

## Explanation

The music is inspired by the Nature and old folk sagas of my second home country Finland, especially the Lapland region.

The main characters of the piece are the Trolls: small, grotesque fairy tale creatures with almost human properties; the different movements focus on the ways they react on the dark and cold arctic winter and on the outbreak of spring.

The first movement starts with a slow introduction depicting the desolation of a dark arctic landscape in midwinter. No life seems possible in this barren environment, but slowly trolls appear, longing for contact and company. During the summer, they have hidden themselves for fear for the big animals, but now these are hibernating, the trolls dare to come forward. They have, however, during their isolation, forgotten how to communicate, and misunderstandings, interruptions and disputes emerge every time they try to start a conversation. After each quarrel, they stand up, bow, apologize and endeavour to improve their relations, but soon the discussions get out of control again. The process repeats itself until one of the sleeping animals awakens and angrily demands that the trolls end their quarrels and keep quiet, which they grumblingly do.

The second movement expresses the increasing despair of the trolls, as the winter drags on, the temperature further decreases and the sun continuously stays below the horizon. One of the trolls can not stand the situation and leaves his safe hiding-place in search for the sun. He gets lost in a life-threatening blizzard, but is rescued just in time by his companions and joins them in dull resignation.

When despair in the group is highest, a small stripe of light appears above the horizon. The trolls rush to a nearby hilltop to greet the sun, but soon darkness sets in again and the trolls remain disappointed and shivering in the arctic night.

In the third movement, spring has come at last. Nature frees itself from the grasp of the winter, but it is a violent process: water breaks through ice barriers with utter force, thunderstorms accompany the arrival of the spring and the trolls repeatedly have to rush for their lives to reach their safe homes. But eventually, the force of the sun defeats all destructive forces and harmony is re-established in Nature.

The common factor in all three movements is the eternal struggle between Chaos and Order and the everlasting quest for harmony. Music provides an excellent vehicle for expressing these feelings, ranging from dissonant, atonal eruptions to quiet, consonant triads: all stylistic means are possible and allowed to express the infinite variety of Nature and human imagination.

The composer

## Explanation

The music reflects on the nature and ancient folk sagas of my second home country Finland. Trolls, - small, grotesque fantasy creatures with human-like characters - , play an important role in the story behind the pieces.

I: A dark, barren midwinter landscape. Trolls appear, longing for contact and company. They try to communicate, but disputes emerge every time they try to start a conversation. After each quarrel, they apologize and try to improve their relations, but soon discussions flame up again. Finally the trolls, disappointed, give up.

II: One of the trolls can not stand the continuous darkness and leaves his shelter in search for the sun. He gets lost in a blizzard, but is rescued just in time by his companions. Then, a small stripe of light appears above the horizon. The trolls rush out to greet the sun, but it soon sets again, leaving the trolls in darkness and despair.

III: Spring has come at last. Nature violently frees itself from Winter's grip: water breaks through ice barriers, the trolls must rush for their lives. Eventually, the force of the sun defeats all destructive forces and harmony is re-established in Nature.

The composer