's chorus)
Text: trad., in Estonian

Nostalgia (Eight Estonian Favourite Songs) (1985)

Text in Estonian, English

Nine Estonian Harvest Songs / Üheksa eesti lõikuslaulu (1987)

Text: trad., Estonian
Carus-Verlag

Seventeen Estonian Wedding Songs / Seitseteist eesti pulmalaulu (1988)

Text: trad., in Estonian

Home Songs / Kodulaulud (1988)

Text: Gustav Suits, in Estonian, Russian

Four Estonian Lullabies / Neli eesti häällilaulu (1989)

Text: trad., in Estonian

Six Estonian Children's Songs / Kuus eesti lastelaulu (1989)

Text: trad., in Estonian
Carus-Verlag

Forgotten peoples / Unustatud rahvad (1970–89)

A series of six cycles

Livonian Heritage / Liivlaste pärandus (1970)

Text: trad., in Livonian
Votic Wedding Songs / Vadja pulmalaulud (1971)

Text: trad., in Votic

Izhorian Epic / Isuri eepos (1975)

Text: trad., in Izhorian

Ingrian Evenings / Ingerimaa õhtud / Inkerin illat (1979)

Text: trad., in Ingrian-Finnish dialect, English

Vepsian Paths / Vepsa rajad (1983)

Text: trad., in Vepsian

Karelian Destiny / Karjala saatus / Karjalan kohtalo (1986–1989)

Text: trad., in Karelian

Two Songs by Ernst Enno / Kaks laulu Ernst Enno sõnadele (1988)

Text in Estonian, English, German
Carus-Verlag

B. Choral compositions

Curse Upon Iron / Raua needmine (1972)
for chorus, tenor, bass and shaman drum (also a version for women's or men's chorus)
Text: August Annist on the motives of Kalevala, Paul-Eerik Rummo and Jaan Kaplinski, in Estonian, English

Rumors Are Flying / Küla kuuleb (1973)
(also a version for women's chorus)
Text: trad., in Estonian, English

Heaps of Song / Laulu palju (1973)
Text: trad., in Estonian
Carus-Verlag

Tower Bell in My Village / Tornikell minu külas (1978)
Concerto for chorus, reciter and bell
Text: Fernando Pessoa, in Estonian, English
SP Muusikaprojekt

Bridge of Song / Laulusild (1981)
(also for men's, women's and girls' chorus)
Text: Kalevala, trad. Estonian, in Finnish and Estonian

An Aboriginal Song (tabu-tabu) / Pärismaalase lauluke (1981)
for chorus and shaman drum
(also for men's or women's chorus)

Singing Aboard Ship / Laevas lauldakse (1983)
Ingrian ballad
Text: trad., in Finnish, Estonian

We Are Given / Meile antakse (1984)
(also for men's or women's chorus)
Text: Juhan Viiding, in Estonian, English
SP Muusikaprojekt

Bride's Farewell / Sponsa suis valedicit / Mõrsja hüvastijätt (1990)
Text: Kalevala, in Finnish, Latin

At the Crossroads / Na rasputye / Teelahkmel (1991)
Text: trad. bylina, in Russian
Manuscript

Sinikka's Song / Sinikan laulu / Sinikka laul (1991/1996)
for chorus and soprano
(arranged for chorus and cello by Allar Kaasik, 2009)
Text: Eino Leino, in Finnish

Forget-me-not / Meelespea. In memoriam Gustav Ernesaks (1993)
Text: trad., in Estonian, English
SP Muusikaprojekt

The Singer's Closing Words / Laulajan loppusanat / Lauliku lõpusõnad (2000)
(also for men's chorus)
Text: Kalevala, in Finnish, Estonian, Latin, English
SP Muusikaprojekt

MEN'S CHORUS

A. Series, cycles

Such Songs I-II / Sellised laulud I-II (1962)
Text: Ain Kaalep, in Estonian, English
SP Muusikaprojekt

Men's Songs / Meestelaulud (1964-65)
Text: trad., in Estonian
SP Muusikaprojekt

Hamlet's Songs I-II / Hamleti laulud I-II (1964-65)
for two men's choruses
Text: Paul-Eerik Rummo, in Estonian

Three Estonian Folk Songs for Men's Chorus / Kolm eesti rahvalaulu meeskoorile
Text: trad., in Estonian, English
SP Muusikaprojekt

Juhan Liiv's Sarcasms / Juhan Liivi sarkasmid (1979)
Text: Juhan Liiv, in Estonian
SP Muusikaprojekt

