

PRAYER WHEEL

Missa for Choir & Jazz Ensemble by KAREN ASATRIÁN



In the spirit of western music tradition, Karen Asatrian, a pianist and composer from Armenia, has created a mass built on early Christian liturgy. Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus and Agenes Dei ring out in a new guise, made from Oriental and Occidental tonal patterns. The Latin language and the imploring repetitions also evoke thoughts of Buddhist rituals and this indeed lends the piece its name: PRAYER WHEEL. The Mass begins in G-minor and leads the audience on a sonorous journey through tonal modulations and rhythmic variations, finalizing in the most festive among the musical keys - D major.

The composer has tried in his masterpiece to bring the idea of tolerance, on which all world religions are based, in one musical form. This musical work arises from the ancient Christian liturgy (Latin language) passes across oriental sounds and carries a Buddhist name, and with its improvisational elements stands for respect and freedom of the individual. The premiere took place before an impressed audience in January 2015 at the festive hall of "Konzerthaus Klagenfurt" (Concert Hall of Carinthia). The uniqueness and success of this mass was marked by its performance within the Salzburg Festivals in 2016 - The live concert was recorded and released in 2017 as a CD by Skylark Productions and is being distributed by Universal Music Austria.

Lineup:

Philharmonia Choir Vienna Conductor: Davorin Mori

Rita Movsesian: Vocals (Armenian Psalms)

Karen Asatrian: Piano & Composition

Daniel Nösig: Trumpet

Uli Langthaler: Contrabass

Emil Kristof: Drums

For further information and booking please contact: karen@asatrian.net www.asatrian.net/prayer-wheel/

In remembrance of the Armenian people who have gone through unimaginable suffering due to the expulsion and genocide in the Ottoman Empire in 1915

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