

TALES FROM THE NORTH, Book I



by Simo Sakari Aaltonen

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*Dedicated to Pierre Estève,
Michael Shaw, Claudia Christian,
and everyone who has inspired, supported,
or helped me on my musical journey*

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About the Author

Introduction

Tales from the North, Book I is a set of 12 pieces for two pianists and pianos. Two things can be seen at once:

- There are no markings for dynamics. I leave all choices about dynamics to the artists performing the pieces, though I believe the music itself suggests certain choices in either many or most places.
- There are no key signatures or key changes indicated. The pieces were composed chord by chord, moment by moment, without seeking to fit into any theoretical framework involving musical keys.

As with written stories by people who, like me, are uninterested in following boundaries of genre and convention, any event and mood can be followed by any other event and mood, as each tale calls for.

The tempo markings need not be followed precisely if different choices seem more natural or fitting to the performers — as long as the end result doesn't involve either undue hurrying or undue tarrying.

I specify this also because the best tempi could depend on the exact

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instruments the pieces are played on, due to different sustaining, resonant, and other characteristics.

These markings indicate the exact tempi I used for my own clangorous demonstration renditions released as an album in June 2023. A few words about that, to be clear:

This album is by no means intended as the ultimate versions of these pieces. In fact, I can't overstate this:

I rendered the pieces intentionally in such a way that the result is mechanical and lacking in terms of human touch as well as in terms of an ideally wide dynamic range, which would also embrace the more delicate end.

To take the latter point first: the renditions were created using a virtual piano I feel doesn't sound so good when played softly. (Yet its bold, somewhat dissonant sound, which I felt had an appealing tang, also was an inspiring and integral part of composing these pieces.) In many places, an ideal way to play would be far softer than anything heard on these album renderings.

And regarding the first point, about them being mechanical, they are

that especially because I left the timings absolutely, mathematically precise, which they never would be in a true performance by human beings.

I felt that with these pieces, which I approached strictly as a composer — creating them for others to perform — it would've been inappropriate to artificially emulate a living performance, since that's not what the album is.

In short, I didn't want to pre-empt the beauty that can blossom and emerge only with the genuine human touch of living performers. This means that as I write this, a true world premiere of these pieces has yet to happen.

My crude album was shared mainly for demonstration and reference purposes. Skilled, living, sympathetic performances of the pieces are their real ultimate form.

* * *

These are my first compositions for piano duo. I started work on this set some ten years after starting to learn composing. By then, I was bursting with ideas I had long wanted to put into practice.

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I had also come far enough along with my personal musical language that I felt ready to see what would come out of it in this form. I set the following goals and parameters for this set:

- To serve as a daily playing ground where all ideas would be allowed and any experiment would also become part of the finished work.
- I wanted the music to be concise, mostly very exposed and transparent, and often uptempo. It would've been too easy and safe to write slow pieces with plenty of rich, many-noted chords. I decided to go for mostly energetic ideas with a strong forward drive.
- I was interested in making pieces that would be textural and often have several layers working together in various ways, with interlocking rhythms, and building up, note by note, harmonic tapestries by extensive and extended use of pedal. The backgrounds formed in this way are centrally important parts of the pieces. Quite a lot of the time, there are only individual notes happening in succession, and there are only a few unpedaled passages in the whole set of 12.
- The music needed to be genuinely free, which meant that it should even have the freedom to dwell, tread in place, backpedal, fall apart, find its way again, and much more. I've come to feel that an important part of

art is freedom from needing to produce every time something fulfilling any given set of requirements, which would make the result more of a product than art.

- Another aspect of freedom: I sometimes yearn for raucous, brash music, as long as it's also compellingly interesting. I remembered the experience of listening to Philip Glass's *Music in Twelve Parts* many years ago. It was something that couldn't be ignored when it was playing. That kind of thing can be very healthy to experience. Like sandblasting your worries away.

- Over time I've become extremely interested in fragmentation as a creative approach, which can mean, for example, building up greater wholes from fragments that don't necessarily have soft, clear links or segues between them. With a strong artist like David Lynch — as with season 3 of *Twin Peaks* and the film *INLAND EMPIRE*, as just two examples — this kind of approach can add up to an extremely fertile, inspiring, and also cohesive whole, with great amounts of space for the imaginations of the people experiencing the work.

- Before even starting, I decided not to try to keep both hands of both players busy at all times. There are many passages where one player

rests, sometimes with the other one playing only with one hand.

- The pieces needed to be open to any and all feelings that are part of being human, from the more obvious ones like happiness and sorrow to even feelings like nausea.

Certain moments in some of the pieces make me feel a little queasy or even nauseous. I asked myself, do I want to leave these moments in, since they might affect others similarly? The answer needed to be yes, of course, I should leave them in.

