

Title: CHORAL WORKS PETR EBEN
FOCUSED ON ANCIENT THEMES

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Abstract:

In his thesis, the author deals with the life and work of one of the most important contemporary Czech composer Petr Eben. It monitors the whole choral and vocal-instrumental works from the beginning to the last period of his compositional work, it presents the last information about the lately composer's life and focuses on choral works, written on the ancient Greek text.

The first chapter offers a brief description of the author's life, essential genealogy, his teachers and the first steps in the field of music. Furthermore there is a reference to musical education and family of the composer and also to his sojourns abroad. Another part is devoted to Eben's sources of inspiration, which the author himself finds in Christianity, antiquity, Gregorian chant, folk songs, classical and living languages, poetry, organ as a royal instrument or in the relationship to children. The following chapters contain on one side chronological overview of the Eben's choral work for all types of choirs (male, female, mixed and children's choirs) and on the other side the Eben's vocal instrumental compositions (cantatas, oratorios and sacred choral compositions) with the brief characteristics of each cycle. The analytical part of the thesis focuses on the only two works of Eben's large choral works that were written on the ancient Greek text. Namely oratorio *Apology of Socrates* and the ninth part cycle for female choir with piano or harp accompaniment *Greek Dictionary*. Analyses of choral works present a number of examples on which the author points out Eben's original way of creative work with ancient Greek text, particularly the use of modern means of expression and the relationship between music and words. In the analyzes is shown the special way of Eben's set to music of Greek text, on which he uses the elements of melisma. These follow the rules of pronunciation and accent of ancient Greek. Then, he uses the technique of Ison, which by one held tone provides the basic tonal center. Finally, in the sixth chapter there is inserted an overview of Eben's choral work and a list of entire Eben's vocal instrumental work in alphabetical order. The dissertation thesis shall be accompanied by photographs from the life of composer and full scores of the two dismantled compositions.

The aim of this thesis is to contribute to the visibility of the life and work of one of the greatest Czech composers of the late 20th century outside of his native country, thus at a European context. The basic prerequisite is the choice of the English language version. Due to personal interpretation, pedagogical and musicological activities, author envisages on the future to create a Greek language version.

Keywords: 20th century music, ancient Greek, Petr Eben, ancient themes, choral and vocal instrumental output.