Days of Outlawry / Lindpriiuse päevad (1971/1979)
fragments for chorus, mezzo-soprano and instruments
Text: Hando Runnel, in Estonian, English
SP Muusikaprojekt

Pictures From the Past of Vormsi Island / Bilder ur Ormsös förflutna / Pildikesi Vormsi minevikust (1983)
Text: trad., in Estonian-Swedish dialect, Estonian
Gehrmans Musikförlag

Double Dedication (Diptych) / Kaksikpühendus (Diptühhon) (1983)
(also for mixed chorus)
Text: Marie Under and Gustav Suits, in Estonian
Eres Edition

Three Hungarian Folk Songs / Härom moldován-magyar népdal / Kolm ungari rahvalaulu (1983)
(or for women's chorus)
Text: trad., in Hungarian, Estonian

B. Choral compositions

Three I Had Those Words of Beauty / Kolm mul oli kaunist sõna (1962)
A poem for chorus and flute
Text: Paul-Eerik Rummo, in Estonian, English
Edition 49

Song About a Level Land / Tasase maa laul (1964)
Text: Paul-Eerik Rummo, in Estonian
Eres Edition

Song About Keeping Together / Ütehoidmiselaul
Text: Paul-Eerik Rummo, in Estonian
Eres Edition

Ballad of Mary's Land / Maarjamaa ballaad (1969)
Text: Jaan Kaplinski, in Estonian

Once We Will Reappear / Kord me tuleme tagasi (1969; alternative title: **Our Shadows / Meie varjud**)
(also for mixed chorus)
Text: Jaan Kaplinski, in Estonian, English
Edition 49

**Flight of the Conscript /
Nekruti põgenemine** (1969)
Text: trad., in Estonian, English
SP Muusikaprojekt

We Have Eaten / Söömad söödud (1969)
Text: trad., in Estonian, English
SP Muusikaprojekt

Going to War / Sõttaminek (1973)
Text: trad., in Estonian, English
SP Muusikaprojekt

Plague Memory / Katkuaja mälestus (1973)
Ballad
Text: Jaan Kaplinski, in Estonian

The Singer / Laulja (1974)
Ode for chorus, organ and percussion
Text: Kristjan Jaak Peterson, in Estonian, English

Litany to Thunder / Pikse litaania (1974)
Text: Ain Kaalep, in Estonian

North Russian Bylina / Põhja-vene böliina (1976)
for chorus and soloists
Text: trad., in Russian
SP Muusikaprojekt

**Voices from Tammsaare's Herdboy Days /
Hääled Tammsaare karjapõlvest** (1977)
Documentary cantata for chorus, soloists, percussion
and phonogram
Text: trad., in Estonian
SP Muusikaprojekt

**Songs of the Ancient Sea /
Muistse mere laulud** (1979)
for chorus and soloists
Text: trad., in Estonian

The Viru Oath / Viru vanne (1980)
(also for mixed chorus)
Text: Hando Runnel, in Estonian

The Last Ship (Valse triste) / Viimane laev (1981)
Text: Juhan Smuul, in Estonian, German
Eres Edition

**The Eagle Flew from the North-East /
Kokko lenti koillisešta /
Kotkas lendas kirdest** (1982)
Text: trad., in Karelian

**Peoples' Friendship Rhapsody /
Rahvaste sõpruse rapsoodia** (1982)
for chorus and soloists
Text: trad., in Estonian and Russian
SP Muusikaprojekt

**Childhood Memory (Herding Calls) /
Helletused** (1982)
for soprano and chorus (also for mixed chorus)
Text: after Aino Tamm and Miina Härma, in Estonian,
English

Vepsian Winter / Vepsa talv (1984)
Text: trad., in Vepsian

**Journey of the War Messenger /
Sõjakulleri sõit** (1984)
Text: Kalevipoeg, in Estonian
SP Muusikaprojekt

Let the Sun Shine / Jäta päike paistma! (1984)
Text: Kalevipoeg, in Estonian, English
SP Muusikaprojekt

**Väinämöinen's Words of Wisdom /
Verba Väinämöinis / Väinämöisen sanoja /
Väinämöise tarkussõnad** (1984)
for chorus and piano (also for bass and piano)
Text: Kanteletar, in Finnish, Latin, Estonian

**God Protect Us From War! /
Deus, protégé a bello! / Varjele, Jumala,
soasta! / Kaitse, Jumal, sõja eest!** (1984)
for chorus and tam-tam
Text: Kanteletar, in Finnish, Latin, Estonian

