



## Vellamo

*Ethereal Finnish folk pop with gorgeous vocals and memorable melodic hooks*

Vellamo is led by the performing and songwriting team of Pia Leinonen and Joni Tiala. Their music is characterized by haunting melodies, Pia's ethereal lead vocals and Joni's virtuosic guitar stylings. In Finnish mythology, Vellamo is the goddess of the sea. Based in Kokkola, on the western coast of Finland, Vellamo combines the rich tradition of Finnish folksong with an appealing “retro” sensibility, creating a modern folk music experience.

Pia Leinonen, originally from the arctic region of Lapland, is Vellamo’s lead singer. Her exquisite voice combines her love and vast knowledge of Finnish folk music with the western singer–songwriter tradition in a unique and beautiful way. Her moving and evocative expression has been compared to other story-centric performers such as Joan Baez and Marlene Dietrich.

Joni Tiala, originally from the Finnish port of Kokkola, began playing guitar at the age of 11. His eclectic musical background includes writing and performing for theater, progressive and alternative rock and Finnish and western folk. In addition to his work in Vellamo, Joni is an accomplished theater and session musician, and is founding member of the renowned Finnish progressive rock band, Moonwagon.

In addition to shows in their homeland, Vellamo spends half of each year touring abroad; their adventures have led them throughout the United States, Europe and New Zealand.

Vellamo released their first album in early 2013. The album was engineered and co-produced by Ken Anderson at Song Catcher Recording - studio in Vermont, US. This renowned folk musician ([Hungrytown](#)) also plays drum and bass tracks on the album. The tone of the album is clear and bright, respectful of tradition yet sounding fresh. It features both original and traditional songs.

*"There's so much to like about Vellamo's music, which has a strong, and intensely appealing, retro feel – kinda Trader Horne/first-album Fairport, maybe more than a hint of the Fariñas, with a touch of early-electric-Dylan/McGuinn jangle, get the picture?" David Kidman / FATEA Magazine (UK)*

The second album *Trad* came out in June 2014 and was recorded with a full band featuring bass player Janne Ylikorpi and Timo Tikkamäki who are part of Vellamo’s band assembly. This folk-rock gem contains beautiful arrangements of traditional songs from the Finnish and Scandinavian traditions.

Since childhood Joni Tiala and Janne Ylikorpi have played together and their work together continues at Farmhouse Studios where Janne has recorded Vellamo’s 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> albums. With his imaginative and skillful playing spiced with 70’s progressive rock influences he broadens and brings edge to Vellamo’s sound.

Timo Tikkamäki the drummer with a distinctive own style masters a variety of genres and have played with legendary Finnish musicians as Pepe Ahlqvist and Jukka Tolonen.

Vellamo’s third album “*Koskenkylä*” featuring all original material was released in November 2015.

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