Not to dwell on this particular feeling, since it's only a brief moment here and there, but it strikes me that nausea is one of the most universal human experiences. Most of us don't remember the earliest instance — though Ray Bradbury said he did remember being born — but likely we all felt some nausea as one of our very first experiences upon entering this outer world from the womb.

I had also pondered about how often the works of David Lynch feature physically uncomfortable things like throwing up. One of his earliest works is the animation *Six Men Getting Sick (Six Times)* from 1967, in which six men indeed throw up repeatedly. Later, in the spectacular third season of *Twin Peaks*, there are two major scenes involving

throwing up, with one of them perhaps the most epic filmed upchucking of all time. (When Mr. C, on the sunbaked mountain road, has an extended conversation with George and Ralph on the car phone.)

In time I came to understand that without these scenes, his work would be lesser, less embracing of the human experience.

So nausea needed to stay in. It's even vital for us to be able to appreciate how fantastic it can feel to simply be in good health.

The bigger point here is that the same applies to all possible feelings: we have and experience them, and any extended set of tales that totally avoided one or more of them would be lesser for the omission.

* * *

Rather than programmatic, these musical tales are intended as evocative. For me, one of the greatest qualities to be found in any type of art is that of firing the imagination. Certain moments in these pieces create certain associations for me, sometimes even visual images, but for another person, the associations might be very different.

In fact, I would love to hear from people about specific associations, impressions, feelings, and so on that they experience while listening, and

at which points.

Rather than sharing my own, which might limit a listener's experience, I'd love to one day be able to compile reactions like this as a kind of associative index to the pieces — what feelings, reactions, and associations listeners have experienced at specific points.

* * *

I might not have chosen to write for piano duo at least yet if I had never come across one particular part of a certain composition played by a very special duo: the last few minutes of Philip Glass's *Four Movements for Two Pianos*, performed live by Katia & Marielle Labèque at the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam.

This piece and their performance reaffirmed for me that there still are and always will be new and thrilling things to do in piano music, as well as any other type.

And naturally with two pianists and instruments the scope is even greater.

* * *

About the dates of composition:

I started on 12 November 2022. From that date, I composed 196 bars before arriving on 3 January 2023 at the point where Tale 1 begins.

There are also parts in the preceding music I may share in some form later, but the 3 January date is significant in that from then on, all 12 pieces flowed without a break and in the same order as presented in the set, with each piece fully finished before moving on to the next.

These are the 2023 starting dates for each tale:

Tale 1	3 January
Tale 2	11 January
Tale 3	25 January
Tale 4	5 February
Tale 5	11 February
Tale 6	22 February
Tale 7	27 February
Tale 8	5 March
Tale 9	1 April
Tale 10	9 April
Tale 11	13 April
Tale 12	20 April

And finishing around 30 April 2023. No cuts or alterations were made

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afterwards. Then I released the album, described above, on 6 June 2023.

The time since — more than a year — has been spent on perfecting, checking, and in some cases even entirely reworking the sheet music for ideal playability.

To be clear, absolutely no rewriting in terms of the actual compositions has happened, only improvements regarding 1) which pianist plays which notes and on which hand, and 2) the presentation of the music on the page.

In other words, all the notes heard are present exactly the same as on the album.

I hope you may find these tales worth hearing — or telling!

—Simo Sakari Aaltonen, Tampere, 25 July 2024

TALES FROM THE NORTH, Book I



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Tale 1

(Tales from the North, Book I)

By Simo Sakari Aaltonen

The musical score for "Tale 1" is presented in four systems, each consisting of two staves (Pn. 1 and Pn. 2) and a pedal section. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4.

System 1: Pn. 1 begins with a tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 105$. The first two measures contain eighth-note patterns, while the third measure features a triplet of eighth notes. Pn. 2 provides a harmonic accompaniment with quarter and eighth notes. The pedal section includes a half-note chord in the first measure and a whole-note chord in the third measure.

System 2: Pn. 1 continues with eighth-note patterns and a triplet. Pn. 2 maintains the accompaniment. The pedal section features a half-note chord in the first measure and a whole-note chord in the third measure.

System 3: Pn. 1 features a half-note followed by eighth-note patterns and a triplet. Pn. 2 continues the accompaniment. The pedal section includes a half-note chord in the first measure and a whole-note chord in the third measure.

System 4: Pn. 1 starts with a tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 117$. It features eighth-note patterns and a triplet. Pn. 2 continues the accompaniment. The pedal section includes a half-note chord in the first measure and a whole-note chord in the third measure.

10 $\text{♩} = 112$ 8va 3

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

13 $\text{♩} = 118$ 8va rit.

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

16 a tempo $\text{♩} = 60$

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Pn. 2

27

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

30

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

33

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

rit.

a tempo ♩ = 120

36 $\text{♩} = 123$

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

39

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

42

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

45

Pn. 1

Ped.

Pn. 2

Ped.

48

Pn. 1

Ped.

