

Project Number: 2019-1-DE02-KA204-006113

Topic	Cultural heritage in Europe – Finnish folk music
Author	Kuopion kansalaisopisto – Marjo Markkanen Musicians: Annika Kuosmanen, Riitta Hynynen, Petra Lisitsin-Mantere

Traditional Finnish folk music

There are two major traditions of folk music in Finland, music of the Kalevala form, and Nordic folk music, which is also called pelimanni music.

The music of the Kalevala form dates back to the old tradition of singing ancient poetry from the Kalevala, a Finnish epic containing oral folklore and mythology. Traditionally many of the Kalevala poems were sung and accompanied by the kantele, which is a plucked string instrument. The oldest forms of kantele have five or six strings and a wooden body carved from one piece.



Pelimanni music is the Finnish version of the Nordic folk dance music, which came to Finland from Central Europe and Scandinavia. It is normally played on the fiddle, clarinet, harmonium and various types of accordions. Common dances in the pelimanni traditions are polka, mazurka, schottische, quadrille, waltz and minuet.

The lyrics of the Finnish folk music often express national symbols that are unique to the country. One of them is the forest and different trees. The following folk song *Omenapuu se oksia kasvaa* tells about an apple tree and its sweet apples which will be given to the sweetheart.

Link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42V6ZGMCI1M>