

PROGRAMME NOTE

2018 could not pass without my marking it in the most significant way I could. I wanted to celebrate both the centenary of Poland becoming an Independent State and my own first half century of life with a meaningful tribute to my Anglo-Polish roots. Hence, this oratorio – settings of some of Poland's finest poems of the last hundred years, in Polish and English, framing a Latin Mass and incorporating traditional Polish folk music and its sometimes soulful, sometimes quirky, elements. Over the summer of 2017 I listened to 538 tracks of Polish folk music and you will hear my very favourite eight in this piece.

I have chosen a Polish poem to represent an historical moment from each decade of the last century, with the final one looking, with hope, to the future with a prayer for peace.

Because I am half English and half Polish (physically and legally, having been given Polish citizenship in 2017) all the poems are performed in both languages simultaneously – the soprano soloist singing in one language and the choir accompanying her with key words from the other. The Mass text remains in universal Latin.

SYNOPSIS

I. KYRIE 1918-1928

We begin with the Kyrie's words '...and his great name... have mercy on us' reflecting a sense of shock, repentance and redemption after the violence and horror of the First World War. I've used a Krzeszowska lullaby song, *Koniec zgasła świeca / To the End of the Field*, with its beautiful *glissandos*, grace notes and unusual 3/4 time signature.

In Poem I, *Barwy narodowe / National Colours*, Maria Pra-Klonowska-Janczewska describes the birth of the Polish flag, emerging from the red blood and white bandages of the battlefields. Although this poem was published in 1935, I think it captures the atmosphere of Poland emerging as an Independent State.

II. GLORIA 1928-1938

Chwała na wysokości bogów, a na Ziemi podobaj ludziny dobieg woli / Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.

After a degree of political oppression, Poland enters a relatively peaceful and optimistic time, with its agriculture flourishing – I use the flirtatious-sounding mode of the Kościopol working song *Ly lala*, *lala* as an accompaniment to Poem 2, *Stajda / The Bays*, from Bohosław Lotwick's pastoral collection, *Łęka / The Meadow*. A laughter-like violin melody *W wiosnowej piosence / Grain in the Bird's Call* from Zakopane, introduces us to the Gloria.

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Faithful Journey / Wierna Podróż

A Mass for Poland / Msza za Polskę

Rosanna Panufnik

Score in Concert Pitch

I. KYRIE

1918-1928 A New Poland

rit. a tempo

Flute

Flute 1,2

Oboe 1,2,3

Clarinet (in Bb) 1,2,3

Bassoon 1,2

Contrabass

Horn (in F) 1,2,3,4

Trumpet in C 1,2,3

Trombone 1,2

Baritone

Tuba

Timpani

Snare

Harp 1

Harp 2

Soprano Solo

Soprano 1,2,3

Alto 1,2

Tenor

Bass 1,2

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

Cresc. (then rallent.)

rit. a tempo

rit. a tempo

V. Agnus Dei

1998–2018 and beyond

♩ = 84

Chorus

Tenor

Bass

Ag - nus, De - i, Ag - nus De - i, Ag - nus, De - i, Ag - nus, De - i.

⁷¹ Before the first body entrance

⁷² Bar 1 - 24 could also be sung by Basses who have the dark, very body

Chorus

Qui sedes ad dex - te - ram pa - tris, qui ex - sis cum pa - tris, qui cum pa - tris et Spi - ri - tu in con - spi - ra - ti - o - ne pro - ce - des, qui cum pa - tris et Spi - ri - tu sus - ci - pi - tis ho - mi - ni - um spi - ri - tus, qui ex - is - tis cum pa - tris et Spi - ri - tu, qui cum pa - tris et Spi - ri - tu sus - ci - pi - tis ho - mi - ni - um spi - ri - tus, qui ex - is - tis cum pa - tris et Spi - ri - tu, qui cum pa - tris et Spi - ri - tu sus - ci - pi - tis ho - mi - ni - um spi - ri - tus.

Chorus

Qui sedes ad dex - te - ram pa - tris, qui ex - sis cum pa - tris, qui cum pa - tris et Spi - ri - tu in con - spi - ra - ti - o - ne pro - ce - des, qui cum pa - tris et Spi - ri - tu sus - ci - pi - tis ho - mi - ni - um spi - ri - tus, qui ex - is - tis cum pa - tris et Spi - ri - tu, qui cum pa - tris et Spi - ri - tu sus - ci - pi - tis ho - mi - ni - um spi - ri - tus, qui ex - is - tis cum pa - tris et Spi - ri - tu, qui cum pa - tris et Spi - ri - tu sus - ci - pi - tis ho - mi - ni - um spi - ri - tus.

9. Trzy Słowa Najdziwniejsze / Three Oddest Words

1998 - 2008 Political and economical uncertainty at the beginning of a new century

By Wioletta Szyrbienka (1993-2012)

English translation by Stanisław Basiński & Clare Cavanagh

Key I

Sop Solo

Chorus

Vc

Vc

Ab

da da da da

pp

p