Pn. 2

Ped.

51

Pn. 1

Ped.

Pn. 2

54

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Measures 54-56. Pn. 1: Treble staff has notes (Bb, Bb, G, F, E, D, C, Bb) and a bass staff with rests. Pn. 2: Treble staff has rests and a bass staff with notes (G, F, E, D, C, Bb) and a long slur.

57

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Measures 57-59. Pn. 1: Treble staff has notes (Bb, Bb, G, F, E, D, C, Bb) and a bass staff with rests. Pn. 2: Treble staff has notes (G, F, E, D, C, Bb) and a bass staff with notes (G, F, E, D, C, Bb) and a long slur.

60

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Measures 60-62. Pn. 1: Treble staff has notes (Bb, Bb, G, F, E, D, C, Bb) and a bass staff with rests. Pn. 2: Treble staff has notes (G, F, E, D, C, Bb) and a bass staff with notes (G, F, E, D, C, Bb) and a long slur.

63

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

66

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

69

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

$\bullet = 151$

Red.

72

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

Ped.

✱

75

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

Ped.

✱

78

$\bullet = 140$

rit.

a tempo $\bullet = 130$

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

$\frac{3}{4}$

$\frac{3}{4}$

$\frac{3}{4}$

$\frac{3}{4}$

81 $\bullet = 90$ $\bullet = 123$

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 81 to 83. Pn. 1 (Piano 1) is in 3/4 time. Measure 81 starts with a quarter rest in the treble and a half-note bass line (F#4, G#4, A4, B4). Measure 82 continues the bass line. Measure 83 has a quarter rest in the treble and a half-note bass line (F#4, G#4). Pn. 2 (Piano 2) is in 3/4 time. Measures 81 and 82 are empty. Measure 83 has a half-note bass line (F#4, G#4). Pedal points (Ped.) are marked in measures 81 and 83.

84

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 84 to 86. Pn. 1 (Piano 1) is in 4/4 time. Measure 84 has a half-note bass line (F#4, G#4). Measure 85 has a half-note bass line (F#4, G#4). Measure 86 has a half-note bass line (F#4, G#4). Pn. 2 (Piano 2) is in 4/4 time. Measure 84 has a half-note bass line (F#4, G#4). Measure 85 has a half-note bass line (F#4, G#4). Measure 86 has a half-note bass line (F#4, G#4). Pedal points (Ped.) are marked in measures 84 and 85.

87

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 87 to 89. Pn. 1 (Piano 1) is in 2/4 time. Measure 87 has a half-note bass line (F#4, G#4). Measure 88 has a half-note bass line (F#4, G#4). Measure 89 has a half-note bass line (F#4, G#4). Pn. 2 (Piano 2) is in 2/4 time. Measure 87 has a half-note bass line (F#4, G#4). Measure 88 has a half-note bass line (F#4, G#4). Measure 89 has a half-note bass line (F#4, G#4). Pedal points (Ped.) are marked in measures 87 and 88.

90

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

Measures 90-92. Pn. 1: Rest, Rest, Half note. Pn. 2: Half note, Quarter note, Half note. Pedal points in measures 90 and 91.

93

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

Measures 93-95. Pn. 1: Half note, Quarter note, Half note. Pn. 2: Half note, Quarter note, Half note. Pedal points in measures 93 and 94.

96

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

Measures 96-98. Pn. 1: Half note, Quarter note, Half note. Pn. 2: Half note, Quarter note, Half note. Pedal points in measures 96 and 97.

99 $\bullet = 110$

Pn. 1

Ped.

Pn. 2

Ped.

Tale 2

(Tales from the North, Book I)

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♩ = 105

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

4

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

7

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

10

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

13

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

Ped.

16

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

✱

✱

19

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

Measures 19-21. Pn. 1 (treble and bass) has a melodic line in the treble and a sustained bass line. Pn. 2 (treble and bass) has a melodic line in the treble and a sustained bass line. Pedal points are marked in both staves.

22

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

8va-----

Measures 22-24. Pn. 1 (treble and bass) has a melodic line in the treble and a sustained bass line. Pn. 2 (treble and bass) has a melodic line in the treble and a sustained bass line. Pedal points are marked in both staves. An 8va marking is present in measure 23.

25

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

8va-----

Measures 25-27. Pn. 1 (treble and bass) has a melodic line in the treble and a sustained bass line. Pn. 2 (treble and bass) has a melodic line in the treble and a sustained bass line. Pedal points are marked in both staves. An 8va marking is present in measure 26.

27

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

30

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

8va

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

33

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

36

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Measures 36-38. Pn. 1 (Piano 1) has a long melodic line with a slur. Pn. 2 (Piano 2) has a more active line with many eighth notes.

39

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Measures 39-41. Pn. 1 (Piano 1) has a melodic line with a slur. Pn. 2 (Piano 2) has a more active line with many eighth notes. Pedal points are marked for both pianos.