**The Seventeenth Canto of the Kalevala /
Kalevalan seitsemästoista runo /
"Kalevala" seitsmeteistkümmes runo** (1985)
for chorus and folk instruments
Text: Kalevala, in Finnish

**Story of a Betrayer / Ilmiantajan tarina /
Äraandja lugu** (1989)
Text: Eino Leino, in Finnish, Latin

**A Vision of Estonia /
Nägemus Eestist** (1989/1991)
Text: Juhan Liiv, in Estonian

**The Political Party Game of the Estonian People /
Eestirahva erakonnamäng** (1990)
Text: trad., in Estonian, English
SP Muusikaprojekt

**The Bishop and the Pagan / Piispa ja pakana /
Piiskop ja pagan** (1992/1995)
Medieval sequence for an ensemble of soloists
(CT, CT, T, Bar, Bar, B) (also for chorus and soloists)
Commissioned by the King's Singers
Text: trad., in Latin, Finnish and English combined

**Lots of Worry / Huolta paljo /
Muret palju** (1993)
Text: Kanteletar, in Finnish, Estonian
SP Muusikaprojekt

Crosswind / Tõmbtuul (1993)
Text: Henrik Visnapuu, in Estonian, English

Kullervo's Message / Kullervo sõnum (1994)
for an ensemble of soloists (CT, T, T, B)
Commissioned by the Hilliard Ensemble
Text: Kalevala, in English

**Incantation for a Stormy Sea /
Incantatio maris aestuosi /
Tormise mere loits** (1996)
for two men's choruses
Text: Kalevala, in Latin
Ylioppilaskunnan Laulajat (YL)

Christmas is Coming / Jõulud tulevad (1996)
(also for mixed chorus)
Text: trad., in Estonian, English
SP Muusikaprojekt

WOMEN'S, GIRLS' AND CHILDREN'S CHORUS

A. Series, cycles

**Five Songs for Toddlers /
Viis laulu mudilastele** (1961)
for treble unison chorus, piano
Texts: Paul-Eerik Rummo, Lea Tormis, Heljo Mänd,
in Estonian, Russian
SP Muusikaprojekt

**Three Songs by Paul-Eerik Rummo /
Kolm laulu Paul-Eerik Rummo sõnadele** (1963)
for women's chorus
Text: in Estonian
Eres Edition

Nature Pictures / Looduspildid (1964–69)
Four cycles of miniatures for women's chorus
Spring Sketches / Kevadkillud (1966)
Text: Jaan Kaplinski, in Estonian, English
Summer Motives / Suvemotiivid (1969)
Text: Aleksander Suuman, in Estonian, English
Autumn Landscapes / Sügismaastikud (1964)
(also for mixed chorus)
Text: Viivi Luik, in Estonian, English
Winter Patterns / Talvemustrid (1968)
Text: Andres Ehin, in Estonian, English

Modal Études / Modaalset etüüdid (1970)
Cycle of miniatures for children's chorus
Text: trad., in Estonian, English
Edition 49

**Songs of Singing and the Songster /
Laulud laulust ja laulikust** (1971)
for women's chorus
Text: trad., in Estonian, English

Women's Songs / Naistelaulud (1974–75)
for women's chorus and soloists
Text: trad., in Estonian
SP Muusikaprojekt

Childhood Memory (Herding Calls) / Helletused

The image shows a musical score for 'Childhood Memory (Herding Calls) / Helletused'. It consists of three systems of music. The first system is marked 'Moderato' and 'f sonore'. It features a Soprano line (T) with lyrics 'he - el.le hel.le.lee lee' and an Alto line (B) with lyrics 'lee [le:]'. The second system is marked 'rit.' and 'f'. It features a Soprano line (T) with lyrics 'lee he - el.le hel.le hel.le hel.le.lee lee' and a Bass line (B) with lyrics 'lee [le:]'. The third system is marked 'Andante' and 'p'. It features a Soprano line (T) with lyrics 'lee lee lee lee lee lee' and a Bass line (B) with lyrics 'hell(tu) [hell] hell(tu) hell hell hell'.

