

DER KLANG
DER OFFENBARUNG
DES GÖTTLICHEN

An opera in four acts by

KJARTAN SVEINSSON

TEIL II

Die himmelsschönheit der dichter fand
Leich tuch verhüllt dich, schlankes Bild,
die Erde birgt dein blaues Augenpaar,

und sind jetzt auch die jungen Lippen bleich,
die einst den dichter tief gewärmten,
und sind die Hände kalt nun und verhärmt,
die damals warm ihn lösten und so weich,

Die himmelsschönheit der dichter fand
verstummt doch mein Lied auf ewig nicht,
in meiner Seele bleibst du ewig jung,
dein Liebreiz lebt in der Erinnerung,
du kamst zu mir und wurdest zum Gedicht;
voll Würde hat der Tod dich mir entrückt,
ich weine eine Träne, bin beglückt.

Die himmelsschönheit der dichter fand
voll Würde hat der Tod dich mir entrückt,
ich weine eine Träne, bin beglückt,

o ferner Sternenglanz, o Quelle mild

Though grave-clothes shroud your figure, slender maid,
And silent earth now houses your blue eyes
Where once I glimpsed the beauty of the skies –
O distant star of eve, O vernal glade –

And even though the bloom fades from that lip
That thawed the frozen chains that bound me fast,
And though the hands that freed me are now dust
And death's cold handshake holds them in its grip,

It doesn't harm my song; my memory of thee
Has taken root forever in my mind,
Of tenderness and love and mercy kind,
Just as you were when first you came to me;

Just as you left me, proudly, though you cried,
With tears upon your cheeks that never dried.

TEIL III

O wie leicht deine Schritte,
und wie lang hart' ich dein,
es ist stürmisch am Fenster,
kalter Schnee stiebt herein,
doch ich weiß einen Stern,
einen Stern ähnlich dir,

Es sind schwierige Zeiten,
um den Lohn gibt es Streit,
und ich hab' nichts zu bieten,
keine Gaben bereit,
nur Hoffnung, mein Leben,
ob bei Tag oder Nacht,
was ich habe,
das hast du mir gebracht.

Für den Arbeiter endet
heut die eisige Zeit,
morgen scheint ihm die Sonne,
denn dar Mai ist bereit,
und auch uns scheint die Sonne,
unsres einenden Bands,

für dich trage ich die Fahne
dieses zukünftigen Lands

doch ich weiß einen Stern,
einen Stern ähnlich dir,
endlich bist du gekommen,
bist gekommen zu mir.

Oh, how light are your footsteps,
And how long I awaited thee;
There is hail at the window
And a cold wind that whines.
But I know of a bright star,
Of a bright star that shines,
And at last you have come here,
You have come here to me.

These are difficult times, dear,
There is squabbling and strife;
I have nothing to offer,
Not a thing I can give,

Except my hopes and my life, dear,
Every moment I live:
This one thing you gave me,
That's my all, dear – my life.

But tonight the winter is over
For every toiling hand,
And the sun will shine tomorrow –
It is their summer sun.
It is our summer sunshine,
It is our life begun;
And for you I shall bear the banner
Of this our future land.

TEIL IV

Du bist das Licht der Welt

Bald scheint die Sonne
des Auferstehungstages
Über den hellen Wegen,

wo sie ihren Dichter erwartet.

Du bist das Licht der Welt

Und die Schönheit wird allein herrschen

You are the light of the world

Soon the sun of the day of resurrection
will shine on the bright paths where she
awaits her poet.

And beauty shall reign alone.

All music composed by Kjartan Sveinsson

Conducted by Davíð Þór Jónsson.

Performed by Filmorchester Babelsberg
and Filmchor Berlin.

Orchestra Manager: Klaus-Peter Beyer.

Choir Contractors: Soeren von Billerbeck
& Michael Timm.

Solo cello: Werner Klemm.

Solo soprano: Cosima Henseler.

Solo alto: Ulrike Jahn.

Solo tenor: Johannes Klügling.

Recorded and Pre Mixed by Falko Duczmal at Scoring
Stage Babelsberg. ProTools Operator: Jonathan Feurich.
Mixed and Mastered by Birgir Jón Birgisson
at Sundlaugin Studio.

Publishing administered by Kobalt Music Group Ltd.

Artwork by Ragnar Kjartansson. Photographs by
Thomas Aurin. Design by Ragnar Helgi Ólafsson.

Lyrics derived from
World Light by Halldór
Laxness, translated
into German by Hubert
Seelow, adapted by
Freyja Gunnlaugsdóttir.

Translation into English
by Magnus Magnusson

Thanks to Henning Nass
and to María Huld
Markan Sigfúsdóttir
and Gyða Valtýsdóttir
for their musical input.

Der Klang der Offenbarung des Göttlichen is an opera in four acts conceived by Kjartan Sveinsson and artist Ragnar Kjartansson, which was commissioned by and originally performed in Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg Platz, Berlin. The opera was directed by Ragnar Kjartansson, who painted theatrical sets for separate acts, each rooted in German romantic clichés. There were no performers on the stage, just the sets creating a non-narrative of pure-hearted banality, with the choir and orchestra performing from the orchestral pit. Der Klang der Offenbarung des Göttlichen is an opera without divas. The piece was inspired by World Light (1937–1940) by Icelandic Nobel laureate Halldór Laxness (1902-1998), a book that revolves around the incurable longing for beauty and its catastrophic consequences.



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