42

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Measures 42-44. Pn. 1 (Piano 1) has a melodic line with a slur. Pn. 2 (Piano 2) has a more active line with many eighth notes.

45 $\bullet = 153$

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

48

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

51

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

54 *8va* ----- $\bullet = 135$

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

6

57 $\bullet = 153$

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

8va -----

3

3

3

60

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

3

3

3

64

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

8va

3

3

67

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

8va

3

3

71

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

8va

3

3

74

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

77

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

80

8va-----

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

84

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

The musical score consists of two systems, Pn. 1 and Pn. 2, each with a treble and bass staff. Pn. 1 starts at measure 84. The treble staff has a half note G4, a half note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, and a half note F5. The bass staff has a half note G3, a half note A3, a quarter note B3, a quarter note C4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, and a half note F4. Pn. 2 has a treble staff with a half note G4, a half note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, and a half note F5. The bass staff has a half note G3, a half note A3, a quarter note B3, a quarter note C4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, and a half note F4. The score ends with a double bar line.

Tale 3

(Tales from the North, Book I)

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$\bullet = 79$

Pn. 1

Ped.

Pn. 2

8vb
Ped.

4

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

8vb

7

Pn. 1

R L

6

8va

Pn. 2

The musical score is written for two piano parts, Pn. 1 and Pn. 2, and a pedal point. The time signature is 3/4. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 79. The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the initial measures, with Pn. 1 starting on a whole note and Pn. 2 on a half note. The second system continues the melody in Pn. 1, with Pn. 2 providing harmonic support. The third system features a more complex texture with Pn. 1 playing sixteenth-note patterns and Pn. 2 playing eighth-note patterns. The pedal point is indicated by 'Ped.' and '8vb' markings.

18

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

21

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

24

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

35 $\bullet = 126$

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

38

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

41

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

44 *8va*

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

47

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

50

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

53

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

56

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

68

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

Ped.

71

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

$\text{♩} = 90$

rit.

a tempo $\text{♩} = 88$

$\ast$

Ped.

Ped.

74

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

$\text{♩} = 92$ *accel.*

77 *a tempo* ♩ = 95 *accel.*

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

80 *a tempo* ♩ = 119

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

8vb

84 ♩ = 60

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

Ped.

87

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

8va

7

89

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

91

Pn. 1

Pn. 2

5/4

5/4

5/4

93

Pn. 1

8va clef

Ped.

Pn. 2

95

Pn. 1

Ped.

Pn. 2

Ped.

97

Pn. 1

treble clef

8va

15ma

Ped.

Pn. 2

15ma

15ma

3

✱

✱

**ABOUT
THE AUTHOR
(2026)**

**SIMO SAKARI
AALTONEN**
—**WRITER & COMPOSER**—



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Finnish writer, composer, filmmaker, visual artist, podcaster. Has lived in Finland, Iceland, Paris, and the UK.

BOOKS

Art & Love (*series, 2020–*)

At Dawn: Early Short Stories (2022, Large Print Edition 2024)

The Better Patreon (*series, 2026–*)

An Iceland Symphony, Op. 1: A Theatrical Symphony for All Ages (*sheet music, 2021, 2nd Edition 2024*)

Land of Youth & Beauty: Early Poems (2022, Large Print Edition 2024)

Solid Gold: David Lynch — 90 Concise Chapters on Him and His World (2026)

Tales from the North, Book I (*sheet music, 2024*)

What Now with Simo (*series, 2020–*)

You Never Know What You'll See in the Haunted Garden (*limited series, 2019–*)

MUSIC

Early Music Archive (2023 album)

“In the Fog, Deep” (2024 single)

“Land of Youth & Beauty” (2023 single)

Passages Dark and Light (2022 album)

Passages Dark and Light II (2024 album)

Tales from the North, Book I (2023 album)

“That Dark, Dark Night” (2024 single)

The 13th Tale (2024 album)

Official site: simosakariaaltonen.com

Patreon: patreon.com/TheBetterPatreon

Bandcamp: simosakariaaltonen.bandcamp.com

Podcast hosting site: rss.com/podcasts/simo

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@SimoSakariAaltonen



The Better Patreon is my private Patreon and creative online home launched on 3 April 2025.

It provides to all members a regular stream of features on a weekly 3-day cycle (Monday to Wednesday):

A weekly, fully laid out and illustrated PDF newsletter, a Creative Journal, a David Lynch Series (a book in the making), short stories, poetry, diverse short writings, full Northern Exposure rewatch posts, Monday Midnight Movies, special features about all aspects of creativity, glimpses behind the scenes, early access to all my future works before they're published or released elsewhere, and a lot more to come.