Winter Patterns / Talvemustrid

Larghetto ♩ = 56

pp sempre

S. I
 Ju - ba är - ga - tes tund - sin tal - ve - tae - va si - nist
 Ear - ly wak - en - ing, sens - ing win - try hea - ven's blu - ish

S. II
 Ju - ba är - ga - tes tund - sin tal - ve - tae - va si - nist
 Ear - ly wak - en - ing, sens - ing win - try hea - ven's blu - ish

A. I
 Ju - ba är - ga - tes tund - sin tal - ve - tae - va si - nist
 Ear - ly wak - en - ing, sens - ing win - try hea - ven's blu - ish

A. II
 Ju - ba är - ga - tes tund - sin tal - ve - tae - va si - nist
 Ear - ly wak - en - ing, sens - ing win - try hea - ven's blu - ish

Grandparents' Chest of Tunes / Vanavanemate viisivakk (1986)
 Old school songs for children's chorus and recorders (ad lib)
 Text in Estonian, English

Three Karelian Maidens / Tres virgines Careliae / Kolme Karjalan neitoa / Kolm Karjala neidu (1991)
 for girls' chorus
 Text: Kanteletar, in Finnish, Latin

Finno-Ugric Landscapes / Suomalais-ugrilaisia maisemia / Soome-ugri maastikud (1994)
 for children's chorus
 Text: in different Finno-Ugric languages, Finnish

Three Ugric Folk Songs for children's chorus
 Text: trad., in English (Ugric languages in English orthography)
 Boosey & Hawkes

B. Choral compositions

Heavenly Winds / Taevaste tuul (1966)
 for women's chorus
 Text: Viivi Luik, in Estonian, English

Orphan's Lament / Vaeslapse kaebus (1966)
 for women's chorus
 Text: trad., in Estonian, English

Boat Ride to the Island of Wonders / Sõit imemaale (1969)
 for women's chorus
 Text: trad., in Estonian, English

This Land Called Home (alternative title: **The Lake Behind the Cottage**) / **Järv tare taga** (1969)
 for women's chorus
 Text: Kersti Merilaas, in Estonian, English

I Am Still a Child / Veel olen laps (1969)
 for women's chorus
 Text: Ellen Niit, in Estonian

A Milking Spell / Lüksiloits (1975)
 for women's chorus
 Text: trad., in Estonian, English

Step Out Front! / Astuge ette! (1984)
 (also for men's and mixed chorus)
 Text: Lydia Koidula, in Estonian
 SP Muusikaprojekt

The Hero's Voyage (alternative title: **Rowing the Vessel**) / **Navigatio cantoris / Väinämöisen venematka / Väinämöise venesõit** (1985)
 for women's chorus
 Text: Kalevala, in Finnish, Latin, Estonian, English
 SP Muusikaprojekt

Calling Home the Cattle / Karjan kotiinkutsu / Karja kojukutse (1985)
 Text: Kalevala, in Finnish, Latin, Estonian

There is Our Home / Säl on me kodu (1988)
 Text: Gustav Suits, in Estonian, Russian

Three Stars / Tris zvaigznes / Kolm tähte (1989)
 Text: Mära Zälite, in Latvian, Estonian

Forging the Sampo / Sampo cuditur / Sampo tagumine (1997)
 for girls' chorus, log drums and anvil (also for men's chorus)
 Text: Kalevala, in Latin

COMBINED CHORUSES

A. Series, cycles

Estonian Calendar Songs / Eesti kalendrilaulud (1966–67)
 A series of five cycles
 Text: trad., in Estonian, English

I Martinmas Songs / Mardilaulud
 for men's chorus

II St. Catherine's Day Songs / Kadrilaulud
 for women's chorus

III Shrovetide Songs / Vastlailaulud
 for men's chorus

IV Swing Songs / Kiigelaulud
 for women's chorus

V St. John's Day Songs for Midsummer Eve / Jaanilaulud
 for women's and men's choruses

Bulgarian Triptych / Bulgaaria triptühhon (1978)
 for women's, men's and mixed chorus
 Text: Elisaveta Bagrjana, in Bulgarian, Estonian
 SP Muusikaprojekt

B. Choral compositions

Prologue of Kalevala / Prologus Kalevalanus / Kalevalan alkusanat / "Kalevala" algus
 for mixed and men's chorus
 Text: Kalevala, in Finnish, Latin

SOLO SONGS

Vocal Miniatures (1955–63)
 for high voice and piano

Four Fragments (The Seasons) / Neli kildu (Aastaajad) (1955)

Text: Juhan Liiv, in Estonian, Russian

Melancholy Moments – Four Romances / Nukrad viivud – neli romanssi (1958)

Text: Minni Nurme, in Estonian, Russian

Three Flowers / Kolm lille (1960)

Text: Juhan Liiv, in Estonian, Russian

Little Bunch of Stars / Kimbuke tähti (1963)

