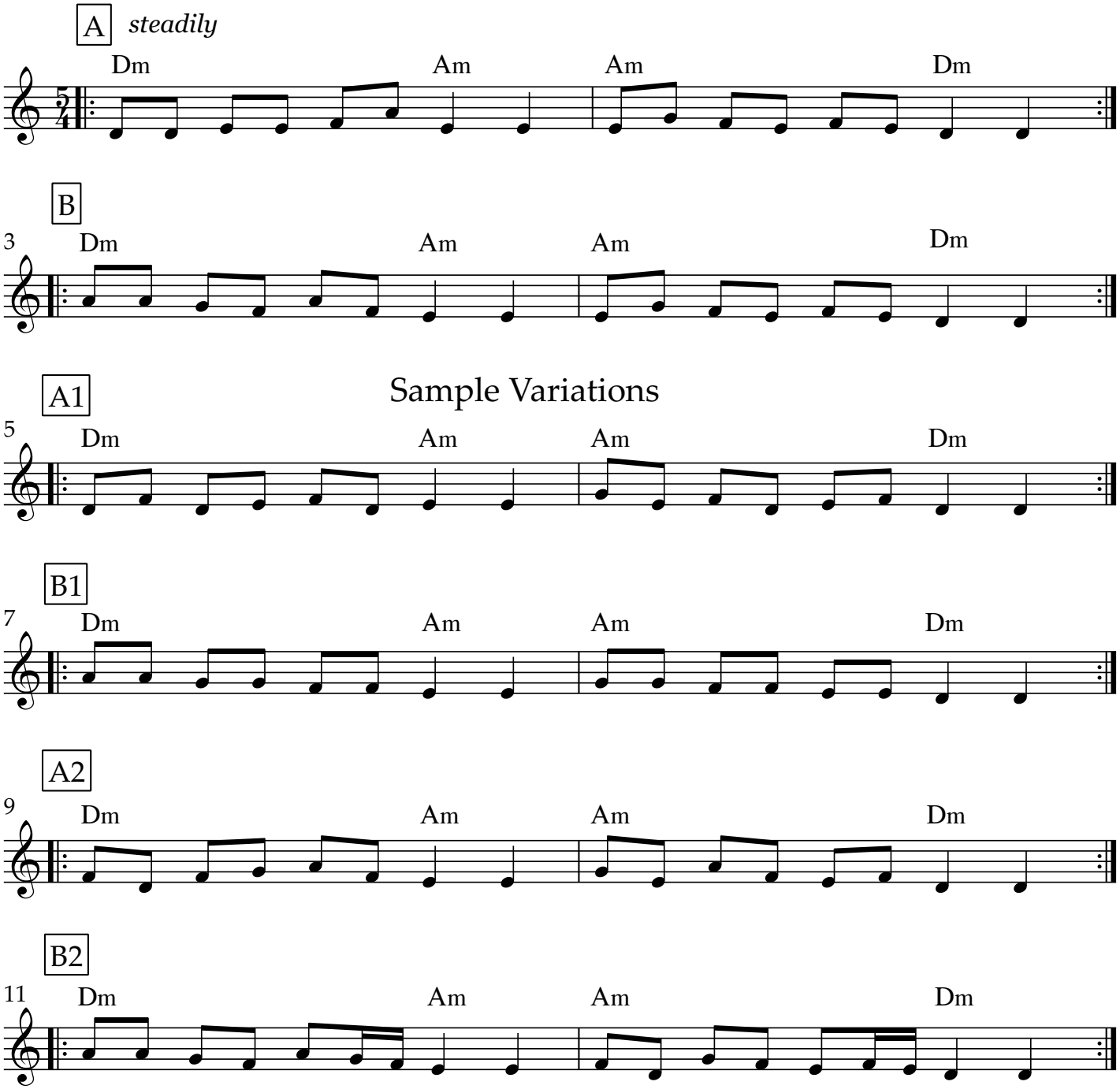
Kalevala Melody

Trad. Finnish



The Kalevala (Land of Heroes) is a collection of epic poems which were gathered in the 19th century by Elias Lönnrot. It describes the creation of the world, and its protagonist Väinämöinen is a mystical seer and master kantele player (a kantele is a plucked zither with harp-like sound). This work advanced Finnish language and culture and was an inspiration to many, such as J.R.R. Tolkien in his inception of the Lord of the Rings trilogy. The best known version of the Kalevala was published in 1849 and has 22,795 verses! No wonder there are innumerable variations to the pentatonic Kalevala melody!