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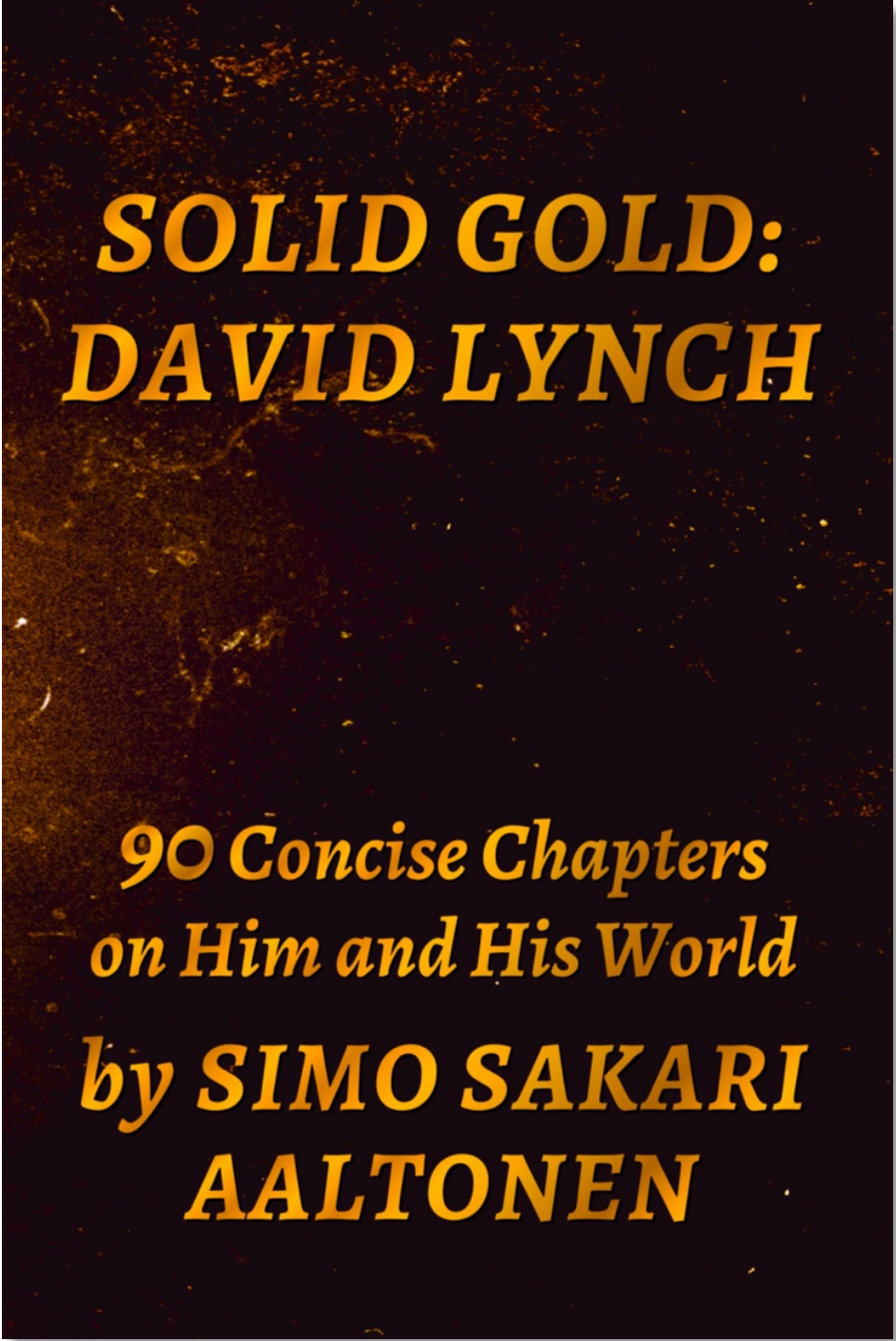
The Better Patreon is both a website and a book series, with the former launched in April 2025 and the latter in March 2026. These books will collect between two covers all the written and visual content month by month, making this a true and unique

THE BETTER PATREON VOL. 1: APRIL 2025

- ✓ 4 INTRODUCTORY POSTS
- ✓ 4 NEWSLETTER ISSUES
- ✓ 5 SHORT STORIES
- ✓ 12 POEMS
- ✓ 12 ART & LOVE CHAPTERS
- ✓ MONDAY MIDNIGHT MOVIE #1
- ✓ 4 NORTHERN EXPOSURE ENTRIES
- ✓ HEALTH & CREATIVITY: "LET'S GET BETTER"
- ✓ AN ICELAND SYMPHONY: I. "THE MUSIC BOX"
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SOLID GOLD: DAVID LYNCH

**90 Concise Chapters
on Him and His World
by SIMO SAKARI
AALTONEN**

A kaleidoscopic, appreciative dive into the world of David Lynch via 90 chapters examining as many key facets of his life and works.

This is the first book I ever wrote fully during the existence of my Patreon, members of which were able to follow the process week by week as I posted three new chapters every Monday over a period of 30 weeks from late 2025 to early 2026.