Text: Aleksander Suuman, in Estonian, Russian
 SP Muusikaprojekt

Ten Haikus / Kümme haikut (1966)
 A cycle of miniatures for voice and piano
 Text: Jaan Kaplinski, in Estonian, Russian
 SP Muusikaprojekt

St. John's Day Songs for Midsummer Eve / Jaanilaulud

104 **Piu largo** (♩ = 56) *p* *poco a poco crescendo e più estatico*

Lää - mi väl - lä Jaa - ni kai - ma, jaa - ni, jaa - ni - ka,
 Come out, come out, look at Jaa - ni, jaa - ni, jaa - ni - ka.

Lää - mi väl - lä Jaa - ni kai - ma, jaa - ni, jaa - ni - ka,
 Come out, come out, look at Jaa - ni, jaa - ni, jaa - ni - ka.

Lää - mi väl - lä Jaa - ni kai - ma, jaa - ni, jaa - ni - ka,
 Come out, come out, look at Jaa - ni, jaa - ni, jaa - ni - ka.

Lää - mi väl - lä Jaa - ni kai - ma, jaa - ni, jaa - ni - ka,
 Come out, come out, look at Jaa - ni, jaa - ni, jaa - ni - ka.

Six Estonian Narrative Folk Songs / Kuus eesti jutustavat rahvalaulu (1969)
for women's voices and piano
Text: trad., in Estonian
SP Muusikaprojekt

Four Estonian Narrative Folk Songs / Neli eesti jutustavat rahvalaulu (1970)
for men's voices and piano
Text: trad., in Estonian
SP Muusikaprojekt

Two Estonian Runo Songs / Kaks eesti runolaulu (1973–74)
for women's voices (s, mz) and piano
Text: trad., in Estonian
SP Muusikaprojekt

Two Livonian Joking Songs / Kaks liivi naljalaulu (1975)
for bass and piano
Text: trad., arr. Mati Hint, in Livonian, Estonian
SP Muusikaprojekt

Melancholy Songs / Kurvameelsed laulud (1979)
for voice (mezzo-soprano) and wind quintet or strings
Text: trad., in Estonian

STAGE WORKS

The Swan's Flight / Luigelend (1964–66)
Swan's Flight (1964–65)
An opera in 7 scenes, 2 acts
Libretto by Enn Vetemaa, in Estonian
First performance 1966 ("Vanemuine", Tartu)
Manuscript

Estonian Ballads / Eesti ballaadid (1979–80)
Ballett-cantata in 2 acts
Libretto by Lea Tormis, texts arranged by Ülo Tedre, in Estonian
First performance 1980 ("Estonia", Tallinn)
SP Muusikaprojekt

ORCHESTRAL WORKS

Overture No. 1 (1956)
for symphony orchestra

Overture No. 2 (1959)
for symphony orchestra

The Ocean / Ookean (1961)
Suite from the Music for the Drama by A. Stein
for symphony orchestra

A Suite from the Opera The Swan's Flight (1971)
for symphony orchestra and women's chorus (ad lib.)

A Suite from the Film The Spring (1973)
for chamber orchestra
SP Muusikaprojekt

Nostalgia (Five Estonian Favourite Songs) (2009)
for string orchestra

Reminiscentiae (2009)
for string orchestra

Winter Patterns / Talvemustrid
Spring Sketches / Kevadkillud
Summer Motives / Suvemotiivid
Autumn Landscapes / Sügismaastikud
St. John's Day Songs for Midsummer Eve / Jaanilaulud
Our Shadows / Meie varjud
Edition 49
Three I Had Those Words of Beauty / Kolm mul oli kaunist sõna
Edition 49
The Last Ship (Valse triste) / Viimane laev
Eres Edition

A Cloud Over the Moon (2010);
original: **Sinikka's Song**
for violoncello and string orchestra (arrangement
and cadenza by Allar Kaasik)

INSTRUMENTAL WORKS

Three Preludes and Fugues for Piano (g, b, D)
(1955–58)

SELECTED RECORDINGS BY VELJO TORMIS

Overture No. 2 (Music from Estonia, Vol. 2)
The Scottish National Orchestra / Neeme Järvi
Chandos CHAN 8656, 1989

Forgotten Peoples
Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir / Tõnu Kaljuste
ECM New Series (2CD) 1459/60-434-275-2, 1992

Ancient voices
R.A.M. / Olev Oja
Forte FD 0011 /2, 1994

Keeping Together
R.A.M. / Olev Oja, Kuno Areng
Forte FD 0019 /2, 1994

Bridge of Song
Estonian Radio Choir / Toomas Kapten
Finlandia Records CD 4509-96937-2, 1995
(New release: *Veljo Tormis: Choral Works, Apex Finlandia Warner Classics 0927-49871-2*)

Epic Fields
Estonian Radio Choir / Tõnu Kangron, Ants Üleoja
Forte FD 0030 /2, 1995

People of Kalevala
R.A.M. (Estonian National Men's Choir) / Olev Oja, Ants Soots, Ants Üleoja
Finlandia Records CD 0630-12245-2, 1996

Casting a Spell – Estonian Calendar Songs
Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir / Tõnu Kaljuste
Virgin Classics CD 7243-5-45185-2-2, 1996

Curse Upon Iron, Karelian Destiny (Arvo Pärt & Veljo Tormis)
BBC Singers, Bo Holten
Collins Classics, CD COL 14722, 1996

Kullervo's message (A Hilliard Songbook)
The Hilliard Ensemble
ECM New Series (2CD) 1614/15-453-259-2, 1996

The Bishop and the Pagan (Sermons and Devotions)
The King's Singers
RCA Victor 09026-68255-2, 1996

Litany to Thunder
Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir / Tõnu Kaljuste
ECM 1687, 1999

Heaps of Songs
Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir / Tõnu Kaljuste
Carus-Verlag, Carus 83.400, 2000

Swan Flight
Finnish-Estonian Symphony Orchestra / Anu Tali
Finlandia Records 8573-89876-2, 2001

Vision of Estonia I
R.A.M. / Ants Soots
Alba Records NCD17, 2001

Vision of Estonia II
R.A.M. / Ants Soots
Alba Records NCD20, 2004

Vision of Estonia III
R.A.M. / Ants Soots
Alba Records NCD23, 2004

Veljo Tormis: Forgotten Peoples
Musica Intima
ATMA Classique 22354, 2006

Visions Beyond Estonia
R.A.M. / Ants Soots
Alba Records 31, 2007

Works for Men's Voices
Svanholm Singers / Sofia Söderberg Eberhard
Toccata TOCC73, 2007

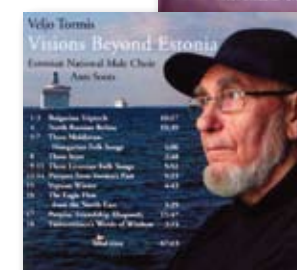
Veljo Tormis on American Shores
Portland State University Chamber Choir / Bruce Browne
Clarion CLR921, 2007

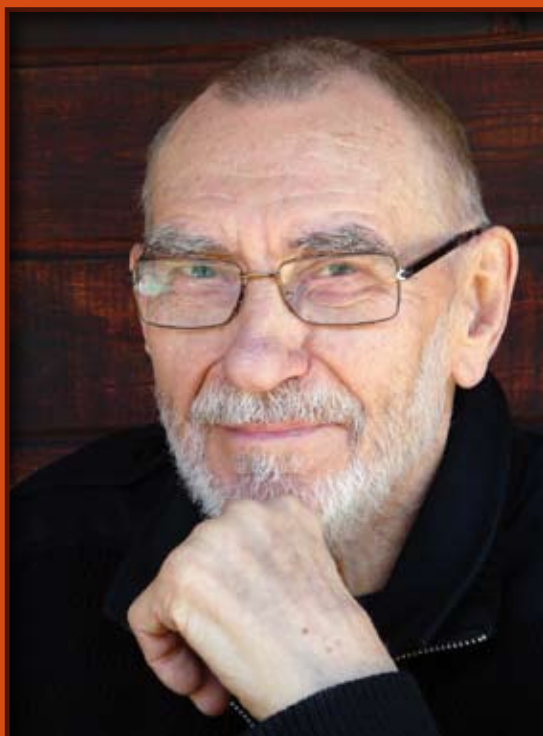
Vision of Kalevala
Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir / Ants Soots
Alba Records NCD35, 2008

Tormis: Choral Works
Holst Singers / Stephen Layton
Hyperion CDA67601, 2008

Overture No. 2 (Dmitri Shostakovich & Veljo Tormis)
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra / Paavo Järvi
Telarc CD 80702, 2009

Estonian Ballads
Estonia Theatre Orchestra, Oratorio Choir / Tõnu Kaljuste (recorded 1989)
Forte FD 0067 /2, 2010





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