David Lynch is one of my favourite artists in all the many fields he created in. From first seeing Twin Peaks in my teens to immensely rewarding and inspiring delvings in later years, my life — and this world — would clearly be immeasurably poorer had he never existed and created.

The approach I selected grew out of the one I had adopted for my Art & Love series. This is a book about David Lynch for readers from all over the world and for all time.

Creating is the coolest thing that we can do.

—David Lynch

AT DAWN: EARLY SHORT STORIES



This book collects my short stories so far. Written over a period of many years, they explore many fields:

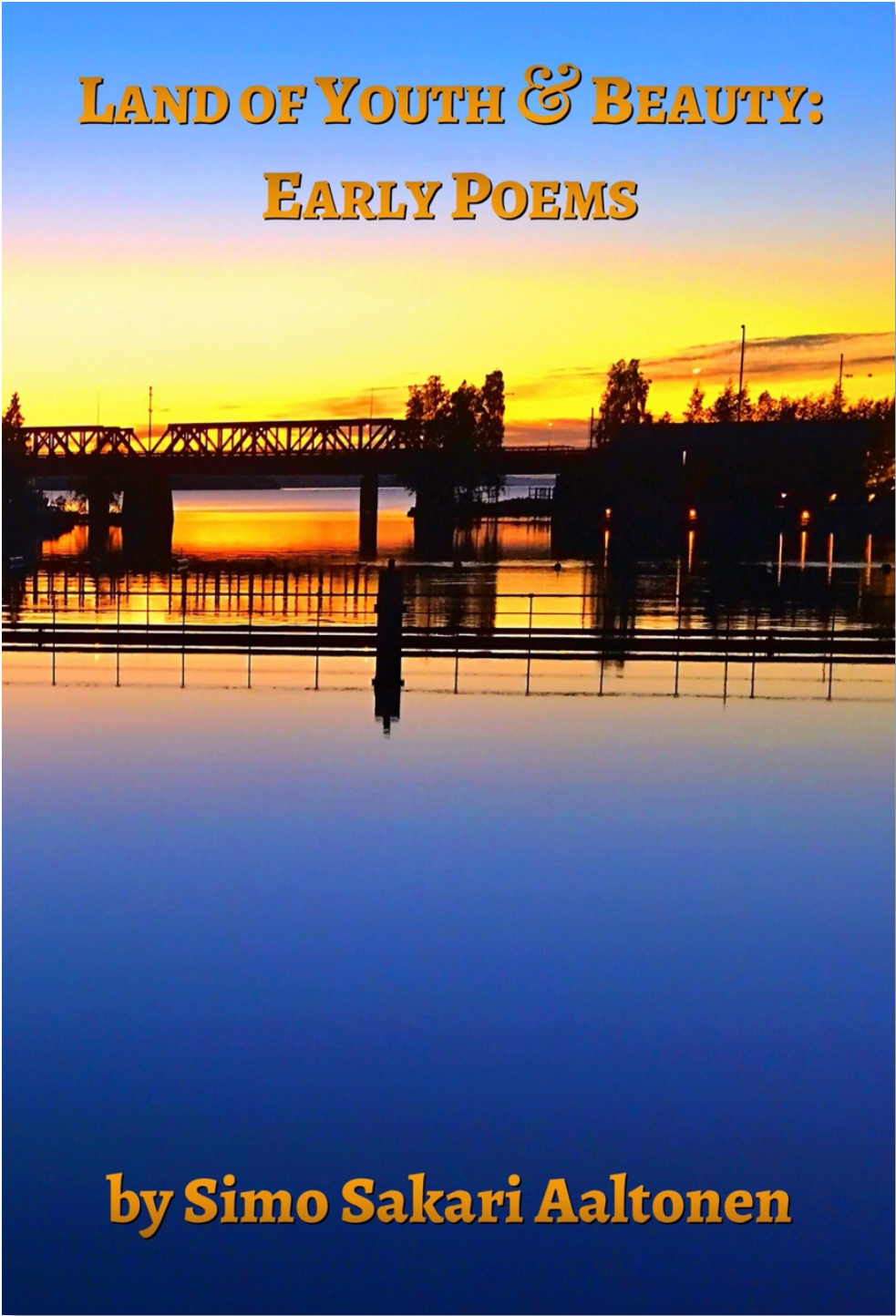
Prose poetry, youthful night adventure, introspective science fiction, philosophical horror, chaptered dream exploration, humorous biographical detective fiction, seafaring sequel to one of a very young H. P. Lovecraft's stories, fragments...

This is the earliest harvest of my short fiction writing, from the dawn of my life. The stories were written when I was still looking for my most special things and the truest desires of my secret heart.

Having since found them, my future writings will mostly be very different. So while some of the stories in this collection feature strands I may develop further in those future stories, others will be the only ones of their kind I'll ever write.

But now, my fellow dreamer, it's dawn. The world is young again...

— Also available in a *Large Print Edition* —

The background of the book cover is a photograph of a bridge over a body of water at sunset. The sky is a gradient of blue, orange, and yellow. The bridge is silhouetted against the bright sky, and its reflection is visible in the water. The water is calm, and the overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

LAND OF YOUTH & BEAUTY: EARLY POEMS

by Simo Sakari Aaltonen

This book collects my poems so far. Written over more than two decades, they explore life in all its hues, dark and light and the rainbow in between:

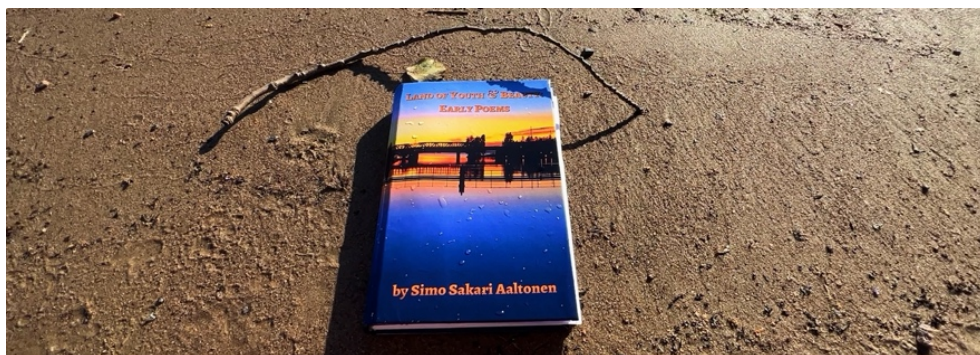
A marionette's dream, a pair of sonnets, a bayou tragedy, whirling donuts, nocturnes and nightmares, encounters in the dark and in sunlit moments...

Above and through all of it shimmers the greatest thing of all: the Land of Youth & Beauty — the magic theatre we enter when we love and feel truly loved.

“This happened when the world was young and love could never die, when the skies flamed every morning and it rained every night...”

— Also available in a *Large Print Edition* —

Land of Youth & Beauty: Early Poems — Lake Presentation



A short film (12:36) viewable on my official YouTube artist channel and my official site. The soundtrack was later released as my first single, “Land of Youth & Beauty”.

FILM



My early filmed works (2015–) are featured on my YouTube channel, presented on my Patreon, and embedded on my official site.

With few exceptions, these short works were conceived and executed entirely by me: writing, directing, cinematography, lighting, music, sound recording and engineering, featured art, editing, occasional acting, and everything else needed.

I look forward to working with actors in the future with my coming works in this field. You can find my full credits and these works listed on IMDb. I also actively continue with my screenwriting.

simosakariaaltonen.com

patreon.com/TheBetterPatreon

youtube.com/@SimoSakariAaltonen

MUSIC



From the bleakest dark to the brightest light, my music explores the full range of human experience. Behind it strives a soul hoping to reach likeminded others out there.

You can buy all my released music from my Patreon Shop or Bandcamp — where you can also read the detailed sleeve notes — and you can find it on numerous download and streaming platforms.

patreon.com/TheBetterPatreon

simosakariaaltonen.bandcamp.com

AN ICELAND SYMPHONY, Op. 1

— A Theatrical Symphony for All Ages —

2nd EDITION

XX. Love (An Iceland Symphony)



by **Simo Sakari Aaltonen**

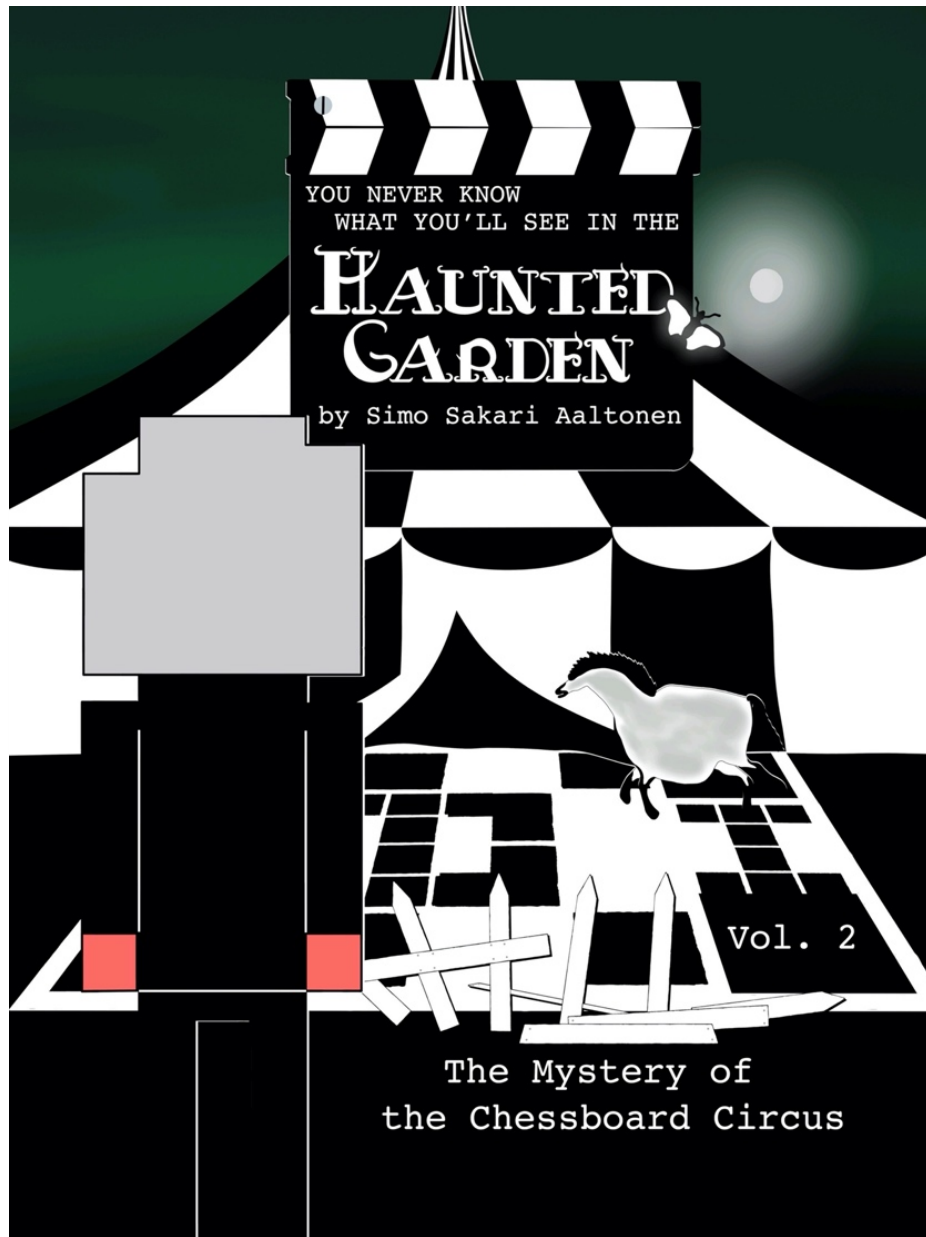
An Iceland Symphony is a musical composition of 21 sections involving theatrical elements. Its performance calls for musicians of all ages from the youngest to the oldest. This book includes the full sheet music complete with performance instructions.



Tales from the North, Book I is a set of 12 piano duets for two pianists and pianos. The pieces cover a wide range of moods, styles, and approaches using the composer's timeless musical language. 130 pages with a 10-page introduction.



You Never Know What You'll See in the Haunted Garden is a 3-part graphic novel featuring Rex the former game actor, Pregnant Horse of the Lascaux caves, and Alannah the butterfly. Vol. 1 introduces us to the mysterious Haunted Garden in Iceland with a series of visions.



Vol. 2: The Mystery of the Chessboard Circus *involves our heroes in an adventure where the visions find form in a series of events. And as with the first volume, clues to the future already await discovery in this, our second journey into the dream world known as the Haunted Garden. Vol. 3...?*



This 2020–2025 podcast used to be my central outlet for thoughts, feelings, passing fancies, memories, dreams, appreciations, and more.

Maybe a better metaphor would be a flickering campfire after a long day out in the wild — or in the inner wild. Or perhaps a random book with a flashlight under the blanket in a beautiful summer cottage, somewhere in eternity.

I recorded every episode extemporaneously, transcribed them afterwards, and eventually collected each season into these printed volumes. Part journal, part memoir, part musings on art and life, part strange humour, and part me reaching out to other souls out there.

Every edition brings every word of each season onto the printed page, for reading or leafing through at your own pace. This also makes the podcast available in its entirety to everyone with any hearing loss.

Unedited, unexpurgated, and with an introduction, a table-of-contents summary in the style of old books, and a varying number of footnotes in every volume.

—Simo



Diverse short writings about art, life, love, creativity, dreams, and more. Each volume features 124 concise chapters, perfect either for leafing through or taking in many at a time.

As a further embodiment of the things discussed on these pages, Vol. 2 evolves the series in an even freer direction. It also includes a number of extra chapters at the back, unseen since the author removed them from a website called Medium.



Tales from the North, Book I is a set of 12 piano duets for two pianists and pianos. The pieces cover a wide range of moods, styles, and approaches using the composer's timeless musical language.

Simo Sakari Aaltonen is a Finnish writer, composer, filmmaker, and podcaster. *Tales from the North, Book I* is his first set of compositions for piano duo.